## East Falls Past - Trolley on Midvale

The Fallser, January 2012, by Wendy Moody

Below is a letter written to the Complaint Department of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. by P. H. Kelly (John B. Kelly's brother and Grace's uncle) on June 10, 1918:

## Gentlemen:

I have hesitated for several months to write this letter, but conditions are so unbearable to the residents of East Falls that I find it both necessary and advisable to address this letter of complaint to your department.

I reside at 3500 Midvale Avenue, on the line of your Frankfort trolley. Thirty-fifth Street



(Conrad) at Midvale is about two and one-half squares east of the starting point at Ridge Avenue, and I am an eyewitness every evening, and frequently on Sunday, to the contemptible practices of your trolley conductors and motormen on this line. I see ten or twelve prospective passengers wait 15 minutes for a car, sometimes women holding infants in arms, only to be laughed and sneered at by your motormen and conductors, who seem to take extreme pleasure in passing groups of ladies and gentlemen who have waited patiently for the cars.

I became so angry at this practice one evening last week that I walked down to the starting point, boarded the car, and when it came to my home the motorman ran by my street without stopping, in order to go by the passengers who were waiting on the corner. I vigorously protested, and when the door was opened, refused to get off the step until the rear door was opened and passengers were allowed to board the car.

These things should not be permitted, and it is this same class of men who expect the public to support them when eloquent agitators impress them with the fact that they have a grievance against your company. I found it necessary, recently, to stop my automobile in the middle of your track in order to force the conductor to let a young lady board the car, who had been a visitor at my home during the evening. My only demand was that the front or rear door be opened, and allow a young girl, nineteen years of age, to board the car. The conductor and motormen both stood on the front platform, threatening to demolish my automobile by running it down. I stopped my machine, stepped out on the pavement, and waited until the rear door was opened and the young lady entered the car.

You can see from these statements the intolerable conditions prevailing on this particular line, and I have refrained for some months from taking this action, but sincerely hope that the proper authorities will take the matter up without delay, and teach impressive lessons to their men.

Respectfully, P. H. Kelly