Frances Hall Carr
Journal for Senior Project
February 19, 1982 through
May 22, 1982
February 19, 1982

My research was begun with a discussion for possible topics with Margaret Freeman
Decided I wanted to do something to do with women in the laity of the church

February 20, 1982

Went to the South Huntington Library to look at historical background for women in the church. Found several books and looked through listing of articles in the Christian Science Monitor. The articles gave me some ideas as to the kinds of things women do.

Education - Churches / Seminaries / Sunday School Superintendent
Missions (Missionaries)
Fund raising
Teacher Training
Soup kitchen
Church Fairs / Crafts
Festivals / Food Preparation
Music
Refugee relocation

The librarian suggested I go to Newsday to look through their files on women's activities in newspaper articles. Think I'll pass that up for now. It doesn't seem the best avenue of approach.

Topic heading:
Women in Church Work
Women in the Clergy
Women in Christianity
Women in Religion
Women - Religious Life

Have ordered three books through inter-library loan.

February 24, 1982

Old Westbury Library: The research librarian suggested I check with historical libraries and/or religious libraries, for which he had a listing:

L.I. History
Adelphi
Huntington Historical Society
Levittown Public Library
Nassau County Museum
Smithtown Public Library
SUNY Stony Brook

Religion
C. W. Post
George Mercer Sch. of Theo.
Hofstra
Huntington Public Library

Think I'll try the ones that are nearby first. Also located some more books under the previous topic headings.

February 26, 1982

Called Huntington Public Library. They suggested that I go first to the Huntington Historical Society, Town of Huntington Historians Office, and Old First Church.
February 28, 1982

I began reading and discarding library books and ideas as the first step toward the basis of the thesis formation.

March 1, 1982

I went to the town historian's (Huntington) office and saw Mr. Rufus Langhans. He suggested that I see Mrs. Packard at the Huntington Historical Society Museum. They're not open today; very limited hours, that may present a problem. The historian said he had nothing except on structures, but also suggested Old First and said he'd like a copy of the paper when it's finished for the Town Historians Office! Surprise!

He advised that I go to some of the other churches in town and told me which were the older ones: St. John's Episcopal, Commack Methodist, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Also suggested the Huntington P.L. Historical files - I'm beginning to feel as though I'm going in circles, wish I had more time. Also suggested I use th Index to the Long Islander (Newspaper) which might have articles listing women's meetings.

Suggested fairly recent book put out by the Episcopal Diocese: I Will Set My Dominion In The Sea, the Episcopal Church's History on Long Island.

Went to the Huntington P.L. Under Huntington, L.I. - Church History I found a listing of numerous reference books of the early records of many of Huntington's Churches. Spent some time looking through them to ascertain whether they were a positive source. I think I can use some of the material in them.

Found an Old First Directory from the 1800's. Female to male membership ratio 2 to 1, NO women officers anywhere in sight: Trustees, Elders, Deacons, Sunday school Superintendent, and Assistant. Women were listed as Sunday School Teachers!

March 3, 1982

Went to the Huntington Historical Society Museum Library. What a great place, all these years in Huntington and I've never been there.

Met Mrs. Packard - She will be an excellent resource-person. The library hours are very limited but she was kind enough to suggest that she will make herself and the library available at additional hours, by appointment. She's been a student herself recently.

She suggested going through the microfilm on the Long Islander and other resource materials that she has available; also gave me the names to contact in Huntington for church histories:

Mr. Wilson V. Mott- Historian for West Neck Methodist
Mr. Jerry Raynor- Historian for Old First Pres.
Knutson Family- Beth-El Lutheran (This church was built by Mr. Anutson for Norweigian families of the ship builders that he brought to this country.)

Records of St. Patrick's Catholic Church have been kept pretty much secreted by that Church and the Diocese.

Huntington Baptist Church lost all of their records two years ago in a fire.
Unfortunately I wasn't able to spend as much time at the library as I'd planned, had to go work early, but will call her for an appointment and in the meantime contact some of the resources she's given me.

March 4, 1982

Dropped off a tentative outline and my work so far with Margaret Freeman, in order that she might help me to focus a little better. Will see her next week.

March 8, 1982

I went to the Historical Museum forgetting that it was Monday and Mrs. Packard was not available, guess I just have a lot on my mind! Must remember that they're closed on Mondays.

Went to visit Old First Presbyterian Church, the oldest church in Huntington, and spoke with the secretary who gave me the name of the President of United Presbyterian Women and the Church's historian's name, as well as copies of the church's newsletter and their Sunday bulletin. Established a good contact, I think. I expect I'll be needing a lot more of her help in the future.

From there I went to Central Presbyterian Church which is just down the street! They had been the Second Pres. Church-split from Old First over 100 years ago, should be interesting to hear the variety of reasons for the split! I spoke to the Church secretary here and she was extremely helpful, and anxious to hear about Old Westbury. Promised to send a catalog to her. She gave me a copy of the 1979 Church Directory in which all of the church officers were listed---not a woman among them!!

Mrs. Lois Close, one of the two church elders elected in 1980, came in while I was talking to the secretary and was very willing to spend some time with me. Told me the first women officers were elected in 1980, mainly because the Presbytery of Long Island had really pushed the church. The Deacons and Deaconesses were still separate offices. Mrs. Close said that she personally struggled with women's role in the church as determined by the Scriptures. She was very warm and said she was willing to spend some time with me if it would help with my project. She also introduced me to the church's assistant pastor, who offered to let me look through the church's records in their vault at some future date.

I went to see Margaret Freeman this afternoon to discuss my outline. After much discussion, I decided to focus only on one church—Old First—as a representative church of the laywomen's activities. I'm going to base it on oral histories of members of the church and start in that direction and then see if that will lead me to further museum and library research. This is scary and exciting. How do you do oral histories? It feels good to have my topic narrowed down and a plan to proceed with.

March 10, 1982

Met with former Old Westbury student, Arlene Wilhelm, whose senior project last year was based on oral histories of Quaker Women for the school archives. She had several very helpful pointers and gave me copies of her notes from a meeting.
of the Long Island Archives Society.

March 12, 1982

I spoke by phone to Mr. William Rogers, Senior Pastor at Old First. Explained the project to him and was very enthused about it. Felt that I needed to go through him and have his approval before I started contacting members of his congregation. He's given me several names to start with: Ruth Hackstaff—a historian and writer who has recently written a short history of the Church, Beverly Thomas—she has kept a record of the Church Officers over the last 20 years, John Collins—historian, and Cindy Humphries—staff person of the newly formed Women's Center located in the Church.

March 14, 1982

Today I returned my first stack of books to the library and took out another stack, these are on how to do oral histories. At least I'm keeping the librarians busy.

March 18-21, 1982

I began reading the oral history books. There's really quite a lot to prepare in taking valuable oral histories. Wrote some notes on what I would say to people when I make my first contacts by phone: just enough to intrigue them but not too much!

March 21, 1982

Spent all morning writing and re-writing my questions for the first interview. They will probably need some adjustment after this first time. These past couple of days I've been setting up all my equipment; camera, film, new batteries, tape recorder, new batteries for it, extension cords, tapes, three pens and pencils, new notebook. At least I'll look impressive.

It was hard to decide who to start with. I called a couple of people who weren't home and finally was able to reach Mrs Joan Kellogg, current president of the United Presbyterian Women. She was most pleasant and very receptive to being interviewed, and we set an appointment for March 25, my only day off this week.

March 22, 1982

Read an article in the March issue of A. D. Magazine by Ms. Carol Ames titled The Woman Quest with several interesting references. I wrote to her asking where I might locate some of the resources she mentioned in the article.

March 25, 1982

First interview today! I'm just a little nervous, it seems as though there are so many things to remember. Prepared a tape-release form on Old Westbury Stationary to have her sign.
Ms. Carol Ames
Editorial Assistant
A. D. Magazine

March 22, 1982

Dear Ms. Ames,

In the March, 1982 Issue of A. D. Magazine, page 29, is an article by you titled "The Woman Question", which I found to be very informative. Within the body of your Newscope piece is a reference to the Fall 1981 Journal of Presbyterian History with particular mention of "United Presbyterian Policy on Women and the Church—An Historical Overview" by Brackenridge and Boyd.

Would it be possible for you to let me know how I might either obtain or have access to that issue. I am a senior at SUNY College of Old Westbury, on Long Island and am in the process of doing my senior research project on the activity of the lay women in a Presbyterian Church in Huntington, Long Island, including oral histories. It sounds as though the outline you mentioned might include helpful background information for this project.

I would appreciate any assistance you could give me in this direction, including suggestions for other pertinent information.

Sincerely,

Ms. Frances H. Carr
61 Oak Ave.
Huntington Station
New York, 11746
The following questions are those used for the initial interview with Mrs. Kellogg. With some modifications for each interviewee, these questions were the basis for all of the tapes that were made.

Interviewer: State date at the beginning of the tape.
1. What is your name and your address?
2. When were you born?
3. Can you please tell me a little about your family of origin, both your previous family and your present family.
4. What is your previous church background before becoming a member of Old First Presbyterian Church?
5. When did you join Old First?
6. In what ways, past and present, do you participate in the life of your congregation? Either alone or in the company of other women.
7. Do you work with other women in the community as a representative of Old First?
8. Your membership at Old First has extended through the pastorate of more than one minister. Do you think there has been any appreciable difference in the way they have worked with the women of the Church?
9. Can you think of any other women in your congregation whom you see as having a strong impact on the life of the Church now or in the past?
10. Do you see any difference in the role of women in your Church today as compared to 20 or 20 years ago?
11. Do you see your personal faith history as being in any way related to the history of your activity within the Church?
12. What do you see as your most important contribution to the ongoing worship of Jesus Christ at Old First?
13. In what way do you think your work as a woman in your Church has been viewed by the overall congregation?
14. Do you know any female clergy? What is your feeling about women in the ministry?
15. Have you ever felt called to enter the ministry in order to be a more effective worker for Christ?
16. Did you ever wish that you could serve your Church in another capacity which did not seem open to you, and if so, what kind of action did you take?
17. What do you see as the future of women at Old First?
18. Are there any women who are members of minority groups who are active in the life of the church?
19. Can you suggest any persons who might be good resources for this project.
March 25, 1982

Mrs. Kellogg was a delightful person to begin taping with. She made me feel very comfortable and was eager to answer all my questions. We had a cup of tea before beginning the interview and chatted a little, which I think was very helpful. She really is very dedicated to Old First. She didn't even mind my taking her picture.

Tonight—sent a thank-you note to Mrs. Kellogg.

March 26, 1982

Spent 2 hours at the Huntington Historical Society reviewing the indices to The Long Islander Newspaper up until 1859. Further issues were not indexed. Was unable to find any pertinent information. I went through folders of news-clippings and articles, including pictorial directories and was able to get some historical information.

Tonight I spent about 3 hours listening to the tape from Joan Kellogg and writing a biographical sketch.

March 29, 1982

Stopped at the office at O. F. to get some telephone numbers and had great luck. Met Mrs. Patricia Davies, Director of Children's Work at O. F. We talked for about an hour about the Church, and how she sees what is happening in the Church with women today. Wish I'd had my tape recorder and notebooks with me, but will try to go back. She suggested several more women for me to contact and gave me their names and phone numbers. It was exciting for me to talk with her. She has just completed her undergraduate degree and is thinking along the lines of seminary.

April 7, 1982

My friend called today and told me of a woman in her dental office who has been a member of O. F. for 25 years and who would be happy to talk to me. Aren't friends great! No one else had mentioned her name to me. That's good. An average "pew-sitter" perhaps.

April 8, 1982

I called Mrs. Mary Clum today, she sounds sharp and very pleasant. My friend had already laid the groundwork for me and Mrs. Clum was very willing to meet with me. She told me that her son is a member of O. F. but that she and her husband belong to two other churches, although they attend O. F. No wonder no one gave me her name. Should be a good interview.

April 12, 1982

Mrs. Clum called and cancelled her appointment. She's not feeling well. She'll call when she's feeling better. Hope so.
I called Miss Edythe Velsor for an interview appointment. She was suggested by Pat Davies. We're set for Tuesday, April 13.

April 13, 1982

Tried to reach several church members but to no avail, two are on vacation and three—no answers. I was finally able to reach Mrs. Suzie Viemlester (someone I know just a little, that's nice) she was very willing and eager and we made an appointment for April 16, 1982. Also contacted Mrs. Lulu Sammis. She said she was very willing to talk with me and that she would call me when she was free, but I persisted and she agreed to see me on April 15. She's one of the church's oldest members. I'm looking forward to talking with her. Things are looking up!!

Typed release form for Miss Velsor, prepared for my interview with her. Revised my questions a little bit to reflect her age and length of time as a church member.

I was at Miss Velsor's home from 10:00 AM until 12:00 noon, what fun! This turned out to be an interview with three people: Miss Velsor, her sister Mrs. Helen Lamb, and a friend who just happened to stop by and has also been an O. F. member for many years, Mrs. Muriel Riese. Miss Velsor is a very assured person, a take-charge kind of person. Her sister, Mrs. Lamb, appears to have some slight physical handicaps, including a speech-impediment, appears to be quite dependent on her. The women all enjoyed reminiscing together with me. I asked about old bulletins, or pictures, but Miss V. couldn't put her hand on anything. She called me at home later in the afternoon with some dates that she had forgotten and also said she felt as though they had made a new friend. Invited me to come and visit them for tea anytime.

Miss V. didn't want her picture taken, but was willing to have all three of the women taken together!

Briefly listened to the tape and read over my notes, then wrote thank-yous to all three women.

April 14, 1982

I called Mrs. Nora Burns, as suggested by Miss Velsor. Her membership goes back to 1938, but it was not a continuous one at the church. She has lived elsewhere for a number of years and is only just recently back in Huntington. She suggested that I might like to talk to Mrs. Hilda Brush. So I called her and was able to get an appointment with her for Monday afternoon.

Called Pat Davies for a man's name and she suggested Mr. Bruce Hackstaff. He is married to the women who did the history of the church. So I decided to take a chance and see them together. Was able to make arrangements for Friday night. This should take some careful planning.
COLLECTION OF MEMORIALS IN THE HOME OF

MRS. LULU SAMMIS

Mrs. Lulu Sammis resides in a small apartment on Pulaski Street. Her apartment was designed by her late husband, who was an architect. The apartment is very charming and well-decorated. The walls are adorned with paintings and photographs that capture the essence of Mrs. Sammis's life. The apartment is located in a quiet neighborhood, and it is a true reflection of Mrs. Sammis's taste and style.

During a recent visit, Mrs. Sammis invited me to tour her apartment. She was very kind and hospitable. The apartment is very cozy and inviting. The living room is spacious and well-furnished. The kitchen is modern and well-equipped. Mrs. Sammis proudly showed me around the apartment, and I was able to see some of the beautiful memorials that she has collected over the years. Mrs. Sammis is a very interesting person, and it was a pleasure speaking with her. She has a lot of stories to share, and I am looking forward to writing more about her and her collection of memorials.

The Sammises were very kind to me during my visit. It was a pleasure spending time with them. I hope to return soon to continue my research and learn more about Mrs. Sammis and her collection of memorials.
April 15, 1982

I met with Lulu Sammis today. She lives in an apartment complex in Huntington, that appears to house mostly seniors. (It was interesting to note that during our visit, Mrs. Sammis remarked that at the time these apartments were being built she was among those who most strenuously objected to them as eyesores. She has been living in her apartment for 14 years, since her husband died.)

Mrs. Sammis was proud to tell me that she is 89 years old and still drives her car to Church every Sunday. That appears to be a very important part of her life. She had a collection of mementoes from O. F. on one wall in the apartment, and was delighted when I asked if I could take a picture of them. Mrs. S. told me that she didn't do much in Church, but that she'd tell me whatever she could remember. Dates were difficult for her, but she was pretty clear on organizations and incidents and enjoyed sharing them with me. Mrs. S. is a very dignified woman. This call took about two hours.

April 16, 1982

10:00 appointment with Mrs. Suzanne (Suzie) Viemeister. Suzie had kept her whole day open for me which was very gracious and almost as much time as we spent on the interview! Not quite, but it was lengthy. She is not only a very active churchwoman, but also an effervescent, garrulous person. The interview, on tape, was about 2 hours long—really a little too long, and we talked for another 1½ hours. Mrs. V. has a great love for her Church and the people in it. She volunteers a great deal of her time to the Church.

We made a tentative date to go to Old Westbury together, as she expressed interest in the school, but has much hesitancy about the classroom situation. (I could sure relate to that.) Somehow I have the feeling that this appointment will not hold firm.

Spent an hour preparing for the interview with Mr. and Mrs. Hackstaff tonight. Am expecting to hear more from Mr., we'll see. Also wrote thank-yous to Mrs. Viemeister and Mrs Sammis.

My appointment with the Hackstaff's was for 8:30PM. They were kind enough to allow me to bring my son along, since everyone else in our house was going out. Their home is one of the older homes in Huntington, a lovely large white house right in town. If we hadn't talked until 10:00PM, I would have asked to see some of the eighteen rooms. This was my most difficult interview. It was very hard to achieve a balance with my questioning, and even though I tried to direct my questions equally, Mr. H. offered the most responses. I was surprised to discover that Mrs. H. had not attended church in a number of years, no one had told me that, and so I had to revise my questions as I went along. It was an experience in juggling. The Hackstaffs were very gracious to give a Friday night to my interview.
Thus far, this has been a great deal of work, but a very enjoyable and enlightening project. All of the people that I thought might feel imposed upon, particularly the interviewees, have been most willing to share their time and their stories with me. They have all expressed interest and enthusiasm about the project. I've begun to realize why that is: this is their story.

April 17, 1982

Wrote a thank-you to the Hackstaffs.

Called Mrs. Marianna Davison and made an appointment for Wednesday night, April 21.

Typed up several more release forms for the next few interviews.

April 18, 1982

Spent all of Sunday afternoon transcribing tapes. As I've done more interviews, I've changed some of my questions and I think they've gone better.

April 19, 1982

Interviewed Mrs. Hilda Brush today after work, from 3:00 to 4:30. She is a retired high school English teacher, who now enjoys caring full time for her home and garden. Mrs. Brush remembered quite a lot about the women's activities when she was younger.

Wrote a thank-you note to Mrs Brush in the evening.

April 21, 1982

Prepared for three interviews today. Should be very interesting, they are three very different kinds of people. Perhaps I'll be able to get into the Church vault since I'll be there anyway and I'll have some time between interviews. Also need to replenish my tape supply, this is getting expensive!

My first appointment today was with Cindy Humphries at the Women's Center at O.F. She is an assertive young woman who is a staff person at the Women's Center, and very involved with the other young women at O.F., as well as with the Church's youth. She is looking forward to a change in her relationship with the congregation, very optimistically. Her husband has just left the assistant pastorship at O.F., to begin a secular job. Their family will continue as members of the Church. Along with the other questions in the interview, we talked about how this experience is affecting Cindy.

When I left the interview with Cindy, I went to the church office and Pat Davies had just a few minutes to see me. She gave me permission to look through the vault, and found several
April 23, 1982

Frances H. Carr
61 Oak Ave.
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Dear Ms. Carr,

I am sorry it has taken me so long to reply to your request. I know the academic year is well along, so I hope this information will still be of some use. Copies of the Journal of Presbyterian History are $3 each, plus $.75 shipping from the Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA 19147 (phone 215-627-1852). Other items that might be useful in terms of lay women's organizations and mission efforts in the Presbyterian church are a book, In But Still Out, by Elizabeth Verdesi, Westminster Press, $3.95, paperback (order through Cokesbury or other bookstore) and the winter 1982 issue of Concern Magazine called "Our Continuing Story." A local church women's group or library may have copies of these, especially the latter. If not, call the Long Island Presbytery and ask for the name and number of the presbyterial president or the chairperson of the Women's Council or Task Force (you may have discovered these resource people already). Their phone is 516-499-7171.

Many good wishes for completing your thesis. I'm sure that the L.I. Presbytery and the Presbyterian Historical Society would be interested in having copies when you're finished.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Carol M. Ames
Editorial Assistant
Old Church bulletins from the 1940's and 1950's in the Deacon's office that I could have, since nothing could be taken out of the vault. There were assorted pieces of the old church facade and many boxes stacked on the floor which made it difficult to move around, and the records weren't stored in any orderly fashion. I felt so frustrated. I guess I was anticipating something very valuable, a great find, and instead experienced chaos. While going through some stacks of records, I did come across an envelope with a listing made in the 1950's, written by hand, of the Women's organizations in the church in the 1800's and that was encouraging. I copied as much of that as I could read and by then it was time for my next interview.

Spent two hours with Mrs. Mary P. Clum, a charming woman. She and her husband have attended O.F. for over 20 years, but have never joined the church. That really seems so odd. They are both active in the life of O.F.

Rushed home to prepare dinner and get ready for one more interview this evening.

My interview tonight was with Mrs. Marianna Davison, a woman who has been involved in almost all aspects of church life. She is a highly motivated person who has dedicated many volunteer hours to supporting her congregation. Our interview was a long and very interesting one. Mrs. Davison urged me to come to one of the Church's early morning Summer Services during which church families lead the worship service.

This was a very long and draining day, but I feel great about the number and kinds of people I've met and interviewed.

Mrs. D. gave me a letter from her friend, Suzie Viemieste. You guessed it. She can't make it on our appointed date to visit Old Westbury. I'm really not too surprised, but am a little disappointed. I'm going to try to urge her again before graduation.

April 22, 1982

Wrote thank you letters to Mrs. Clum and to Mrs. Davison.

April 24, 1982

Saturday, and sunny and here I am in the basement with my nose in my work. This takes discipline! Spent all day transcribing (of a sort) the tapes that I have so far. What a monumental job! Began in earnest to try to pull things together.

Wrote two more thank you notes to Mrs. Brush and to Cindy Humphries.

Finally received a letter from Carol Ames, the Editorial Assistant to A.D. Magazine. I tried to locate the Concern Magazine issue that she suggested, but was unsuccessful and have already found In But Still Out at the school library.
April 27, 1982

I had a short talk with Margaret Freeman to help plan the layout and thrust of the paper. Then went to the COW library and took out books that I'd had to begin with on women and the church in order to get information for referral to some issues. I felt like I was back where I'd started. Also picked up some books from the South Huntington Library that were written from collections of oral histories, in order to help set up my own format.

April 28, 1982

I had an interview with Hope Brockway today. It was nice to have a chance to chat and get to know her a little better. She lives in a lovely home in the more exclusive section of Huntington, and is a twenty year member of O. F. She was a very willing interviewee, and was the only one who asked to see a copy of the paper before she would sign the tape release. Promised her that. She also offered to make my copies, if I needed someone to do that. She suggested that I talk to John Collins, who is the self-appointed historian of the church.

Wrote a thank-you note to Hope.

April 29, 1982

Worked all day and night transcribing more of the tapes to note form, and writing ideas culled from the interviews. Can't wait to see how the pictures turn out; they will be ready on Monday.

I've been using the 1981 Pictorial Church Directory, and just realized that the listing for the family names under the pictures is wife/husband (The Jane and John Doe Family), whereas as late as the 1974 Directory the listing was "The John Doe Family".

May 2, 1982

Worked all day today transcribing more of the tapes and pulling together information. There are so many more people I feel like I should talk to, but I've got to stop somewhere. I wonder do all historians feel that way?

May 1, 1982

Worked all day today transcribing more of the tapes and pulling together information. There are so many more people I feel like I should talk to, but I've got to stop somewhere. I wonder do all historians feel that way?
been aware of it. I think I must have approached this project with some reticence about the people of O.F. This is not what I have found to be the case as I have come into one-to-one relationships with assorted members of this congregation.

May 3, 1982

I picked up the pictures today with great anticipation. Bad news! Four of them didn't come out and two are too dark to copy. Looks like I'll have to try to take them over again. Tonight I'm exhausted. Think I'll just do some reading in the books from the library and make some notes. I need a little distance from the report.

May 4, 1982

Tuesday, reviewed some more texts for reference material.

May 5, 1982

Wednesday- Senior Seminar Class met today in the morning, causing panic to set in. Some people are finished, others-almost. Home to work, work, work. Wrote and read from 1:00 in the afternoon till 10:00PM with only a short break to make dinner. Looks as though I have more done than I thought I did.

May 6, 1982

Worked in the morning until I had to leave for work. It's beginning to make some sense at last.

May 7, 1982

Spent three hours at the library re-writing and going over the interviews to make them type-worthy and extracting the names of those suggested by the interviewees as having played a valuable role in the life of the church.

May 8, 1982

Saturday- Spent most of the afternoon writing and coordinating the interviews. If only there were more time to devote only to this. Finished!! Writings all done, I hope. Now to begin putting it in order and typing. Tomorrow I'm going to borrow a Polaroid Camera in hopes that I can re-take the missing pictures. Wish I'd thought of that the first time around.

May 9, 1982

This is Mother's Day? Started again after Church to re-read and begin typing. Worked most of the afternoon and evening.
May 10, 1982

I dropped the hand-written paper off with Margaret Freeman at school and discussed with her how to handle potentially embarrassing statements on the tapes. Her suggestion was to make the women in the paper anonymous. I should have realized that was the best way to show a representative picture.

Called Joan Kellogg about re-taking her picture tomorrow.

May 11, 1982

Tuesday- Bought film and flash batteries and went to Joan Kellogg's house after school to take a second picture. She was very gracious. I offered to give a presentation of the completed paper to UPW at some future date and she was very interested.

Continued typing this journal tonight in hopes of completing most of it before I get the paper back from Margaret.

May 12, 1982

Wednesday- I picked up my paper from Margaret this morning. I was late for our appointment so we had only a few moments to talk, but she had made some comments on the paper for me. Mostly suggesting that I draw more of a conclusion from the vignettes.

Typed a little more in case my husband can make some copies tomorrow.

May 13, 1982

I took the day off from work and spent all day and evening re-writing and typing. I could see my observations of women in the church emerging from this study with great difficulty because of my being so much a part of what I was studying. Even more so because I believe the church to be my future, with an even greater commitment of my life to it and I'm not sure I can face what is still ahead. It's hard ground.

May 15, 1982

Saturday- worked from 4:00 till 11:00PM typing and re-writing the interviews.

May 19, 1982

Thank goodness for an extension in time! I was able to put this aside for a few days and to study for finals. Even more than that; I have just been elected to the Board of Ruling Elders at my own Church and have had to attend an orientation meeting, during which time I heard it said that
this is where the power and the authority of the Presbyterian Church lie. I also needed to attend my first Session Meeting (of the Elders), and due to the fact that as of this Sunday our Church will be losing its minister, I was able to see put into action the actual power and authority of this church governing board.

I need to spend more time reorganizing the presentation of the vignettes. Since I've decided to present the people I interviewed with fictitious names, I need to rephrase some of the presentation of the information. I had expected to be all typed by now. I'll spend all day today with a short break to get as far as I can.

May 21, 1982

Friday- Hoping today is it. I got up early this morning to re-write the last vignette. Went to school for my last official class and now it's 12:30 and I hope to finish typing today.

May 22, 1982

I typed till I couldn't say awake any longer last night, with just a few pages of this journal left to finish today. Hope to have it all completed by the end of the afternoon and then can start on my last final.

As I prepared the vignettes to become part of the body of this paper, I realized that there were numerous additional questions that I should have asked the interviewees. These questions might have given a different thrust to an overall view of the women of Old First Church. In ordering the vignettes I found myself with questions raised that I had no answers for because I hadn't focused on a particular area.

All that is left to do now is to proofread the remaining pages. I hope to be able to take the last pictures on Monday, but that may not be possible. I'd really not like to leave that undone.

Being an historian has been a challenge, and a privilege and a responsibility to those whose history I've placed in the pages of this project. I hope I have done them justice.

As good as it feels to be able to see this work as finished, I'm feeling a little reluctant to let go of it, it's become so much a part of me over these last months at Old Westbury.
MATERIALS COLLECTED FOR SONY ARCHIVES

PROJECT: The Women of Old First Presbyterian Church,
Huntington, New York

May, 1982

1. Twelve Cassette Tapes: Oral History Interviews
2. Release forms for Oral History Tape Cassettes.
3. Index Cards for Tape Cassettes
4. Pictures of those Church Members recorded on Tapes.
5. Old First Church Pictorial Directory - 1981
6. Pamphlet: History of Old First Presbyterian Church
8. 1982 Publication of the United Presbyterian "Women of
   Old First Presbyterian Church."
10. Newsletter: The "Women's Center of Huntington."