

Marie Schumann Personius

This is Your Life

6 Nov 1913 - 28 Mach 2009

93 Years Old

Etelka Gerster Liddle
was born May 23, 1884
in Salem, Washington Co., N.Y.
She died Dec. 6, 1985 in
Elmira, N.Y., buried in Salem, N.Y.

Father - Will C. Liddle

b. Dec. 15, 1854

d. June 4, 1944 - Buried in Salem, N.Y.

Mother - Carrie Munson Liddle

b. Nov. 11, 1854

d. Jan. 1, 1937

Only child named by her father
after a well known opera singer,
Etelka Gerster - After high school
in Salem my Mom went to Caldwell, N.Y.
to 'normal school' to learn to be a
kindergarten teacher, also taking
voice lessons in N.Y.C. with the
Herring Sisters (Laura & Mildred)
She was invited to go with them
to Europe to study with a German
voice teacher, Milka Farrina (sp?).
Where they lived became the home of
Adolph Hitler during World War 2 years.

My Mom returned to N.Y.C. met
Felix Schumann, a grandson of
Robert & Clara Schumann who had
come to America the friend of
Opportunity to 'make a living'
as a silk salesman -

That was the end of Etelka's singing
career except occasional invitations
to sing solos in church in later years.



Etelka Gerster
Liddle

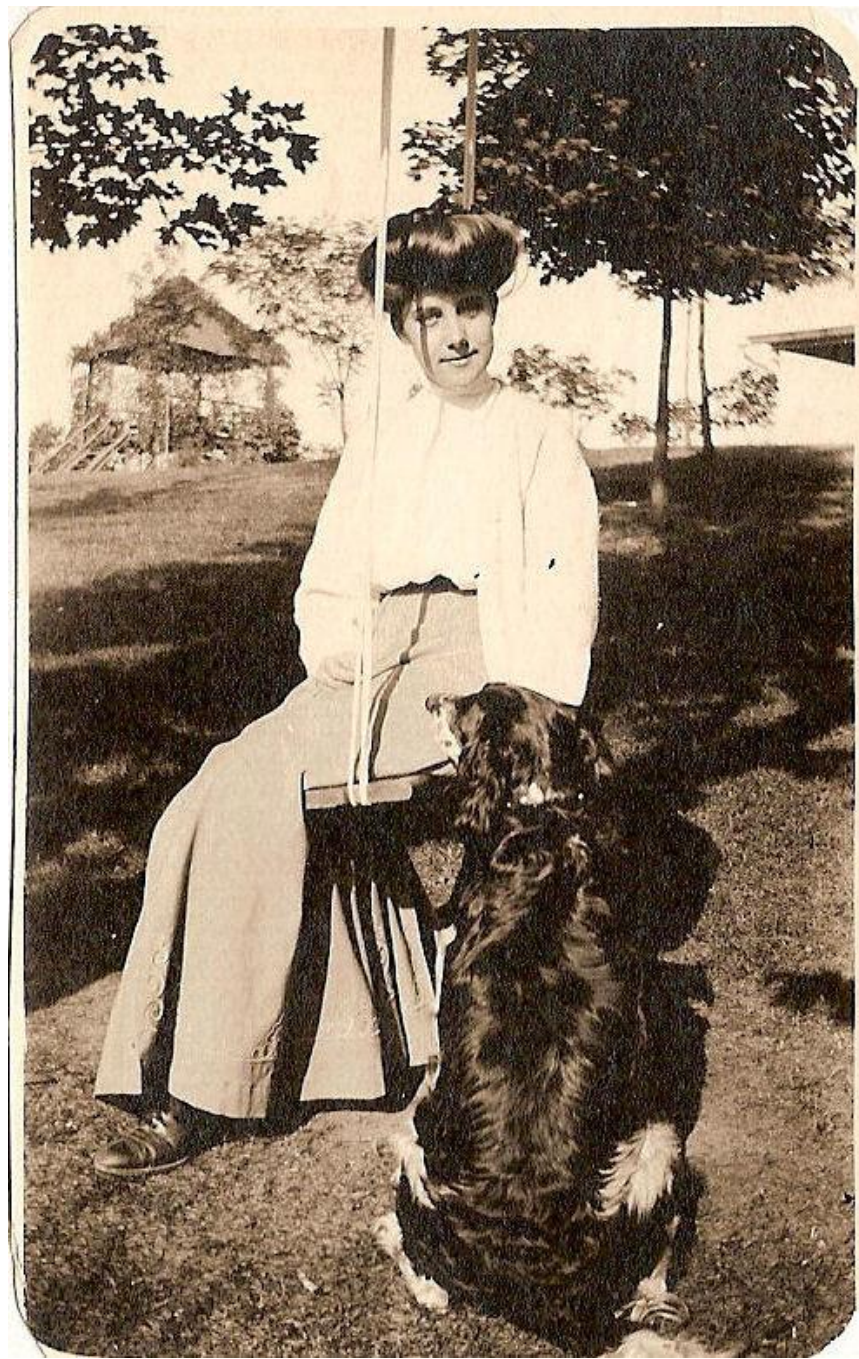
Where? When?

Why?

All unknown to me

Felix Jordan and Victor Schumann
b. May 27, 1879 in Berlin, Germany
d. Oct. 22, 1941 in Scarsdale, N.Y.
married Etelka G. Liddle in
N.Y.C. on New Year's Eve 1912
They sailed to Europe on
their honeymoon where
my father introduced his
American bride to his family.

On Nov. 6, 1913 twin girls were
born 6 weeks prematurely to
Etelka and Felix named
Hildegard and Marie
My sister lived only a few
days but I, the three pounder
not expected to live, am
still here and would at
this time like to tell
the rest of the story with
snap photos, some of which
have cluttered drawers
or boxes, some for over
80 yrs.



Tauf- schein



PETRUS



PAULUS

Wer da glaubet u. getauft wird, der wird selig werden.

Wer aber nicht glaubet, der wird verdammt werden. Mark. 16, 16.



Dies ist mein lieber Sohn, an welchem ich Wohlgefallen habe. Matth. 3, 17



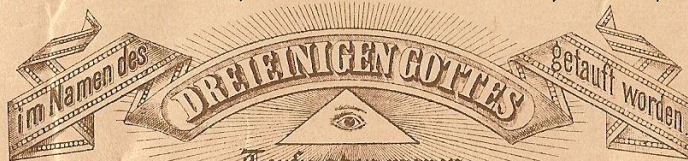
5. Mos. 27, 26.



Galat. 3, 17.

Marie

geboren 6. ten Nov. 1913 in New City, N.Y.
Tochter des Herrn Felix Schumann
und dessen Frau Estelka, geb. Liddle
ist am 23. ten Mai 1915, in der morning lide,
St. Pauls Kirche, N. 123. St., New City,



Taufpaten waren:

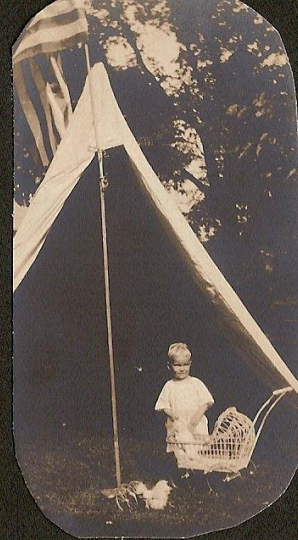
Kate Liddle, Eric Muelberger,
Marie Schumann, Carl Strube.

Fred. H. Bosch
Pastor.



My First Home on
 Anderson Ave. Bronx, New York City
 My parents, nurse maid, Mamie
 who spoke nothing but German.
 My Mom having grown up in New
 York State knew only the German
 she had learned while living abroad
 with her naive teachers -
 I was known for always being happy!

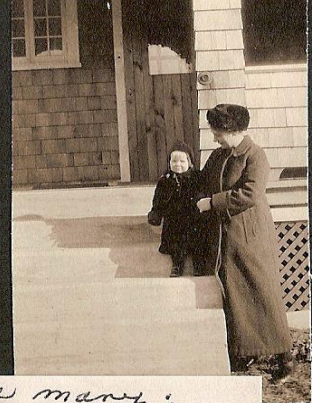




Summer time we traveled by D. & N. railroad
 to Salem, N. Y. where Mom was born and
 went to school through twelfth grade, went to
 the Presbyterian Church where her father sang
 in the choir - 'Sam Kit' is shown here
 with me holding her hand, joined by
 neighbor children. I learned to walk
 that summer but especially enjoyed
 visiting the "Beattie Kirts" who worked
 in the man hatter's shirt factory, the
 main industry of town - I enjoyed their
 yard, the swing, the pump, the flowers.

I

II

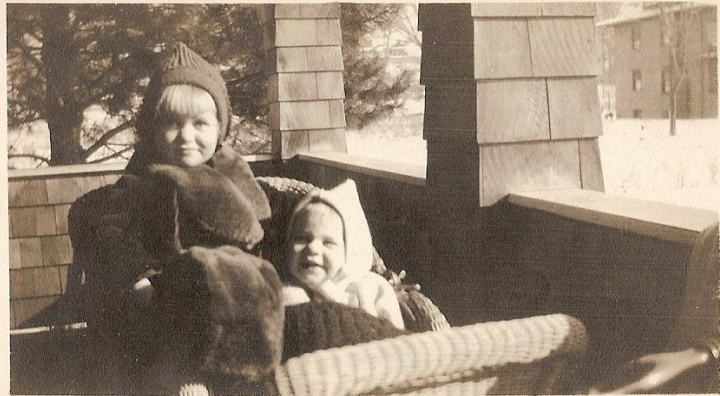
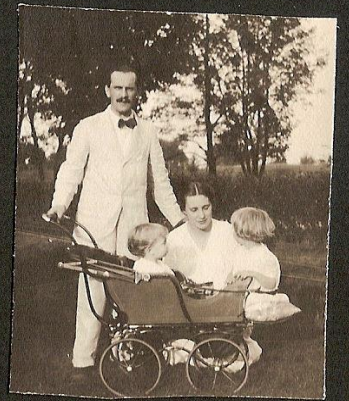
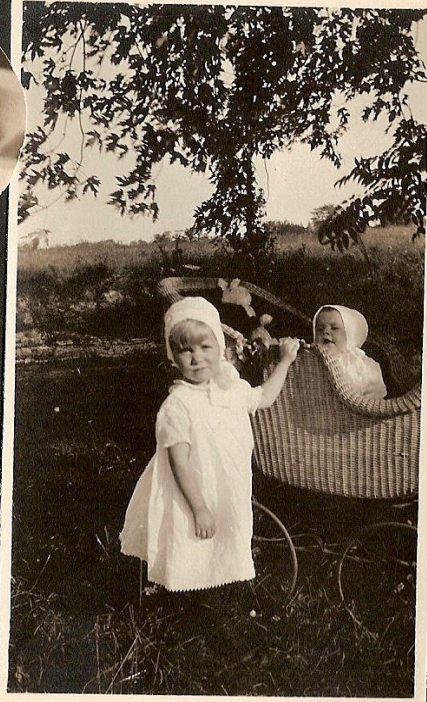


My memories of our Crestwood home are many:
 The house was the only one on the street, no "stop"
 or "dead end" sign to warn of a huge maple tree
 standing where the street would go if extended. Directly
 behind the house an also large hickory tree housed
 many squirrels -

The Sunday family coats were special but I must
 admit when we were pulled by our parents on our
 "Fleible Flyers", even though wrapped in woolen blankets
 I remember becoming numbingly cold. But a hot dinner
 was steaming itself in the fireless cooker so it
 would be ready when we returned. The kitchen
 range burned coal and wood and needed constant
 watching but I couldn't understand how hot stones
 could cook in our absence -

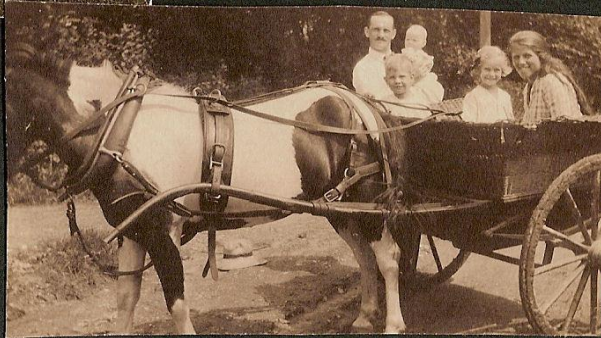
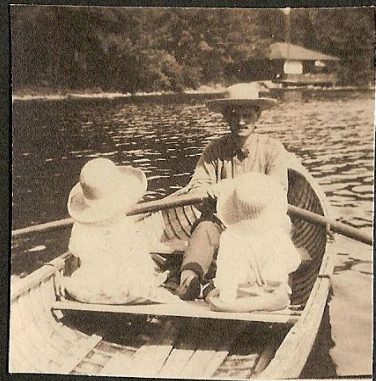
Stone walls seemed to be every where usually
 entwined with poison ivy or wood bines, wild
 flowers in all nearby fields, I learned while very young
 "The Home Grounds", name of a concert where
 they raised their own food, milked their own cows,
 and occasionally enjoyed our visits, are pictures I,
 II + III but #I is special for my husband and first
 son worked for a power and phone company many
 years after these snaps were taken -





Shortly after my second birthday my brother Walter joined the family but must be Mom and Dad had other things to do beside taking snaps so they have been given away as the years passed. Faithful Mami's cares for brother as well as me →

a German Gibsonia.

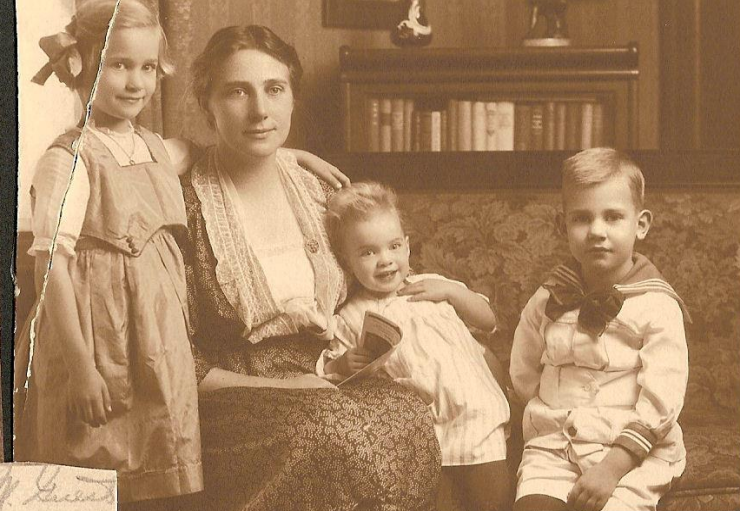


Fairly close to Salem N.Y. is a small mud bottom lake where my folks rented a cottage on the west side of Cossayuna which brings many memories for all. (I will work on the porch) We had great neighbors, the Palmers, where we loved to visit, especially at noon for they had a cuckoo clock, the ideal time to pick up fresh baked cookies we had been promised. The Pony Hills' visit from a near by farm was a special treat. But the cottage had many disadvantages: too close to a very dusty road, many steps to the water front, and poor screens especially in a very heavy mosquito season. you may notice sister Clara had arrived to go pony riding. The next summer when we arrived Frank Hill had been to the henhouse so there would be chicken dinner with creamed potato to greet us but the biggest surprise grandpa had purchased his first Mod T and built a cottage for us on the East side of Cossayuna Lake on land he had owned for many years.



The only picture I ever saw of my Grandma Schumann. As she sat there this is the view of the place that meant so much to all of us. My Dad received a cablegram from Germany on Jan. 26, 1926 telling of her death. She was 73, a stranger to us -





Charles W. Green

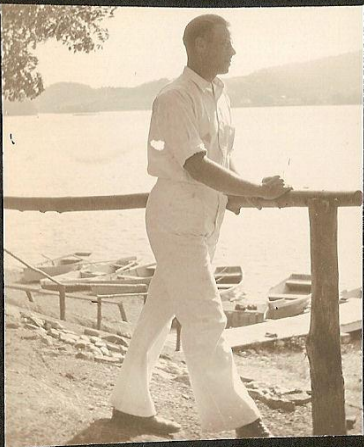


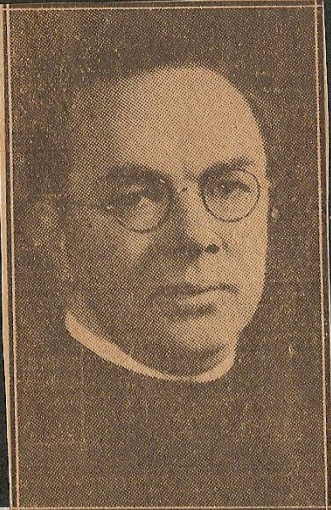
The last snaps and photos of Crestwood and also Salem. From Kit proud by displaying the flag in 1918 (porch had been remodelled by Grand Dad) at later date making perfect place for a family snap! This is only shot including my younger brother, Felix (later changed to Robert) at his request - As the family grew the Crestwood house had seemed to shrink so we moved to Dechellieu Terrace, Searsdale for a short time, then Old Army Rd. into a different school system.

It used to be so peaceful!!
Mom's writing!!



June 1930 my graduation from high school, Mom invited a couple of neighborhood friends to come to Crosswara - The Albany YMCA. Camp was 1/2 mile down the lake - Saturday evening, the campers put on a minstrel show to which neighbors were invited. 'Bea' accepted a date with one of the leaders, if he would bring a date for me - 'Bill' had graduated from Drexley School at Syracuse Univ and come to live in Albany in early June - Home made pie or onion sandwiches attracted Bill after taps quite often - But Sept. I started business school commuting to N.Y.C. every day and didn't like it at all. Mom once more surprised me by having a birthday party for me and inviting Bill, his first trip to Scarsdale.





REV. MR. GALBRAITH

This Certifies

that William Watson Personius
of Elmira N.Y.
and Marie Schumann
of Scarsdale N.Y.
were by me united in the bonds of

Marriage

at Yonkers N.Y.
on the 25 day of October
in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred
and Thirty - One
conformably to the ordinance of God and
the Laws of the State.

Lewis A. Galbraith S.M.

Brn Mawr Park Presbyterian Church, Yonkers

Witnesses

Clarence A. Duran
James E. Personius



Pete & Dot Duran

CONGRATULATIONS

*All the love in the
world, Mother.
Dorothy E. Personius
Eun Personius
Julia Schumann*

Being only 17, getting a marriage license wasn't easy - We had tried in Elmira during my visit to Bill's family in Sept. My folks didn't own a car so we had to wait for the family (Bill's parents and younger brother) to come to Scarsdale - I don't remember how or by whom we were taken to Scarsdale for the license - Bill's boss had made arrangements for the wedding in Yonkers at the Presbyterian Church - I had sent Bill the ring size in a letter but he thought it too large so got a smaller - It wouldn't go past my first foot having been slung by a wasp. But a beautiful day, dinner at White Swan in White Plains and trip to Albany -



BOERS.

'Y' Leader Weds Scarsdale Girl

W. W. Personius Married at Yonkers—Is Boys Directors' Aide

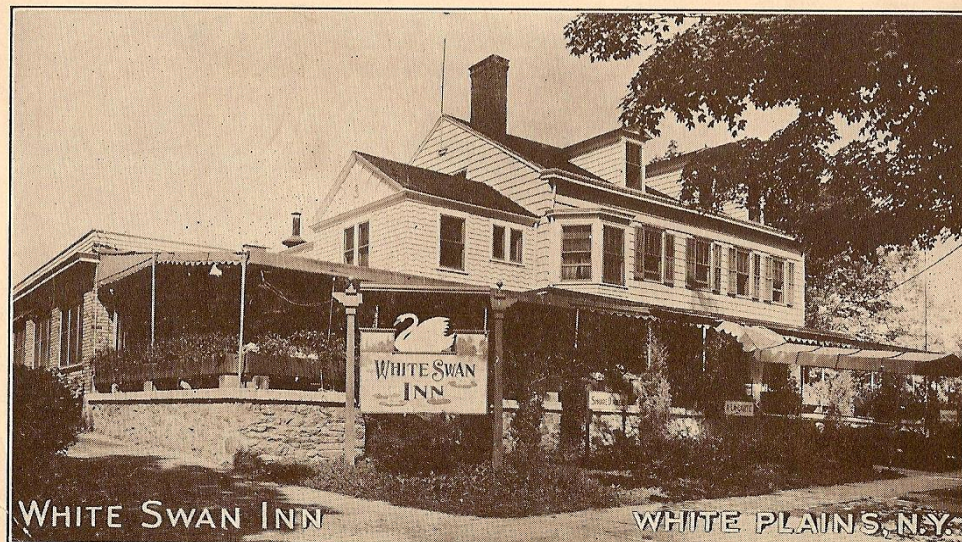
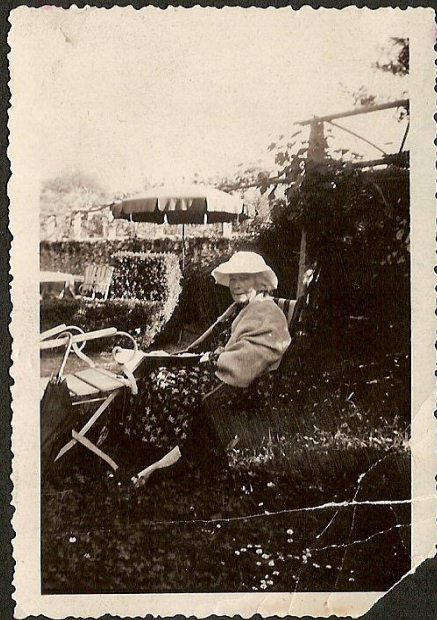
William W. Personius, associate boys director of the Albany Y. M. C. A., was married in Yonkers yesterday morning to Miss Marie Schuman of Scarsdale. Their friend, the Rev. Lewis A. Galbraith, performed the ceremony.

Mr. Personius is the son of Eli Personius, Supreme Court justice of Elmira, and is a graduate of Syracuse University '29. The former Miss Schuman is a great granddaughter of the famous German composer of that name.

The couple are living at the DeWitt Clinton until other arrangements are made. Mr. Personius will continue the work at the "Y," which he began two years ago.

'Y' Boys Work Leader and Bride

(9J '31)



Personius (Marie Schuman of Scarsdale) was married on Friday at Yonkers. They are living at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel. Mr. Personius, who is a graduate of the Y. M. C. A., is the son of Eli Personius, Supreme Court justice of Elmira. His mother is the daughter of an illustrious German composer.

4/24/87

4/24/87

Personiuses win top citizens honor

William and Marie Personius of Elmira will be honored Friday, May 1, as Chemung County Senior Citizens of the Year.

The Personiuses were chosen by the Chemung County Office for the Aging, which annually gives the award to a Chemung County resident, age 60 or older, who devotes time and talent to the community.

Marie says the couple "loves being outdoors," which may explain their ongoing connection with Tanglewood Nature Center. They've served at the center as guides and as committee and board members for the past 12 years.

"Bill and Marie have the wonderful ability to excite and

interest young people and adults in the natural world," said Tanglewood Director Jennifer Trimmer. "The passing on of their love for the out-of-doors has been an invaluable contribution to our community."

The couple also serve as volunteers for Meals on Wheels, Scouts, Arnot-Ogden Memorial Hospital and the Chemung County Audubon Society.

The Personiuses have one daughter living in Virginia and two sons, one in Elmira and one in Michigan. They also have 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

An informal reception for the Personiuses will be held on May 1 at the Office for the Aging in the Human Resources Center.



Staff photo by Jeff Richards

WILLIAM AND MARIE PERSONIUS take a stroll through their backyard.



The FIFTIETH annual reunion of the PERSONIUS FAMILY (descendants of Isaiah et al of the tribe of Juda) will be held at the country estate of Ely W. Personius, the old homestead of Elnathon. The date, Saturday, AUGUST 24TH. There are three ways of getting



there. 1st-By aeroplane, landing on Buck Mountain, then walk distance of about one mile. 2nd-The old Indian trail from the north by way of Hornby Forks or by lower Pine Valley, west and north up Johnson Hollow. This road is good, and dangerous only in that section between the old mill-pond and the school-house. This terrene is infested with mountain lions, or was two years ago. They were not killed, so presumably they are still there. Should you pass this point safely you may forget your religion and start in on a day of boisterous hilarity. Arrive at homestead not later than 12:00 noon, eats 12:40. Owing to collapse of the N.R.A. you may furnish what you please. Catlin air, well water and a certain amount of Big Flats tobacco free. During the afternoon music will be furnished by (whats left) the Green Mountain Cornet Band. Balloon ascention at 3:30. Only those who attend this 50TH event will be invited to attend the 100TH. For further particulars see the Farm Journal.

Thus saith the Secretary from the House of Playfoot.

Sunday Chatter About Elmirans

By Marion Stocker

1938

"IT'S NO CREDIT to me—I had nothing to do with it" laughed Mrs. "Bill" Personius, 919 Scio St. But the fact remains that she is the great granddaughter of Robert Schumann, immortal German composer of the early 19th Century. And in spite of her modesty, we were somewhat excited to find an Elmiran with such claim to ancestral fame.

The attractive young woman, who was Miss Marie Schumann of Scardale before her marriage, is said to bear a marked resemblance to her great grandmother, the illustrious Clara Wieck Schumann, who popularized her husband's compositions as a concert pianist. Kirkwood E. Personius, Marie's brother-in-law, was the first Elmiran to discover the similarity. While standing at the desk of the Steele Memorial Library one afternoon, he glanced at an open book lying before him.

"Why, that looks like Marie, Bill's wife!" he exclaimed, indicating the old-fashioned portrait of a charming lady.

"You're looking at a picture of Clara Schumann, wife of Robert Schumann" said the librarian. "The book is a new translation from the German of his biography."

THOSE FAMILIAR with Frau Schumann's portraits will recall a small gold watch and chain inevitably pinned to her blouse. The pretty bauble was bequeathed to Mrs. Personius by her great-aunt and namesake, Schumann's daughter, Marie, an intimate memento which she cherishes proudly.

The story of Clara Wieck and Robert Schumann as handed down to Mrs. Personius, is fraught with romantic interest. Frédéric Wieck of Leipzig, famed throughout the continent as music instructor, objected vehemently when a little-known, penniless pupil sought the hand of his gifted daughter in marriage. But the courtship flourished and culminated in elopement.

When Schumann crippled his left hand in a foolish attempt to strengthen the third finger with mechanical devices, and conclusively terminated a promising professional career, he turned to musical criticism and composition. Devoted Clara with her family prestige and outstanding ability as a pianist, brought his works before the public.

Seven children were born to the couple, four daughters, and three sons. His second son, Ferdinand, was Mrs. Personius' grandfather. Tante Eugénie, the only survivor, now well over 80, lives in rural Switzerland. Mrs. Personius has a snapshot of the little old lady taken last summer when her father, Felix, son of Ferdinand visited relatives in the old country.

Though possessed of a profound musical appreciation, Felix adopted silk merchandizing as profession and came to New York in 1902. In a boarding house there he met his future wife, Miss Etelka Gerster Liddle, a New York State native who had just returned from studying voice in Germany. Marriage and four children—two boys, and two girls—terminated her ambitions for a career in grand opera.



MRS. WILLIAM W. PERSONIUS, 919 Scio St., a great granddaughter of Robert Schumann, famed 19th century composer.

"SO, YOU SEE, we get our musical ability from both sides of the family" said Mrs. Personius. Each of Felix Schumann's children are accomplished musicians. Mrs. Personius was introduced to the piano-forte at the age of five, and practiced four hours a day until her graduation from high school.

"But my hands are too small" he mourned. "I can barely reach an octave. Now, I play mostly for my children."

Mrs. Personius, and her brothers and sisters all speak German like natives it having been the language used in their home. They had their first schooling from German governesses. Music was a part of their daily lives.

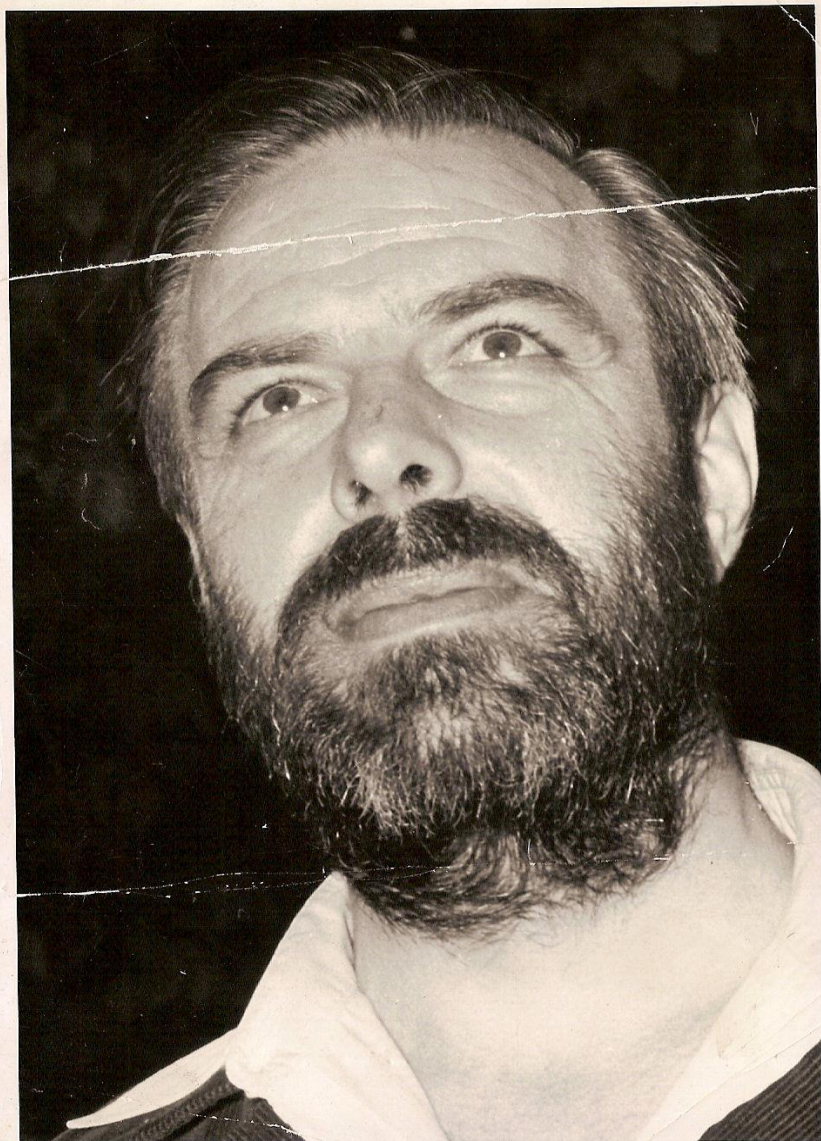
"Father should have been a conductor or a music critic, he loves it so much" smiled Mrs. Personius. "I well remember the first time 'Bill' had dinner with us. It was Sunday and father held up the meal for 15 minutes, after everyone was seated, while he led a symphony from the radio with a carving knife for baton!"

AND SHE TOLD us a little about the recently discovered Schumann concerto which Yehudi Menuhin introduced to the world last year. The score had been given by Schumann to a dear friend—with the understanding that it never be published. At the death of the friend and his nearest kin, the third generation pressed for money, had no scruples about selling the valuable manuscript to a German dealer. The contract specified that a percentage of the royalties go to Schumann's descendants—an income of little use to his American relatives since no money may be taken out of Germany.

A Schumann museum has been established at Zwickau, Germany, his birthplace, where record picture the complete family tree with all its subsequent branches and twigs.

"My name is in a big book in Germany" said small Gretchen, the Personius daughter who plans to become a great pianist when she grows up, and so is Bobby's," (The 5-year-old son.)

"When the children were born I immediately received requests for data to be entered in the family archive at Zwickau," the mother explained.



Elmiran Involved:

Star Gazette Sept 11/54

Seek Dismissal of \$9 Million Suit

Decision was reserved by a Supreme Court justice in New York Friday on a motion to dismiss a \$9 million damage suit brought against Loew's Inc. by Mrs. Marie Schumann Personius of 1005 Ogden Ave. and three other great-grandchildren of German composer Robert Schumann, who died in 1856.

The Schumann descendants sued the film company for \$5 million for appropriating the Schumann name, \$1 million for invasion of privacy, \$1 million for libel and \$2 million they claimed Loew's profited on the film, "Song of Love."

Two brothers and a sister of Mrs. Personius are plaintiffs with her in the suit — Walter Schumann of Bronxville, Robert

Schumann of San Francisco and Mrs. Robert White of East Northport, N. Y. The defendant's motion for dismissal was heard yesterday by Supreme Court Justice William C. Hecht Jr.

The plaintiffs claim that as a result of the showing of the picture throughout the United States and other parts of the world, there might be a belief that there is a strain of insanity running through the descendants of Schumann.

Thus, the complaint said, the Schumann descendants have suffered a loss of "social standing, humiliation, mortification, chagrin and other mental anguish."

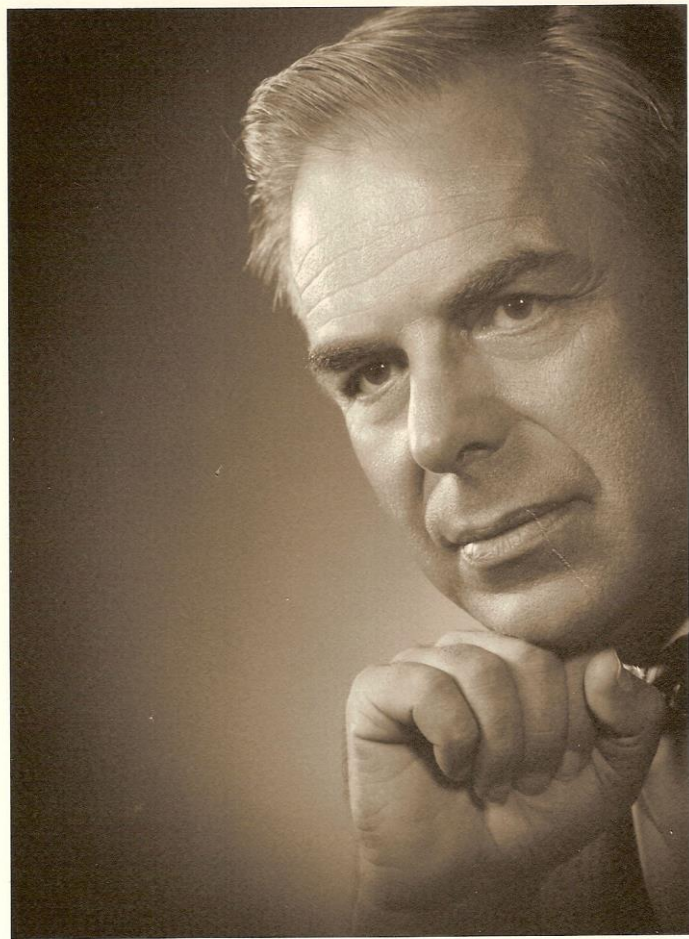
The film, produced in 1946, described how Schumann was

confined for more than two years in a mental asylum and also showed how a sister suffered from the same illness.

Loew's, in moving to dismiss the complaint, described it as "fatally defective" on the ground that it does not cite foreign law which, it is contended, must be applied to the case because the plaintiffs seek damages on the basis of the showings in 48 states and throughout the world.

Other arguments for the suit's dismissal cited by Loew's are that the plaintiffs have obtained no authority to sue as the heirs of Schumann; that, since the insanity of the composer was a fact, no libel was committed, and that, if a right of privacy existed for Robert Schumann it died with his death.

Walter Schumann is doing this, and is using all the children's names. Marie is not interested in this. They will get nothing out of it, but she didn't look w.



*Passerius Studio
Warne*

Marie Schumann Personius Namesake - Marie Schumann the Daughter of Robert and Clara



Marie Schumann



Marie Schumann Personius





The David Schindler
1991

Carnegie Hall

Alice Tully Hall

SCHUMANN PERSON