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## **Bowe Family History**

### Interview of William John Bowe, Jr. by Anthony Canavan Bowe Regarding Augustine Joseph Bowe (1892-1966) January 12, 2021

Anthony C. Bowe (00:00:00):

Hey bill.

William J. Bowe (00:09:44):

It's that map behind you? The Hudson river.?

Speaker 1 (00:09:50):

Are you there?

Speaker 2 (00:09:51):

Yeah, I can hear you fine. Is that map behind you? The Hudson river.

Speaker 1 (00:10:14):

Oh, it's recording. Not very useful though.

Speaker 2 (00:10:18):

Yeah. Yeah. I was lucky I was looking into correct. Maybe doing a transcript and H how to do that. There are services that will crank out. You upload your, your audio and the services do a machine, a transcription. And if you just do it by machine, without any buddy involved the rate is pretty reasonable and now you've got to clean it up and put punctuation in later, but you probably have to do that anyway. So

Speaker 1 (00:10:56):

What do they charge?

Speaker 2 (00:10:58):

Yeah, you know, I forget, but it was something quite reasonable, like five or 10 bucks an hour or something. Yeah. I mean, so it was I think a kind of no wonder, it's no wonder it's so hard to make a decent wage in this country then. Yeah, that's great. Yeah, because I think probably the real burden of the transcription is really the editing and in my life, I haven't seen a way to get around that kind of work to make it presentable to other people. But so

Speaker 1 (00:11:36):

So so we're going to do this today, right?

Speaker 2 (00:11:40):

Yeah. Well, we can, or, or we can do part of it today and come back. Yeah.

Speaker 1 (00:11:44):

Yeah. Okay. I I actually, I, I spent a bunch of time after I think you sent the that the

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Anthony C. Bowe (00:11:54):

Outline or maybe it was before, but in any event, going back over all those documents and I read I read your mom's the bit that she wrote about, I guess it was about Gus right in the well, she, I wrote, I wrote the book, I read the bit about, she wrote about herself to actually, you know, what I, what I discovered is and maybe you and I have talked about this already, but she describes how she worked at that camp.

William J. Bowe (00:12:22):

Okay. Tegawitha, is that near you?

Anthony C. Bowe (00:12:25):

Yeah, it's, it's five miles from our house in Pennsylvania. I don't know where the camp is actually, but, but our house is, is five miles from Mount Pocono. Yeah. All right. So I actually, I, what I meant to do was Google and see if that campus still living existence.

William J. Bowe (00:12:40):

You know, that camp was a very important part of my mother's life. Because she must gone there as a camper, but also as a counselor. So she was

Anthony C. Bowe (00:12:55):

After, after I, when she was in college, she was there too or something, right. Yeah. Probably in the summertime,

William J. Bowe (00:13:01):

Probably. So, so that was, you know, big outside their adult, child, and adult work. And she had friends there that she had so she always talked about camp Tega with it and the Poconos. And one of the things I think she said was that a branch, Ricky, who was a famous baseball manager, I forget which team be managed, but the name branch Rickey, if you Google, it is a very famous baseball figure. And he had something to do with the camp, either his daughter, his daughter went there that my mother was friends with or something.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:13:50):

Unfortunately I'm actually now I Googled it and in it looks like when was this 2010? There's a bunch of photos actually in, in the local newspaper, which is called the Pocono record. And it's a bunch of photos of camp Tega with which is in a nearby township called Coolbaugh. And there's a bunch of photos here of some of the buildings, but it's says shown here as the entrance to one of the buildings at the former all girls camp Tega with before it was demolished.

William J. Bowe (00:14:33):

Well, yeah, so maybe higher use came along.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:14:37):

You see, they got some beautiful old structure, so it looks really, really pretty.

William J. Bowe (00:14:42):

So can you tell from that how far or where it was?

Anthony C. Bowe (00:14:47):

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I don't know exactly where it is. I could certainly figure it out. But you know, we've been going up there for 30 years now. And it's, it's too bad, beautiful old buildings. There's an old chapel. You know, it's all that neat style of architecture. Sure.

Speaker 2 ([00:15:06](#)):

It may have been Catholic in its orientation as well. I don't know. She never, well, I'll have to go on a reconnaissance mission. Yeah.

Anthony C. Bowe ([00:15:17](#)):

You know, I don't know if you remember this. It was I dunno what, it's probably five years ago now. You probably wouldn't, you would have known of it at the time and, and have since forgotten about it. But in in about five years ago a guy in Northeastern, Pennsylvania like one of these lunatics like, you know, these knucks knuckleheads that you know, went to Capitol Hill last week went and and, and hit out in the woods outside a state police barracks in Northeastern, Pennsylvania. And and, and when a couple of state policeman returned to the barracks they, this guy opened fire on a, that the two policemen with a high-powered rifle and killed one of them. And I think the other one you know, was hit, but but survived.

Anthony C. Bowe ([00:16:13](#)):

And then he disappeared into the woods. And the bottom line was that he was a fugitive for about three months. And and he he, he, he was from the same town that our, our, our house is in and they didn't know where he was, but they kept finding trace evidence of his being in the woods and hiding in caves. And and th the totally bizarre thing is that the area became essentially like a war zone. There were helicopters flying over her head in the middle of the night, cause they were trying to find this guy and he, and legitimately, they, they thought, you know, he was at, you know, a real danger because he had in fact you know, assassinated one cop and tried to assess somebody. And in any event that guy, a guy was at large and the whole area was just overrun with state policemen for, you know, for, for several weeks.

Anthony C. Bowe ([00:17:12](#)):

And then ultimately they found the guy in an abandoned camp not far from from, from our house. And he'd been holed up in one of these abandoned buildings. And the policeman walked up to him and said, are you Eric Frain? And he said, yes, I am. And they said, well, you're under arrest. And a guy subsequently stood trial and sentenced to death and is on death row in in Pennsylvania. But, but there are people all over, all over this tiny little town that we have our house in, who, you know, grew up with this guy.

Speaker 2 ([00:17:46](#)):

And they were explained what was

William J. Bowe ([00:17:50](#)):

W what his beef was,

Anthony C. Bowe ([00:17:52](#)):

You know, one of these lunatic you know, quasi, military you know, Carmed you know I, you know, right. Ringer who, you know, had a problem with authority. And yeah. In any event, there's a little episode of camp Tagalog with reminded me of that. I mean, it was quite remarkable actually, because I, it was, you know, it was, it was routinely on the evening national evening news because the guy was at large and it was, you know, they, people were, people were legitimately afraid. I mean, we, we, we, we, we were still going up there, but actually there were a couple of weekends we decided not to go just because how many anyway, they, they actually, they actually went door to door in our community because they thought he was running around in this look, you know community, you know, a Darcy.

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William J. Bowe (00:18:39):

Yeah. Well, tango with that, it was more peaceful era. The nutcases wormed as well are probably yeah, by the way, I in terms of homework one of the things I did, I, I was curious as to where you were in Pennsylvania. So I figured out the the town you were in and Deb looked you up on Google maps. And what was interesting to me, it's buck falls. You don't feel false. Yeah. 34 golf road or something close to that.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:19:16):

Well, yeah, that is it's it's actually, they, they renumbered it. But it's, it's actually four Oh nine golf drive now, but did you, did you see the house? Is, is there a picture of,

William J. Bowe (00:19:27):

No, I don't think I could tell that because, and here's what was curious about it. And let, let me think that you were in indeed there of interesting historical exclusive enclave, but what I tried to descend upon the your, your house at 34, whatever it was at the time I couldn't get in you couldn't on Google earth, you couldn't move from the satellite to the ground with your camera. So the nearest town, you could get your, the Google camera down on the ground, on the street look to be about a mile or two away from falls. So I put my little man there as close as I can get, and I tried to follow the highway up the Pennsylvania highway North from where I could land and I could get up there and I could then go East and lo and behold, I came to, to stone towers and neither side of the road. I think the cross street was golf.  
[inaudible]

Anthony C. Bowe (00:20:43):

Probably [inaudible] lane said, yeah, maybe

William J. Bowe (00:20:49):

Led training

Anthony C. Bowe (00:20:50):

[Inaudible] as in the Indian tribe, but I think that's where those two,

William J. Bowe (00:20:54):

All the true stone stone work towers that said had assigned buck buck falls. There was no way that I could go up towards where I could see your house was on the overall map, because the, there was, there was a clear exclusion of that part of the highway. And I thought, gee, it's an open public highway. This is surprising somebody, somebody there must be some privacy authority, some legal

Anthony C. Bowe (00:21:29):

Well, actually, you know, I think the explanation is that golf drive is a state highway. And that's, you know, my house was a little bit further down from where you were. But that cross street that it is between those two stone pillars is, is private property owned, owned by this thing called the buck Hill falls company, which actually is essentially a homeowners association, although it's organized as as a as a corporate,

William J. Bowe (00:21:53):

Well, I couldn't turn left and go North on that to try and get to your house. And I tried on the far East to approach your house from that direction rather there from the Southwest as I'd started, but there was no way I could get the ground level Google street view. Well but you probably wouldn't be visible from the road anyway,

Anthony C. Bowe (00:22:20):

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Pretty far off the road. Yeah. it's it's actually sort of a ridiculously large house. And and, and if it weren't for the fact that real estate values hurt perennial D perennially depressed in in, in, in the Poconos for a whole bunch of different reasons. I wouldn't, I wouldn't have such a, such a, such a large and comfortable home, but yeah,

William J. Bowe (00:22:45):

Well, it's a, it looks as if it's modern, if you've got a skylight. Okay.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:22:50):

Well, I'm in Brooklyn right now.

William J. Bowe (00:22:54):

And there's, well, yeah, it's

Anthony C. Bowe (00:22:56):

Quite old actually. Yeah. but that the house in Pennsylvania is it was built in 1912. And

William J. Bowe (00:23:05):

So is that map behind you then the East river or the Hudson? The map over your left shoulder. Oh, okay.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:23:13):

Oh yeah, no, that's that's both actually, that's that's on the right that's East river and on the left is the Hudson and yeah.

William J. Bowe (00:23:22):

And then as you know, we're, we're located right over here. Right.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:23:30):

Okay, well, so hold on one second

Speaker 1 (00:23:34):

Here. I had open

Anthony C. Bowe (00:23:48):

On a different device.

Speaker 1 (00:24:00):

[Inaudible]

Anthony C. Bowe (00:24:01):

Okay. okay. So what do you think, should we

William J. Bowe (00:24:07):

We can, we can divide this up and there's no reason we have to try and do all of Gestapo in, in one session. So it may make sense to, just to go until we think it makes sense to take take a break, come back to it. So I think though just from an organizational standpoint a general chronological approach makes sense. So that's why I was inclined to sort of start with, you know, where did where did is, where did the parents come from? You know, what's there because that's in

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itself, that's a very interesting tale. And of course it had a lot to do with who Gus and Bill turned out to be and what set them off on their path in life. So I think it's, it's a helpful to have that kind of an origin start and then that naturally leads into guesses career and personal relationships, and finally the nature of his personality and so forth.

Anthony C. Bowe ([00:25:15](#)):

Well, I think that sounds like like a great approach perhaps as a as a starting point, just to to establish your credibility on this topic could you just you know, quickly describe you know, how, how you, how you, how you knew Gus and just a little bit about the time that you, that you th how you, how you came to be reasonably close with him. And and then perhaps then we could just drop back and start talking as you suggest on a Chromebook.

William J. Bowe ([00:25:46](#)):

Yeah, that's a, that's a, that's a sense of place to start because as it turned out Gus more than my own father was the role model that was very important for me. And I was looked up to directly in terms of how to live my life, but how to go about my professional life, which was very similar to the one that my father gusted for them for themselves. So what is a little bit interesting to me is if you start at my introduction to gossip that his wife Julia [inaudible] my mothers were made from Trinity college in Washington, DC class of 1923. Thank you very much. In an era when that many women went to college those sisters, I think are those roommates Julia had to introduce gussets brother my father to her college roommate along the way.

William J. Bowe ([00:26:59](#)):

They'd been fast friends during college junior had gone with my mother up to Baltimore where my mother's family was the wind family. I have pictures of Julia there. So when Julia came back to Illinois and pursued a relationship with her cousin distant cousin, Gus and then they were married I recommendation no doubt her college roommate, my mother to meet my father was naturally followed on a visit. And so what was really curious about these two families as it turned out was the Bowes under ELAM, Canada, Bo Gestapo, and my father's mother. She was quite a figure and she was not to be denied. And she was going to be taken care of. She had taken care of the boys, they were successful.

William J. Bowe ([00:28:02](#)):

So the families lived together and poor Julia found herself when she was buried dead. I think the 1926 two guests having STO Murgatroyd that she moves in in 1927 to the newly built the 1120 Lake shore drive, apartment four D. And who does she find there? She finds Gus she, of course her new husband. She finds Gus his mother, I guess his brother and my father is there and and the Mo and of course the Ana also was there at that time, so that the sister of both boys, so all, all living in 40, all living in four D so my mother comes out in a visit. They she falls in love with my father after some thought and where do they move?

William J. Bowe ([00:29:04](#)):

Well, that was too much even before D it was a nice duplex apartment but it had already been stretched. And yet that they, the brothers were close. They were in business together in the law firm. So my parents bought an apartment in 11, 20 as well, just on the other elevator tier are supposed to give some patina of distance. But what is always been sort of a curiosity of fate for me is that I was never close to your parents now. They were my generation just because of the age difference. So

Anthony C. Bowe ([00:29:51](#)):

Yeah, you're fortunate or you're younger than my dad. Yeah.

William J. Bowe ([00:29:55](#)):

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Your dad was born in 1928, and I think his sister julienne, Bo Thompson was born in about 1930, two 33. I wasn't born then my brother Dick Richard was born in 1938. I was born in 1942. So I was a decade older than Juliane. And you know your, your father was way ahead of me born in 28 by 14 years. So, so I missed observing gossip, Julia, and raising the children because they were pretty much through with that by the time you know, so I was born in 42 and your father was leaving high school, I think the Latin school class of 1945. So, so I don't have that kind of a view of him. But I did when I was in law school my mother had been ill for in declining.

William J. Bowe (00:30:58):

He had the Alzheimer's or earlier some other issues in the, in the fifties into the end of the sixties, when I started law school in 64 initially I was going to go down to the student dorm at the down on Hyde park. And I mentioned this to my mother as I was graduating from college. And I saw a really look of great immediate distress and I course on your mother's face on my mother's face. And it was, and of course I knew exactly what was going on and changed my plan, my ideas immediately, because she knew what was ahead a lot better than I did in terms of the care that my declining father with the Alzheimer's was going to require if he was going to stay at home, which was, I'm sure his preference, as long as he can figure that kind of thing out. And that was certainly my mother's preference. And of course expenses would have a lot to do with that kind of a decision to so I I didn't move down to Hyde park for law school until I graduated law school. So, so he already had,

Anthony C. Bowe (00:32:23):

You said, you, you lived in, in four B with your folks,

William J. Bowe (00:32:27):

Gus and Julia were now empty nesters living across the elevator tier. And it was really during these law school years that I would go over evening and my father died halfway through law school in December of 65. So before that I had been regularly visiting Gustin, Julia for dinner. It was a way of getting out of the house for me during the, the, that period in later as I finished law school after my father died. So it was oftentimes dinner Julia would fix the light fish and we chat before dinner and have a drink and and and talk. And that's really, I got to know the both it's.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:33:21):

I know I've heard you talk about this before, and I've kind of imagined that this took place over an extended period of time, but in reality, actually you would have graduated from college in may or June of 64, right. And, and both your dad and Gus were deceased by February of 66. So it's actually in a somewhat compressed period of time that this relationship developed.

William J. Bowe (00:33:46):

Yes. The one thing I can't quite put in the timeline without looking it up, which I can do I had a wonderful European adventure with Gus and Julia. I just don't remember what year it was, but it may have been not in high school when I was in high school. It may have been when I was in college as a in fact that that's probably when it was, but I can't quite remember, but what happened was quite independently had got some Julia were here, they're empty nesters, they're taking a tour back to Paris and reliving what had been a common part of their life. In the early days when the courts were closed in the summer, they would spend June and July. And often in France and Paris was a favorite of theirs.

William J. Bowe (00:34:43):

So they happened to be there. And I happened to be there. I forget what put me there at the same time, but we knew that, and either they or I had a rental car, and so for a day, I drove them all around to their old Paris spots. And there was one absolutely magnificent meal. I remember in the plants, the vote plus devotion which is where the best deal was in the olden days, I guess I said square and the the host whom they were meeting for dinner, they were guests and they

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dragged me along. I was certainly happy to go was a fellow named Tony palette. And he was a a Yugoslav, I think he'd been the council in Chicago for although anyway, they do a, from Chicago and he, he was there.

William J. Bowe (00:35:43):

I think he was married to Suzanne Smith, maybe whom they all knew in Chicago. So he hosts this dinner. It is, you know, it's the four star restaurant of the day. I'm quite suitably impressed and complete with the, the, the courtesy cigar box or Broadway for your, after their pleasure. So that really was a couple of days. And there was one awful moment of embarrassment with them. This is a small little car journey. Guests are in the back seat, I'm driving in one of the major intersections, plastic Concord, one of Arctic Europe, one of the end, of course, I, I make a wrong turn. I clearly Jay right in front of his shop, Darren I make a driving error. So I don't remember if I was properly licensed. I certainly have my state license, but so the genre arm comes over and of course he's speaking French and my French although I did study itself, it was never a long suit.

William J. Bowe (00:37:08):

So all I was thinking was, Oh my God, I've got my aunt and uncle and back, and, you know, I've got a ticket or are they gonna take me in for this kind of thing? It wasn't that bad. So I was pretty nervous and I thought I would play this the sympathy card in French so that the gendarme would know I was a tourist and maybe give me a break. But so I rolled down the window and said of the shutdown, just we treat trees you know, I, I am sorry. Well, at first that didn't seem to work. Then the Shugar starts this big grin eating grin. And I hear Julia beginning to stifle a chuckle in the back seat, and then Szarindar waves me off. So off I go, so I say that Julio, what was that all about? And she tells, says, well, I don't think you realize this, but what you said to the Gemara was I am so sad,

Speaker 2 (00:38:23):

Distraught,

William J. Bowe (00:38:25):

Distraught. So of course Jew was quite well-versed in in French. She grew up in French family, although her family [inaudible] family in Kankakee, Illinois they didn't speak French at home. Although he was French, he had married Deb Mabel. Canahan so she wasn't French. She was English and the home that they have for Julia and her sister Dodie, just being that it was an English speaking home. So Julia actually had her French proficiency by going to an aunt's house for French lessons. And that was some cheaper, but with interests. So so she was pretty well integrated in terms of the language. She talks a little bit, you may have read in her book, the families about some discrimination against those with an accent.

William J. Bowe (00:39:35):

So this was something the French in Kankakee County, those who settled there that come directly from France, or maybe from French Canada. So father yet they, weren't not completely native, but Julia writes, she never saw a bit of that because she grew up in an accept pre right. So I have one other thing on, on the language and Julia Ellen cannabis Gus and Bill's mother and Julia Mary's mother-in-law she encouraged Julia to really pursue the French background. And this had a lot to do with junior writing her great scholarly work on the LA core and palace, our families in France and America with one of her Palestine relatives. It was Ellen cameraman who oddly enough for an Irish descendant although yeah, Ellen was all Irish. Her navel had a little bit of Yankee or Jordan's mother, but she encouraged Julia to pursue the French heritage. And I was very interested that Judy said she would never have really done the generation's work had it not been from her mother-in-law's encouragement.

Anthony C. Bowe (00:41:11):

So having, having touched on on Ellen perhaps you could just tell us a little bit more about Ellen and and, and her, her husband, John.

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William J. Bowe (00:41:23):

Yeah. So let me start with the job. We know less about the Bose than about the cannabis if for no other reason than the the cannabinoids breed like rats and the bows were not as prolific. So the, the bowl was as much as we can figure out. So in figuring this stuff out, we have two great accounts what they knew from Julia Bo and Maryville in their different books. Jirgas the generations on my mother's families Moses in Aero, born in Ireland the father of my grandfather John Joseph Bo he was orphaned in Ireland at the age of 11. So not, not good. There was an uncle who had emigrated to the United States earlier who who sent for him and Moses came over sorry, in what year was that to the us?

William J. Bowe (00:42:29):

I don't, I couldn't pinpoint it, but maybe the 1840s, perhaps before the famine, I think before the femme, which was true of the cannabis arrival in Illinois, too, that was just pre fandom by just a few years. I think the famine was 1846. That's a couple of years in there. So Moses comes over with the uncle and he doesn't last long and runs away in time. And the next account moment we have of Moses is that he's working as a laborer downwardly for the on the Erie canal. So he's, you know, digging the Erie canal with everybody else at that time. And then I'm sure this would have been a step up from canal begging he gets a job probably also as a laborer for the Illinois central and in, in the Illinois central wa was trying to get their railroad.

William J. Bowe (00:43:42):

They'd gotten the right of way, but they needed to build the road. It didn't get to Cancun key until 1853. So Moses from Chicago, presumably and presumably Chicago as well about that time. I think that the trestle from the East that went actually over Lake Michigan right in front where millennium park is now, we all trestle that, that I think that Eastern rail connection was maybe 1848, then kind of remembering it loose that kind of 10. So here is Moses working for the ISD as a laborer, and they had a labor camp or a house for the workers in Monique, Illinois on the of way. And the, the house was in Monique, which was German speaking and Moses learns German. He told people he was the only Irishman in Moni. Everybody else was German.

William J. Bowe (00:44:50):

So he had some smarts to him to a basket language. And he met in Moni L on Canada, and she had grown up in a nearby Sumner, Illinois southerner township, where the cannabis farm was. So that that union I think her name was Hunter or Hurley Moses's wife. And there, they had a number of children. I never realized this. I thought that the the, the only child was John Joseph Beau, my father's father. But there were, there were several others, there was a Philip Michael and and I think a a sister of like grant I guess my grandfather Agnes rice ag dispo. Right. So, so anyway, that was the bows and their son John Joseph Mary's, his pumpkin was

Anthony C. Bowe (00:46:03):

Born in, in what year

William J. Bowe (00:46:07):

John Joseph let me see my could just

Anthony C. Bowe (00:46:13):

Will be something like 1860, 65, something like that. Yeah.

William J. Bowe (00:46:18):

I can't, I'll have to look at that easy enough to to get that. And, and, and actually he is one that I may not have a date for. I mean, there are some missing missing, basic missing dates, birth dates, and others are in dispute, Anthony Canavans birthday you know, weighed wages anywhere from 18, 18 to 1822. So with some of these, you take your best guess and

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dates and the like, so so that's Moses bell early and their son, John Joseph berries, Ella Canavan excuse me, there is a, yes, I guess, a LA Canada. Right. And that's, that's the, mother-in-law that right, right. My mother dealt with

Anthony C. Bowe (00:47:14):

And she, and she died about the time you were born?

William J. Bowe (00:47:17):

Yes. The year after I was born, she died in 43. So I never, I never have, I don't have any memory of of her at all. And presumably my dad would have actually

Speaker 5 (00:47:30):

Known her quite

William J. Bowe (00:47:30):

Well, but yes, absolutely. She was born here. She was born in 1861, Ellen was and she was the I think the third th th th there were three daughters at the end of the 13 children that Anthony then and abuse had. And I think it was Ellen and then the last two children after Ellen, Canada were, I think it was the sister that married the parishes and then Margaret who married the Lynch Chan to Casey, John Casey.

Speaker 5 (00:48:23):

So Ellen and John would have gotten married and, you know, perhaps something like 1890

William J. Bowe (00:48:33):

Yes. And there are records in this one of the great things of course about the internet and the matter of the era is a lot of people of course have gotten interested in their families in the last several decades since the arrival of the internet which, you know, it's really basically 1995. And and so th it's pretty young, but, but these dates are now within grasp because they've been, the original records have been digitized. They're, they're searchable not just in this country, but in our land as well. So there is a filling in, of all of these gaps that nobody, Julia and my mother never would have amazed. They would have been amazed that that could be done.

Speaker 5 (00:49:28):

So so Ellen and John met and and, and, and I, I'm sorry, bill and Gus were born, were in,

William J. Bowe (00:49:41):

Ah, they were born yeah, it's interesting. John Joseph Bo had when he married LM cannabis, he worked also for a railroad in his case, it was the Saint Paul well, and he had been he had lived in Peotone, Illinois, so in King County as well. And he took a job as a [inaudible] for the St Paul road with his new bride out in Utah. And the account that we have is that he Ellen caravan that was told by him that if she ever got lonesome, they'd moved back closer to her relatives while she got lonesome in salt Lake, and they did move back to Chicago and they moved to and I had the aggressive in this, or I think the 1600 block of North Ashland Avenue and that that apartment I drove by there on a wonderful outing, I took through the, the journey of the, both families with Gus and Julia

Speaker 5 (00:50:57):

In 65 or 66, but I've seen photos of it. Yeah.

William J. Bowe (00:51:01):

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Yeah. And that that address was just quite astounding yeah, I'm sorry. The 1200 block. So 1239 North Ashland Avenue. And I remember when I took the picture of Gus and junior before that address, that Gus is born here, and bill is born there. And I think Anna was born at a nearby on superior street a year or two later after my father was born, but this was a perfect picture of Chicago because it was, you know, a three or four story building, probably three story house, a retail on the first floor and two apartments above. So a midwife delivered both boys there and Gus and Julia standing in front. And I think as I remember the signage was either Polish or Spanish reflecting the then current in the mid 1960s and neighborhood residents. And there was Spanish share along in that stretch of Ashland as well. Well, of course when the both boys were born there it was all Irish, undoubtedly. So it just was quite, quite interesting to see guests there as an old man, not long before he died that looking at this house that had been such an important milestone.

Speaker 5 ([00:52:42](#)):

And is that building still standing to your knowledge?

William J. Bowe ([00:52:45](#)):

The building? Yeah, I'm sure it's still there at least less last time.

Speaker 5 ([00:52:54](#)):

So so, so then once John was back in Chicago after after the, the time in Utah, did he continue to work for the railroad or

William J. Bowe ([00:53:08](#)):

Yes, he, he had gotten my mother told me that he he had a clerk's job and before he became ill and he had all also, which ultimately killed him. And I think they also were evident shortly after the turn of the, of the century, maybe around 19 two. And he died in 1910, but because my mother told me that kind of the high point of his working life was a whatever kind of clerking job he had at, in the offices of the St. Paul railroad. He had just gotten his name on the door. And of course in those days you had to have a person whose job it was to paint their name on the glass of a little office door. So that didn't last long because his illness progressively worked to ultimately kill him.

William J. Bowe ([00:54:08](#)):

And I remember for a period of years, I think he was in a, in a health facility, a sanitary. And perhaps I'm not quite sure in Michigan because there's correspondence that is on the website that back to my father, a very kind of strange formality as we read this today. Very stilted kind of a relationship where the father is writing to maybe a 10, 10 year old boy, 12. So and anyway, that, that was sort of his decline and Ellen probably before he died. I think it's not completely clear for my mother's record, but probably before he died, she was supplementing the family income. She become a licensed agent for the New York life insurance company, and she was remarkably effective as a life insurance salesman. And so to the Irish families in the neighborhood and Gus would look after young Anna as Ellen, Canada would head out into the night with my young father, a kid young kid at the time who would stand silently by, as Ellen would talk to a an Irish couple also probably in front of their children about life insurance.

William J. Bowe ([00:55:48](#)):

And what better sales prop would you have a after her father died, she is the widow, you know, and here's, she's, she's got to get out of the house and sell life insurance, which can have been a good way to make a living if you were a normal, a stay at home housekeeper raising the children. So that was their situation.

Speaker 5 ([00:56:16](#)):

So w th it was characterized by some degree of economic hardship.

William J. Bowe ([00:56:20](#)):

[Type here]

Absolutely. Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. There was no they were in a very difficult situation and we're completely dependent on the chutzpah of Ellen Canavan, Beau to to keep that family together. I mean, three kids, no male MEI MEI wagger had wetter at the time. That was, of course not just the fashion. That was about the only upshots. So Ellen was quite quite a figure. And there, there's a story that my mother told me about her and this reflects on her entrepreneurial, get it done any way you can spirit she told the tale of Ellen is standing outside. This is probably the 300 block South of Wabash, along in their lion. The Healey had a music store, so pianos and everything use sheet music for decades at that location.

William J. Bowe ([00:57:36](#)):

And so the story is Ellen was happened to be standing outside there. She was looking in the window and another potential customer came by, was looking at a piano there. And Ellen strikes up a conversation with a stranger. The stranger is interested in buying a piano, Ellen convinces him on the spot that she can get them a better deal than he, because she knows how to do this. And so it sounds right. I think I must've had some sense of these values, so he's, he he's convinced perhaps not unreasonably. She goes in, she gets a good price and no doubt a cut.

William J. Bowe ([00:58:27](#)):

So she gets to keep the family and you know, all in a day's work, just because as she strikes up a conversation. So so I think a lot of that get up and go don't wait for somebody to tell you what to do, you know, figure it out and get at it that gusset bill had that was that was LMU Canada. And you can imagine the figure that, that that strong, who ran them through school and got them terrific educations at Saint Ignatius and then Loyola she must have been a handful to have as a mother-in-law because and I wrote about this a little bit in the forward to Julius memoirs Gus in Julia Julian got us both and my mother were always very respectful, but I'm thinking mostly of the, in law Julian, Mary Bell at any time I had a conversation because I was curious as I got older, a little bit about this grandmother, I never knew they were very, was very, very respectful, but there was an undertone that send to me and, you know, what are, I really know it's kind of speculation, but it's sort of said to me that they learned early on in their marriages that what Ellen Bo wanted done with either boy got done.

William J. Bowe ([01:00:13](#)):

And it didn't much matter what their wives who were perfectly nice, bright, young, pretty women, but it was, there was only room for one person, no, I'm female, a ruling the roost. And I think that that's, that's probably pretty true.

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:00:32](#)):

Did Ellen live at at 1120? Until Dawn?

William J. Bowe ([01:00:36](#)):

I think she lived there until she got, yeah. Yes, I think so. Oh, well, so, so my father, it doesn't sound right, but the answer is, as I'm thinking about it, you know, I wasn't alive. So where she she she may have spent time but that would have been much earlier with her daughter, Anna, who lived briefly in new Rochelle, New York with her husband, Raymond Joseph Walter's in newest shell. But that was over with the depression and they moved back to Chicago. So I don't think she was loving with them. But she was somewhere

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:01:20](#)):

And she would have been, she would have been if she, you know, she was, well, she, she, my father for instance, would have, would have known her quite well, perhaps even as a child. Yeah.

William J. Bowe ([01:01:29](#)):

[Type here]

Yeah, I think so. I think so. Yes, there are pictures of her going to church in the, her Sunday payments with John Casey and Anna Bo Walters and her husband and their son, Raymond Beau Walter's they're all in their finery. The men have got, you know, bowler hats on OpenAir Anna and Raymond Walter's apartment at two 2070s Delaware. So it's quite a, a wonderful little snapshot of their being in their Sunday, finest there's Ellen ready for battle

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:02:12](#)):

Sense that they were religious?

William J. Bowe ([01:02:16](#)):

Yes, I think of course in a way that the lender generations really had no understanding them because there were of course in the Irish families, there were always vocations and a Western chest boys headed into the priesthood. The girls were not infrequently off at competence. That was very true in my mother's family growing up in Baltimore, there were, there were relatives females in conference that she knew and and through Gus and Julia's life and my own parents they were churchgoing Catholics and not infrequently would entertain and have for dinner, a priest, perhaps back from a mission somewhere. And they'd be interested in talking about that maybe a priest back from China or somewhere in South America.

William J. Bowe ([01:03:17](#)):

So I would say that they were believers. I don't think my father was a much of a church goer, but and I'm not sure about the Gustin Junior's habits but Julia May have been more akin to my mother, but certainly whatever their church growing activities, both of them were very active. That's I'm speaking of the men now both gush and bill were very active in the church affairs and, and Loyola, Gus was chairman of the citizens forum for like a decade and a half of the, the law of the university. So so they were quite engaged there, Gusto and thinking about the religious aspects of it. I remember after dinner, talking to him about, for a D one evening, I was asking him about the Jesuit education that St.

William J. Bowe ([01:04:24](#)):

Ignatius and and how that came about. And he said that and it was like a smile on his face. So there was no, no seriousness about it, but he said something like that. Yes, well they the Jesuits are, they're pretty smart. They they figured out I was a very, a good candidate to become a priest and you know, they took a run at it, but I escaped that was kind of the, and, and you can see, of course looking back Gus was brilliant. I think it's something I never saw in my relationship with him. I mean, you could see it through sort of his career and the fact that he'd risen to a very significant public position electoral position, chief justice of the national courts in the city of Chicago.

William J. Bowe ([01:05:26](#)):

But in his personal dealings at my age, I, I wasn't able to assess that I'm in a better position to do that now. And he wa he was just a brilliant student growing up. My father was not in any event in any way the student that Gus was and Julia herself extremely capable, intelligent well-educated person. They both had terrific educations Gus a a story that my mother tells is that he was an older boy at St Matthew's church. And the pastor thought he'd make a good priest and that he ought to head off to St. Ignatius. So the boys got some bill were living on Fulton street, and they had to walk down to send Ignatius which is you know, 12th street. And I think my mother says blue Island but there that walk was for them to take during good weather in the winter as well.

William J. Bowe ([01:06:50](#)):

And along the way, there was a library and in the winter, apparently the boys used to stop on their way to, or from school at the library to get warm. And of course, what do you do if you're getting warm in the library? It's a nice place. So, so Gus couldn't tell people, and I think it was true that he read all of the Epson when he was 12. Wow. And I remember I guess there's a wonderful picture of a custom Julia family portrait. It's on the website of the four of them.

[Type here]

Gus is in his favorite chair. The one by the window on Elm street that gives them kind of an angle view of Lake Michigan and behind him. He must've sat in that particular chair. And I remember him sitting in that chair.

William J. Bowe ([01:07:49](#)):

Yeah. So that was for decades, basically in that chair and behind him I'm not sure it's in the picture at the time which is say late forties. But when I was there behind, it was a set of Dickens and, you know, this Dickens was prolific. So the set of volumes was, you know, a yard or, or more and he, Gus was always ready to give, give advice. And they said, well, you have to, if you're going to know anything, and he would talk like that, if you're going to learn anything in life, you gotta read difference. And then with that, of course he waves his hand at a shelf and the entire shelf. So

Speaker 2 ([01:08:35](#)):

Do you think he'd actually read all of those?

William J. Bowe ([01:08:37](#)):

I think he did. I think he did now. He was also however napped beyond pretending intelligence beyond its true existence. I, I was at a dinner with him and it, I think it was a loyal function and there's a priest, a table, a round table of eight at the dinner and it's fundraiser for the school probably, and the priest has been off somewhere and for some reason the Gobi desert comes out geo BI or it's out on goalie. So I don't know how that entered the conversation. But Gus in his passing offhand manner says, Oh yeah, that's North Africa. Where and well, the priest has the the, the strength of will to correct. Yes, this judge. It really is. It's over in Mongolia, East Asia.

Speaker 2 ([01:10:00](#)):

No, no, hold the Gobi down.

William J. Bowe ([01:10:08](#)):

But when you look at is success in the law practice with my father and then later John Casey, their cousin came into the practice and of course your father towards the end of the practice that intelligence was, was really at work from the beginning. And that law firm, when you consider Gus got out of Loyola, they all, you didn't go four years to college then. And then three years to law school, which was my lot in life. Then they, they weren't breezing through high school and then college and law school were, were compressed. So Augusta born in 92 is got his law degree and his license in 1913. So,

Speaker 2 ([01:11:04](#)):

So he would have been 21 at the time. Yeah, yeah,

William J. Bowe ([01:11:07](#)):

Yeah. I was a, you know, 20, well, let's see, got out. I was 22,

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:11:14](#)):

22 when you graduated and 25 when you got to law school.

William J. Bowe ([01:11:18](#)):

So, and my father was as usual, two years behind us getting out of law school in 1950. So that was you know, a rapid fire to do. And what makes it clear that Gus was quite unusual and brilliant beyond being just smart. He by 1914, he is selling Liberty bonds in the war effort according to my mother's account and by 1923 or by 1918 to 1923, he's teaching torts at the law school that he just graduated from. Well now there was one law graduate in my class at the university of Chicago or class of 67. There was one who was so smart that they made him a, an assistant professor that they graduate.

[Type here]

They just said, well, I guess not only was teaching towards right out of law school in, in the medical school, he was teaching medical jurisprudence. Wow. So so he he was also making very important connections to, as far as the law practice success at the time. My mother reports that here they are out of law school at 19 eight, 1913, 1915 by like 1922, I think my mother says they're making, or maybe 1919, either they're making \$10,000 a year. That's that's that they're, they're now supporting Anna, their mother and they're beginning to support them in good style,

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:13:13](#)):

\$10,000 a year then was quite a bit of money.

William J. Bowe ([01:13:15](#)):

Oh, yes. That was a, you were doing all right. And they they got a whole bottle home on West Washington Boulevard that was for prospers Irish. So they moved very quickly into a respectable a bit of affluence quick quickly. And

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:13:36](#)):

And was the law practice from, from, from the get-go focused on work work members? Yes.

William J. Bowe ([01:13:42](#)):

Yeah. And that was poor Chouest. That was, that was good fortune, but in the, in the schooling process my mother mentions two names that w of people that gave them a good deal of business in their early years, that they knew from school Henry Horner. Well, I recognize that name that's a later governor of Illinois, or I don't think he was prior to that. I think he was later he, he whatever he was doing before he was governor, he knew these boys were smart young lawyers and was sending them business. And there was another fellow by other mentions Tom Nash. Now I wondered if that was any connection to Patrick Nash, I think of the Kelly mash machine that the chairman of the democratic party in the thirties who w w was a prominent Nash. I don't know if there was any connection there, or if there was a connection between those Nash's, you can maybe see another we used that Gus was so politically engaged he would have been bios own instincts as well, but he, he may well have known some of these people probably did of course have for a long, long time.

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:15:11](#)):

And, and in the practice did they, they typically represented workers or did they represent the companies?

William J. Bowe ([01:15:22](#)):

So the practice was based on workman's compensation representing only the injured workers. So there's a little bit of fortuitous benefit here that they happen to graduate from law school at the exact same time that across the country States are enacting a uniform law at the state level, not the federal level to take out of the clogged court system, the disputes of injured workers who lose a finger, lose a thumb, lose an arm, lose a leg, lose their life doing dangerous work. But they've got to go to the regular courts before the workman's compensation laws, regular courts. And so they're stuck in the budget lags of getting to trial. And here you've got a distraught family wiped out with the death or serious injury, disabling injury a dangerous job. So those laws took those disputes out of the regular court system into a special workers' tribunal.

William J. Bowe ([01:16:37](#)):

And the those that commissioned the Illinois industrial commission in this state had, you know, a whole system that runs to, to this day, people complain, it costs too much or employers because there's still probably a good deal of patronage sluicing around in that pool. Certainly it's it's those lawyers as was true with Gus and bill are Democrats of many of them and contributing as well, but that happens to arrive as they get out of law school, those laws. And it's like in our lifetimes, the environmental protection agency and the whole realm of environmental law, forget about the internet law

[Type here]

later, but the environmental law, which got started earlier, I mean, that's now illegal industry, of course because there are lots of disputes and a requirement to resolve these very difficult matters. So the workman's compensation laws really simplified everything. If you lost a half of a forefinger rather than a little finger and another one that all of that was began to be regularized and certainly the disputes were, were diminished and that helped the law practice absolutely take off. And it really,

Anthony C. Bowe (01:18:07):

You suppose they did took on these these cases on a contingent basis,

William J. Bowe (01:18:11):

Or yes. All was a, on a contingent basis. Now. It was also, it wasn't just workman's compensation that had been certainly the early backbone. But it was, it was personal injury plaintiff's work. So if you were run over by a truck or there are lots of when they were just starting out. My father told some funny stories that my mother accounts in her book about running down clients and Gus was at the practice first. And they were quite a pair of young lawyers starting out, and they had a a circus that had injured somebody that they went after and later became good friends with the the circus manager who had to pay out for somebody's injury or something of the story. So so that was a part of their early practice too.

Anthony C. Bowe (01:19:14):

So so Gus practice law through the, through the, the, as did your father through the twenties and thirties, and that practice evolved, but it was always a pretty lucrative practice. I, I, I,

William J. Bowe (01:19:31):

Well, it was, yes, it was lucrative, I would say until the post war. So after world war II, things had changed alone bit for one thing, the their prominence in, in the law hadn't really changed because they were going to the Illinois Supreme court more frequently than anybody else. And now of course we can, we know that cause we can look up the lawyers that argued before the Supreme court, it's all electronic early there. And even when Gus was alive, pre-internet somebody had told them that that we searched it and gus and bill the bow from it been to the Illinois Supreme court representing clients more than Abraham Lincoln and God Gus never said it was true. Although I think it, it, it, it could well be true. But

Speaker 6 (01:20:34):

I wonder, I wonder, is it still true, perhaps? Yeah, well, yes.

William J. Bowe (01:20:38):

So, so I don't recall proving it myself when I had access to those legal databases. But but you know, how many times would Abraham Lincoln have gone up to the LRI Supreme court? The answer is a lot, well, bone Bo was that law firm that was really making the law in the workman's compensation field. So they were appealing all of these close calls and if they lost the trial court, they were off to the, to the appellate court, they were off to the Supreme court and and they were making, and some of these cases constitutional law, Illinois constitutional law, there's a famous case from about 1943 called I think it's the grassy case, G R a S S E. And that case of the Illinois Supreme court cites that decided today for a basic principle of Neal or constitution. So, so they, it was a varied practice within their general realm of personal injury. So,

Speaker 6 (01:21:53):

So the business changed a little bit after the war.



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William J. Bowe (01:21:57):

I would say it began to decline after the war. My father in the early fifties became ill. He was drinking too much, which I'm sure didn't help his end of the practice. And as all timers ate away at his competence during the, the latter part of the fifties river, he died in 65. So he had a good, a good decade of decline or so, so he was no longer a factor in the practice. And he had been if Gus was all along the intellect my father had been a Rainmaker. He was a very outgoing, friendly person. He was a great business getter and and so that faded off as well, and then changes in the availability of other lawyers. The unions began to have be able to steer all business around to avenues that weren't there earlier, but they were a better option for a lot of injured people. So, so that was a declining part of the family fortunes generally speaking through the fifties. And also at that time on juvenile side, Julia, the Corbo side, Gus, his wife the store is she had a little bit of an income separately from the store, which was still in the family, so that store, Hey, Hey, how you doing email? That has the Safelite technician's name.

Speaker 5 (01:23:50):

Oh, okay. Okay. Thank you.

William J. Bowe (01:23:54):

So so, so I would say that, you know, was a part of the pattern too, so they were not at the end of their careers and lives, they were still able to maintain their living situations, but they were, they were watching their pennies. And when Gus died, Julia took a job briefly with the city of Chicago. And so

Speaker 5 (01:24:20):

I didn't know that what was the nature of that, John?

William J. Bowe (01:24:23):

It was something that didn't, that she didn't like, so she didn't stay with it very long, but she probably would have been nervous of course as a new widow. So she might've thought that was something that you should or shouldn't do and stay with, but she was able to figure out a, another way. And then of course the expenses with, I mean, both these women Julia and my mother narrowboat were widowed at about the same time. So it didn't take long for them to figure out that Juliana move in a Mary's apartment. Yeah. I remember that. I remember the kids

Speaker 5 (01:25:08):

And, and your, and your mother very generously gave up her bedroom to Julia and

William J. Bowe (01:25:12):

Yeah, yeah, that's right.

Speaker 5 (01:25:16):

So so presumably then I, at some point Gus ceased to practice law himself and, and ran for public office. But presumably there's a run-up to that, that his, his, his, his activities in the political sphere.

William J. Bowe (01:25:35):

Yes. And they it's a little hard to completely separate the, the political Avenue from the other activities in this life because they, there was some overlapping there to be sure. And particularly in, in gussets case eh, he had an interest of course in, in arts. So he was he wrote poetry himself quite successfully. He and Julia, same poetry magazine for another day, from a financial collapse almost single-handedly, but they rounded up people and without them that wouldn't be a poetry magazine today, the Lilly grant wouldn't have enterprise there to to support. So the, they were all opera lovers. They probably had gone to the opera in, in Europe and here when the lyric was started they continued to enjoy it. And

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to take the opera, for example, in Gus there was a dispute at the very beginning of the lyric opera in the mid fifties and who, who was to run the lyric opera was the issue.

William J. Bowe ([01:27:01](#)):

And it was Carol Fox or another fellow. And there was a contract that said in the event of a dispute it will be decided by the president of the bar Chicago bar association that happened to be Gus. And I guess it was Abraham Lincoln, a federal judge who you know, put the arbitration in to being, I'm not sure if there was a pending law case collaterally or how it Maritz got involved. Exactly. But the case comes before Gus. So who runs the lyric Gestapo, give us the answer. His answer was Carol Fox and that set the lyric on a great successful path in the mid fifties, well, that his own love of opera that owned his prominence in the bar.

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:28:00](#)):

It's kind of interesting. It's just a coincidence that the then president of the bar association happened to also be an opera lover. Yeah.

William J. Bowe ([01:28:07](#)):

Yeah. So yes. So so if you also go back both families so this is Gus and bill by father and Julia and Mary, my mother as well as gossip bill, we're all very engaged from the 1930s on in race relations and improving as they would have used in that terminology. The lot of the Negro or, or colored people. It was just something that I think that came out of there. Why is that though? I think the origins were partly being, being Irish or growing up when they were, and these were not no riot days of the mid 19th century, but they must've seen that breaking into this world was not an easy path. And so they must've had some sense of discrimination because it had been there early on the, the law firms would have been set up certainly along ethnic lines.

William J. Bowe ([01:29:26](#)):

That was pretty much there were Jewish firms and Catholic firms. And then there, there were those that came before that were of course more wasp in their makeup. So they'd seen that, I think the Catholic education and a sensitivity to the underdog was something that they grew up with. It was in their bones. The difference of course, is that they really acted on their, their principles. And so here you have the national conference of Christians and Jews, national organization in the thirties and both them Gus and bill, very active and out here, your mother wants to ask me why the same kind of question. Why do you think that they were engaged in this? Why, what did the D the, the Catholics and the Jews of the national conference of Catholic and Jews, why were they focused on that?

William J. Bowe ([01:30:31](#)):

Black people? Well they had those groups had in their day seeing their discrimination and of course you had a high then and today, a highly segregated housing pattern. The discrimination in the job market was vastly more extreme in that era. And remember too, in their law practice they were very close to to working people and what they were facing on the struggles of the day. And they weren't just taking a black or white clients. I mean, th they were taking working class people, they had had a clientele that was black and as well as a white and the like, so, so they were out there. And then Gus was a founder of the Catholic interracial council later, very important in the work of the church in the fifties and later the sixties.

William J. Bowe ([01:31:41](#)):

So and most importantly of course he had been involved first in after the national Jews in 1943. I think it was 43. There were very, very bad race-wise during world war II in Detroit. And it was a little bit of a, of a signal that other cities that you know, what's so different about Detroit. We can have a race riot here, Chicago and had terrible race riots in 1919 during the first world war. So there was a sensitivity, Hey, every world war, you got a race riot potentially. So mayor Kelly appointed Gus because of his earlier work in this area and prominence in this area. I mean, there weren't many

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people out there talking about this thing he appointed DeMar. Kelly did as cannabis to inoculate Chicago, hopefully from what Detroit had seen the head of a citizens committee to focus on race.

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:32:56](#)):

And this is in about 48, you said 43,

William J. Bowe ([01:32:58](#)):

I think it was maybe. So it might've been 44, something like that. And then in 1948 mayor Connelley Martin J Connelley comes to the office. And he, I think at some point the, this committee that starts under Kelly, it's formalized, I think maybe by Connelley into a commission and it's the Chicago commission on human relations and it's the new commission has a new chair or Gustin J Bo. So now he's got a little bit about, he's got a city department that is, I've got a little budget, a not inconsiderable budget,

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:33:46](#)):

I think, in a volunteer capacity. Is that right? Do you still practicing law?

William J. Bowe ([01:33:49](#)):

Yes. I, I don't think he, I don't think there was that a salary there at all. So, but there were paid staff members, there was an executive director. So I remember Gus tell me when I got to know him well and was asking him about some of these political moments. He said that when I think mayor Daley was first elected in 1955, that might've been been the earlier, but in any event that Richard J Daley had run against the incumbent Martin, Jake Connelley and Gusto that he had supported, Connelley not a daily, the Victor. So he went into see Daley after the the election that said you know, I happy to happy to resign as you know, was a supportive Connelley and you know, I wish well and I said that Dennis said, Oh, no, no, no, don't, don't think about that day, no need for that.

William J. Bowe ([01:35:08](#)):

So I think he was just regarded as independent enough and you know, the obvious question is there, if he accepts the resignation, well, who else do you get to do that? Well, the answer was, nobody was coming immediately to mind or he would've been out, along, but the job didn't pay anything and it would have probably most people wouldn't have wanted it. Right. But Gus was very proud of it. He resigned when he was elected chief judge and the rest of the court before the cook County court consolidation.

Speaker 5 ([01:35:51](#)):

And I'm sorry, what year was that? The consolidation occurred? What year was he elected? I'm sorry, 1960. Okay.

William J. Bowe ([01:35:59](#)):

So he was actually on the balances. I remember with John F. Kennedy. Oh, yeah. So the in fact when when Daley slated him, I shouldn't mention this because this is a story Gus told me when I was asking you about daily all of this and he said that one part was obvious that there was a vacancy with the chief justice of the addressable court, because the incumbent Martin or Wayman [inaudible] Polish fellow Harvard law educated no less. Wow. He had the unfortunate position of being the chief justice during the breaking of the bail bond scandal. So it turned out that in the, in the court system under the poorer chief justice Jurowski judges were signing printed pads bail bonds in blank.

William J. Bowe ([01:37:13](#)):

So the judge put the signature on their hand, the pad in returns for a bribe to a lawyer who could easily get people out of jail, because he had a stack of sign. I think, I think that's how it worked. So a head had to roll. It was [inaudible] and daily turns and Gus is at this point past head of the the bar association in Chicago was a prominent figure. He's been

[Type here]

active in democratic politics. So I think he was the head of the committee of either Paul Douglas or Emily Stevenson in Douglas's case. And maybe doing the Senate race with Stevenson could have been governor, or maybe a presidential run of his so daily Gus goes over to see daily and maybe this is before he slated. I'm not quite sure, but he's Daley's office and, and daily says to them tell me Gus, what part of Germany did your family hail from? And Gus says, Germany, I'm Irish, and guess this the daily, Oh my gosh. Well, shut up about it. I've got enough Irish women on the ticket.

Anthony C. Bowe (01:38:46):

So the, the fifties though Gus was doing this work with the the the civil rights initiatives and and still practicing law. And it wasn't until, until 1960 that he that he ran for, for, for public office and then became chief justice of the, of the, the municipal court. That was kind of the fifties then, right.

William J. Bowe (01:39:14):

Yeah, yeah, that was, that was the fifties. And shortly after within a couple of years, anyway, after that election, the consolidation on a countywide basis put the Chicago courts in as part of the County wide system. And now, so now it's the Polk County circuit court. So he, he converted from chief desk, initial court in the city of Chicago to the chief justice of the municipal division of the circuit court of cook County.

Anthony C. Bowe (01:39:43):

And was that that was an elected office?

William J. Bowe (01:39:47):

Yes. it was still elected and that's, that's kind of where he finished. But somebody came in to over him who presided over the whole County courts Gus remaine the chief justice of the vegetable division of the County system.

Anthony C. Bowe (01:40:02):

And did he have to run for reelection in 64? I guess?

William J. Bowe (01:40:06):

I think, I think he died before the issue ever came up and probably that would have been the election there

Anthony C. Bowe (01:40:14):

And, and, and his stewardship of the court system. Any, any, anything notable about that period of time?

William J. Bowe (01:40:21):

Yeah, I think, I think that's a, we should save that for another another session there's ample material there to go into

Anthony C. Bowe (01:40:37):

Okay, great. Well, this is great. This has been perfect.

William J. Bowe (01:40:43):

This covered a good

Anthony C. Bowe (01:40:43):

Deal of ground. We covered a lot of grounds. Yeah, yeah. And what period of time did we do it in? That's noon. So that's good. You know, we probably, we talked for a while at the beginning, so probably talked for a little more than an hour, right? Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's great. It's great. This is really this is perfect. You do a beautiful job.

[Type here]

Speaker 2 ([01:41:01](#)):

Well, of course, it's great history that I'm interested in in sharing. It was a important history for me. It had a lot to do with how my life unfolded. So well,

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:41:15](#)):

You, you tell the, you tell the, you tell a story. Well, it's a good story. Well told.

Speaker 2 ([01:41:20](#)):

Oh, they were here.

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:41:24](#)):

You know I I what did I, Oh, I was gonna say yeah, I I have on a bookshelf in in our house, in the Poconos one of these sets of Dickens.

Speaker 2 ([01:41:39](#)):

Oh. And you know what, I I've always,

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:41:41](#)):

I assumed that it came from from my mother's side of the family. I

Speaker 2 ([01:41:48](#)):

Bet not, well, you know what

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:41:50](#)):

I'll do, I'll S I'll take a photo. It says the covers are, are slightly green with a gold leaf.

Speaker 2 ([01:41:56](#)):

That sounds great. That sounds right.

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:42:01](#)):

In, in, in, in you know, I, I actually I think it was in the, in the late 18 hundreds and early 19 hundreds, it was very common, not common, but it was, it was often you know, kind of upper middle-class families had a set of Dickens.

Speaker 2 ([01:42:18](#)):

Oh, yeah. Yes. And he didn't, he didn't invent the novel for nothing.

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:42:25](#)):

Well, so I I, you know, I was looking for something to read in in the midst of all of this pandemic stuff. And I, I tried a

Speaker 2 ([01:42:36](#)):

Tale of two cities. No, no

Anthony C. Bowe ([01:42:39](#)):

I, I I've, I've actually my Nancy's a real Victorian literature hound and so she she's, she reads a lot. She kind of got me hooked on it. So I read tale of two cities in high school. And then re-read it again? I don't know what about 10 or 15

[Type here]

years ago, and I've read several other Dickens. But I tried about 10 years ago or maybe 15 years ago to read Bleak House. And yeah, I don't know if you familiar with Bleak House. It's a big one. And it's, it's 1100 pages. And I failed when I tried to 10 or 15 years ago, I got about 150 pages into it and abandoned it, but I took the project up again in, I don't know when it was August or September

Speaker 2 ([01:43:20](#)):

Bleak House again. Yes. Right. Punishment. Well,

Anthony C. Bove ([01:43:26](#)):

Through it this time I finished finished it in a, I don't know what the December, it took a long time. But it's a great story as are all of his so I, I, I'm actually delighted to think that, that that set that I have come from 1120. It could very easily have happened. Right. Because Julia, when she left 1120, it was probably looking for a place to put a lot of stuff. Oh, absolutely.

William J. Bove ([01:43:52](#)):

Absolutely. And I'm sure maybe some of the papers, although you don't mind, mother squirreled away, all of those papers for all of the different family members. So there would have been Bilbo binders, and I showed you the Gus binder, which I haven't really looked at. Okay.

Anthony C. Bove ([01:44:10](#)):

They'll hold on one second. I gotta take this call or effect. I gotta take this quick. Hello. Hold on. Hold on one second. Hi. How are you? Hold on just one sec, bill. I'll. I'll talk to you soon. Good. Bye. Bye. Thank you. I'm sorry, sir. How are you?