1938 Interview with Mrs. John Grosvenor about 1873 Life in a Sod House

November, 1938 Interview Original typed form

Transcript

2







November, 1938

Page 1

۱.

for the second

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview

Frederick X Aul EALE OF JOEGER. L & Rollins ACCRESS Hawtings, Nobranka DATE Nov. 1958 Folklore

1. Game and address of informant Mrs. John Grosvanor, Mastings, Nebr

2. Onte one time of interview Nov. 1938

- S. Place of interview at home
- Rame and address of person, if any, who get you in touch with

informunt

DODO

Same and address of porson, if any, accompanying you

поде

6. Deperiotion of repm, house, surroundings, ore.

Modern, cory, 5 room house, well painted and very neat yerd. Rooms very clean. Some modern furniture. House and walls filled with pictures, tables, clocks, fancy china and glassydre covering accumulations over the last cirty years.







November,	1938
-----------	------

FORE 3

	Fergman, distory of Informati
	Frederick % Eaul
NACE	OF NO.WELL & Rolling Heatings, Nebr.
cACP.	Nov. 1958 Folklore
N.U.S	AND AD AVIAS OF ENFORMATING. Ins. John Grosvanor, Bestings, Nebr.
2.	Ancestry Detoh and Irish
:.	Flace and date of high Moorefield, Dhio, Dec. 20, 1861.
3.	jamily husband, one adopted son
۷,	Flace lived in, with makes
	Moorefield, Ohio. Satton, Mab. Logan, Kans. Hastings, Reb.
3.	Lineation, with dates
	Country grade school
e.	becapet one and scomplichments, with sates
	farmer's wife
۶.	openial skills and interacts
	Splendid producing fine garden and flowers
з.	Community use cellsloss selivities
	First Christian Shurch
э.	Decoription of information
	Small, thin, alert and active. Always worked hard, enjoys it . Very fiendly
.) .	Other points get an interview
	Her and her husband live alone. Have been married <u>50 years</u> . Started out together on a homestead with nothing. Betired now many years. Enjoys life immensely. NoteAbove as quoted by Krs. Grosvepor







November, 1938

Page 3

4

÷

FORK C

Text of Interview (Uradited)

Frederick W Eeul L & Rollins NOT OF WOFMER. Nov. 1938 EALE NOV. 1938 EALE NOV. 1938 CHISTON BURGESS OF DEFORMATION CONVENCE, Bastings, Neb.

Attached copy







November, 1938

Page 4

Federal Writers' Project Brederick W ^Aaul-L A Rollins Eastings, Nabraska. Source: as related by Mrs. John Grosvenor, 1404 West 6th St., Hastings, Nob.

Easter Sunday Storm of 1873

⁶ In 1873, I was on a farm near Sutton, Neb. No had a soi house. We had what was called the big room, lean to kitchen and dug out bedroom. This was sort of like going down a half dug kitchen. There was a large family. 8 childres and my father and mother.

We had two beds in the big roca. These like all the rest of things were made of cottonwood lumber. We slept on straw ticks. We entertained our company in the big roca.

The storn cave toward svoning and got as durk as night. Chickone want to reast and I'll never forget how dark it got. Showed all night hard, a strong wind, such drifting and covered the windows.

There was a mouse hole in the dirt roof over one of the bole in the big room. The mor sifted thru this hole and drifted from bed to the roof.

We had only a straw bern and Paw got out to see, shout first the one borse we had. He thought it would be frozen but it wean't and he brought it in the big Youn with mean of the family. Pulled the beds to center of room and made a stall there near the well. The one dow and set, we put in the lean to kitchen. Chickens we put in the dug out bedroom. It kept on showing and the wind got stronger. It moved for 3 days and 3 nights and dark nearly all the time as show was so thick. After the first day if enyone laft the house, they tied a rope sround them. It wasn't so cold but the wind and such thick wot and heavy show that stuck to everything and chilled right thro in a furry.

Courtesy Federal Writers Project

1







November, 1938

The great deep draws were just level. The wind end noise was terrific all the time. Made one's ears hum and buzz all the time.

We had a pulley well, faw on the 2nd afternoon wanted a real drink of water. We all did. Here so wick of snow water: The well was right plose to the house.

Pau took the mocion bucket with him. Got to the well and was holding the bucket between his logs while he started to draw the water. The wind got the bucket.

He cans in the house, his long flowing beard and clothes covered with snow.

Maw sold, "There's the bucket of water."

Pax said, "God only knows, between heaven and earth schewhare." Since those many years ago, I've thought and lunghed many times over this. Fax mad and disgusted and plenty sick of snow water. We kids too stunding excund thinking of that good well water only a few feet usay.

when the snow went off we found the bucket a hulf alle from home. We had only mnow writer, buffelo meat, bread and gravy. Euffalo gravy, I think and so muny others too, have said so is the most delicious of all, but of ment Itll take beef or pork. "

2







FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Frederick K. Kaul, L.A. RollinsADDRESS Hastings, NebraskaDATE November, 1938SUBJECT Folklore

- 1. Name and address of informant. Mrs. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Nebr
- 2. Date and time of interview. Nov. 1938
- 3. Place of interview. At home
- 4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. none
- 5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. none
- 6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Modern, cozy, 5 room house, well painted and very neat yard. Rooms very clean. Some modern furniture. House and walls filled with pictures, tables, clocks, fancy china and glassware covering accumulations over the last sixty years.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Frederick K. Kaul, L.A. RollinsADDRESS Hastings, NebraskaDATE November, 1938SUBJECT FolkloreNAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Nebraska

- 1. Ancestry Dutch and Irish
- 2. Place and date of birth Moorefield, Ohio, Dec, 20, 1861.
- 3. Family Husband, one adopted son
- 4. Place lived in, with dates Moorefield, Ohio, Sutton, Neb. Logan, Kans. Hastings, Nebraska
- 5. Education, with dates Country grade school
- 6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farmer's wife
- 7. Special skills and interests Splendid producing fine garden and flowers
- 8. Community and religious activities First Christian Church
- 9. Description of informant Small, thin, alert and active. Always worked hard, enjoys it, very friendly.
- Other points gained in interview Her and her husband live alone. Have been married <u>59</u> <u>years</u>. Started out together on a homestead with nothing. Retired now many years. Enjoys life immensely. Note—above as quoted by Mrs. Grosvenor.
- 11.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Frederick K. Kaul, L.A. RollinsADDRESS Hastings, NebraskaDATE November, 1938SUBJECT FolkloreNAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Nebraska

Attached copy







(Page 4) Federal Writer's Project Frederick K. Kaul,L. A. Rollins Hastings, Nebraska

Source:

as related by Mrs. John Grosvenor 1404 West 6th St., Hastings, Neb.

Easter Sunday Storm of 1873

"In 1873, I was on a farm near Sutton, Neb. We had a sod house. We had what was called the big room, lean to kitchen and dug out bedroom. This was sort of like going down a half dug kitchen. There was a large family. 8 children and my father and mother.

"We had two beds in the big room. These, like all the rest of things, were made of cottonwood lumber. We slept on straw ticks. We entertained our company in the big room.

"The storm came toward evening and got as dark as night. Chickens went to roost and I'll never forget how dark it got. Snowed all night hard, a strong wind, much drifting and covered the windows.

"There was a mouse hole in the dirt roof over one of the beds in the big room. The snow sifted through this hole and drifted from bed to the roof.

"We had only a straw barn and Paw got out to see first about the one horse we had. He thought it would be frozen but it wasn't and he brought it in the big room with most of the family. Pulled the beds to center of room and made a stall there near the wall. The one cow and calf we put in the lean to kitchen. Chickens we put in the dugout bedroom. It kept on snowing and the wind got stronger. It snowed for 3 days and 3 nights and dark nearly all time as snow was so thick. After the first day, if anyone left the house, they tied a rope around them. It wasn't so cold, but the wind and such thick wet and heavy snow that stuck to everything and chilled right through in a hurry.

(Page 5)

"The great deep draws were just level. The wind and noise was terrific all the time. Made one's ears hum and buzz all the time.

"We had a pulley well. Paw on the 2nd afternoon wanted a real drink of water. We all did. We were so sick of snow water. The well was right close to the house.

"Paw took the wooden bucket with him. Got to the well and was holding the bucket between his legs while he started to draw the water. The wind got the bucket.

"He came in the house, his long flowing beard and clothes covered with snow.

"Maw said, 'Where's the bucket of water?' "Paw said, 'God only knows, between heaven and earth somewhere.'

"Since those many years ago, I've thought and laughed many times over this. Paw mad and disgusted and plenty sick of snow water. We kids, too, standing around thinking of that good well water only a few feet away.

"When the snow went off we found the bucket a half mile from home.

"We had only snow water, buffalo meat, bread and gravy. Buffalo gravy, I think and so many others too, have said so, is the most delicious of all, but of meat I'll take beef or pork."



