

EJ1 – Elizabeth Josephson, "Coming to Bridgeport in early 20th Century"

**Time-Line: Decade I, Local and National Events, 1890-1910,
Explanation of Population, "Height of immigration"**

Transcript: pp. 1-2

EJ: I was born in Bridgeport, right in the city.

I: And when were you born?

EJ: 1908.

I: What was your home like when you were younger?

EJ: A mother, a father, five children.

I: Oh!

EJ: Five of us.

EJ: Three girls and two boys. My father came from Romania
and my mother came from Russia.

EJ: My father was an entrepreneur with all kinds of businesses.
We had a grocery store and an ice cream parlor, so I learned
how to take care of customers.

I: How old were you when your family owned the grocery
store and the ice cream parlor?

EJ: The earliest I can remember.

I: What do you remember about those businesses?

EJ: Serving the customers, filling the ice cream cones.

EJ: Yes. Shopping with my mother, learning how to get the
goods through the store.

I: You got some good exposure at an early age.

EJ: Yes. We were all trained that way.

I: In your understanding, why did your parents immigrate to
America?

EJ: Because -- the Russian end of it -- was because of the "Pogromme" -- the Pogroms.

I: Could you explain that a little bit to me?

EJ: Jewish people were persecuted when they came over, way back then.

I: And why do you think they settled in Bridgeport?

EJ: My father always said he was a Yankee, and liked Bridgeport, Connecticut. [laughs]