

## Marguerite Krackhardt

interview on April 21, 2010 at the Berlin Town Hall with partial cassette tape recording

Marguerite lived in the Howard house on 171 West Street built by her great-grandfather Howard, which she still owns and visits. She now lives with sister Ruth in Wilmington, Delaware.

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**Frederick August Krackhardt**, b. January 19, 1883 in Newburgh, Indiana

**m. Eula Lillian Howard on November 16, 1916\***

**Marguerite Elizabeth**, b. May 12, 1923

Russell Howard, b. June 18, 1925

Elliott Marshall, b. August 22, 1927

Ruth Esther, b. September 3, 1929

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### re: Old Methodist Episcopal Church, Berlin

*Mother was a Methodist ...*

*Father had been to DePauw University in Indiana and came east to Boston University Seminary who sent him to Berlin in the early 1900's ... mother and father were married (1916)... then (the church) sent him to the northern part of Vermont on the east side.*

*In 1917-1918 he decided to give up the ministry as such ..... I remember Mother talking about coming down from Vermont to visit the family in 1918 on the train during the flu epidemic ... she was concerned about contracting the flu... she had already been up there ...*

*They came back to Berlin and lived in the Howard family home (171 West Street). My mother was born in the house, and her father was born in the house.*

*Mother's brother was very ill and she had a lot of the care for him; her father had cancer and she cared for him. She had a lot of family responsibilities in addition to her children.*

*I'm the oldest. I don't know ... I just cannot remember how much the younger three children were involved at church. I'm not at all sure they were.*

*In my very early teens, I helped serve the meals using a pass thru for the food ... working in the kitchen area, facing Carter Street ... I remember the food being picked up and taken to the tables ... I can remember young people around me and I can visualize the tables that were around.*

*Alice Wheeler was one of the young people I remember ... she was one or two years older than I.*

*I recall that there was a well in the middle of the floor (often referred to as "the cistern"). My recollection is that there was concern for some kind of cover being over it.*

*What was on the floor? My recollection is that it was straight wood.*

*I remember when Chuckie Nutting was talking about the possibility of the church being saved for some public purpose ... they were having a lot of flooding ... and when they checked into it ... there was no chance of saving it because of the flooding.*

*I understand that that's been taken care of or at least eased.*

*Of course ... as a young person, there were no sanitary facilities. In fact in the back of the church ... I can't remember how many openings there were ... there was a horse barn parallel to Carter Street ... I should say horse shed ... I only have a hazy recollection ... maybe four bays ... previous to that time and during my mother's time people would come with horse and buggy ... their transportation.*

*I perhaps was three years of age at the most ... I was sitting with Florence Jackson (Rizpah's mother) second pew back from the front on the right side of the central aisle ... I had pressed my feet up against the back of the pew ... caused a bit of commotion. Mrs. Jackson looked at me very disapprovingly ... that stopped ... I was young enough that it wouldn't have made much of an impression but that glance did. Mrs. Jackson and my mother had been very close as young women.*

*Mother played the piano for services ... in the 30's ... there was no organ.*

**\*Eula was born in Berlin on November 16, 1895, daughter of Marshall E. and Etta M. (Perkins) Howard**

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*When father cared for the building and when my paper route was finished (15 or 16 years of age), I practiced the piano in the vestibule area ... the building was not functioning as a church then.*

*I remember that auctions were advertised on the grounds ... probably only storage in the church*

*Cora May Powell instigated the painting of the church. She wanted original colors for the sesquicentennial (150 years, 1962).*

*There are so many changes in town ... it's like coming into unknown territory sometimes.*

*Well, it's called progress ... it almost seems like regression ... but I guess it has to be, doesn't it.*

***Mother would be very, very happy (to know about plans for preservation)... during her lifetime she wanted the church to be put to some good use.***

Notes: Marguerite believes that there may be notebooks at the Howard house from her mother's generation that list names of Sunday School children.

She mentioned that perhaps her Grandfather Howard may not have been a churchgoer.