

Grand Square 47.3 – May 2005
Kathryn and Frederick Hill



In 1926, there was a 16-year-old boy in England whose father was Chief Steward and food purchasing agent for an American steamship line that plied the waters from Liverpool to South America to New York and back home. Because the ship's employees spent more land time in New York than in the other ports, the father decided to move his family to the United States. That's how teenaged Frederick Hill arrived in New York. A few years later, he went to pick up a blind date at her home in North Bergen. When a young girl answered the door, he said, "I'm Fred. Is your sister Kathryn home?" The girl looked too young

to be his date. The girl insisted she was the one – and, as it turned out, she was! They married in 1940 and moved to Warren County.

Fred was in the insurance business, where he purchased coverage for liners and cargo ships for Cities Service Oil Company, while Kathryn was busy at home raising three children. When the kids were grown, the Hills responded to a Warren Wheelers ad for an open house conducted by caller and teacher Wilson Hoff. They liked the dancing and appreciated the friendships. After graduating in 1972, they spent many happy years with the club, including service as treasurers and presidents. Their most rewarding square dance experience was when the NNJSDA hosted dancers from six states at the SOS ("Save our Statue") dance at Liberty State Park in Jersey City.

The Hills now live in a retirement village in Whiting, where Fred just completed seven years of service as a trustee and Kathryn enjoys needlework and walking. Fred continues to handle insurance for the NNJSDA. They both take pleasure in spending time with their expanding family, which now includes seven grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. The Hills agree that the best things they ever did in life were marrying each other and learning to square dance. Their deepest wish is that God would grant a long and happy life to them and the many friends they have made through dancing and other activities. The wish seems to have come true for Fred and Kathryn, as they are both enjoying life in their 90s.

Lise Greene