

Ilah C. Kauffman

b. March 29, 1907, d. May 15, 2000

A LIGHTHOUSE CHILDHOOD



As daughter of the station's longest-serving Keeper, Conrad Hawk, Ilah spent her childhood at the Saugerties Lighthouse starting in 1914. During this time, daily life remained unchanged from the nineteenth century with no plumbing, electricity, or telephone. Ilah and her brother attended school in the village before the convenience of a trail, traveling by rowboat or even ice skates in the winter. Embracing the remote location, her family enjoyed many pastimes together, such as reading, knitting, playing games, and listening to the parlor phonograph. She enjoyed having friends visit the lighthouse, which was less isolated than her father's previous off-shore assignments. To supplement the modest wages of a lighthouse keeper, the family fished and kept a small garden at the water's edge. Ilah continued to enjoy gardening in her later life and cherished her many memories from growing up here.

In loving memory, Patrick and Ilana Kauffman