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### Interview with Andy J. Myers

Alma Johnson

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RT  
398  
F666m  
1958  
no. 12

ANDY J. MYERS (Interviewed by Alma Johnson)

- 1- 10 Introduction
- 11-182 "The tale of two cities" (The county seat fight between Ravanna and Eminence, Kansas)
- 183-233 On the bed Ground in a Cow Camp (song)
- 234-367 Fight at Ravanna
- 368-440 Horse thief
- 441-467 Early school experiences
- 468-490 Electing county officers
- 491-510 Wagon travel
- 511-528 Visiting Lawrence after Quantrill's raid
- 530-569 Getting Glasses
- 570-596 Buffalo
- 597-617 Early-day sights
- 618-671 Reminiscences

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(Plays on  
B first)

40 min

Interview with Andy J. Myers of Dighton, KS  
on July, 1958 - Mr Myers is 89 yrs old. In  
1920 moved to Dighton - Was Justice of Peace  
for 9 years - Came to Ravanna in 1880 - tells of  
fight between county seat Ravanna and  
Eminence, county seats - 1887 had county  
Seat election + conflict + crooked election.  
Tells of <sup>very honest</sup> Negro on collection committee + was  
killed because he wouldn't sign his name  
because he knew it was dishonest election.  
Gives a good definition of a writer. - Sings  
a song called 'Ground in a Cow Camp'. Relates  
about fight at Ravanna, 60 years ago, after  
dance it happened - tried to stop the fight + again  
it started, it involved his younger brother + he  
was hurt, but not down + through the door  
out the window + blood all over Mr Myers.  
Next morning drove 21 miles to Jetmore to see doctor -  
Doctor saved his life, as he came to him just in  
time -

Tape #

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(continued)

Time

42 min

Break between sides A and B

Continued interview with Andy J. Myers -  
Went to first school in Jetmore in 1885 +  
to Ravanna school in 1883 - Had never been  
to school until he was 9 yrs old - Tells of  
first election in 1890 + County attorney pay was  
\$2.00 per year + boarded all over the county -  
Came to Kansas in covered wagon, from Missouri  
and it took 40 days - hardships with water.  
Tells of visiting Lawrence, after Quantrill's  
raid - just recovering there. Tells of eyesight  
trouble + doctor couldn't help him - joked  
with him - Mr Myers tells about seeing first  
young buffalo - Tells of early day sights -  
Relates of first book he read was "Crucifixion  
of Christ" <sup>when he was 11 yrs old</sup> + how he cried + made impression -  
and was real truth + next book he read was  
Cust Barton's Crime - Mr + Mrs. Myers had  
3 children -

9 min.

(Side A)  
(continued)



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INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY FORM

1. Name: <b>Andy J. Myers</b>		2. Date: <b>July 4, 1958</b>	
3. Address: <b>Dighton, Kansas</b>		4. County: <b>Lane</b>	
5. Age: <b>89</b>			
6. Place of Birth: <b>Gasconade County, Missouri</b>		<b>August 13, 1868</b>	
7. Ancestry		9. Education (Circle highest) Grade school 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Languages spoken:			
10. Places of residence:		Dates:	
<b>Rush County</b>		<b>1877</b>	
<b>Hodgeman County</b>		<b>1879</b>	
<b>Lane County</b>		<b>1900</b>	
11. Present occupation: <b>retired</b>		12. Former occupations: <b>Probate Judge of Lane County</b>	
13. Father's name: <b>A. E. Myers</b>		17. Mother's name: <b>Aliza Myers</b>	
14. Father's place of birth: <b>Iowa</b>		18. Mother's place of birth: <b>Tennessee</b>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <b>Didn't know these.</b>		19. Grandfather's place of birth:	
16. Grandmother's place of birth:		20. Grandmother's place of birth:	
21. Place and condition of interview: <b>At the home of Mr. A. J. Myers, Dighton, Kansas July 4, 1958</b>			
22. Remarks:  <b>A recording of his story of the "Tale of Two Cities", the County seat fight between Ravanna and Eminence.</b>			
		Collector's name: <b>Mrs. Alma D. Johnson</b> Address: <b>Shields, Kansas</b>	



Song or Story Information Form

1. Informant's name: <p align="center"><b>Andy J. Myers</b></p>	2. Date <p align="center"><b>July 4, 1958</b></p>
3. Informant's name of song or story: <p align="center"><b>"The Tale of Two Cities" - Ravanna and Eminence</b></p>	4. Record or tape Number:
5. Standard name of song or story:	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? <p align="center"><b>His personal experience there and told to him by others.</b></p>	
7. Approximate date of learning: <p align="center"><b>1881 or 1882</b></p>	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No <u><b>x</b></u> (Where and when) <p align="center"><b>Not as Mr. Myers told it today.</b></p>	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No _____ Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: <p align="center"><b>The story is an illustration of how voting was done in some places in the early days. Another story is added of an experience at a dance in this same area.</b></p>	
12. Remarks:	

Collector's name:  
**Mrs. Alma D. Johnson**  
 Address:  
**Shields, Kansas**



March 18, 1953

THE DIGHTON HERALD

## RAVANNA-GARFIELD CO. JULY 4-1888



from T. A. DAVIES - OWNER RAVANNA RECORD  
living SEATTLE - WASH - Sept - 1935

see book



**THIS IS A** picture of the once boom town of Ravanna. It was in Garfield county July 4, 1888 when the picture was taken. The building No. 1 is the International bank, No. 2 Grand Central hotel, No. 3 Crows Department store, No. 4 Ravanna bank, No. 4½ polling place, No. 5 Eagle

town, there was just one building there and the town was called Buffalo Center, for it was in Buffalo county at that time. Buffalo county made 106 counties in Kansas.

This picture only shows part of the town. You are looking north in the picture. It doesn't show the

the same man owned both papers.

The town claimed 2,000 population. There were several eating-houses. But the ones there the longest were the Eagle house, run by D. W. Herman, and the Grand Central, owned by a Mr. Speck. James Cross had a large hotel in the same part of town. The town was a mile east and west and a mile north and south. In the north part, John Bull had a cheese factory. A man by the name of Crow had a large department store and on Main street there was a doctor by the name of Murphy.

The building on the extreme south is Jim Willis's Livery barn.

When this town was at its biggest, it was in Hodgeman county. It was in Hodgeman county until the spring of '87. This town was called Buffalo Center and Cowland. There were two towns at one time, Cowland and Ravanna. Cowland was north of the road running east and west and Ravanna was on the south side. It was the same way with the two newspapers. They also had two banks in this town. One was run by a man named Hunt and the other was run by a man by the name of J. F. Crocker. When the town blew-up Crocker moved to Garden City. The town then was in four counties and never was moved—Buffalo county, Hodgeman county, Garfield county and last but not least, Finney county. Now it is a ghost town in Garfield township, Finney county.



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INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY FORM

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3. Address: <b>Dighton, Kansas</b>		4. County: <b>Lane</b>	5. Age: <b>89</b>
6. Place of Birth: <b>Gasconade County, Missouri</b>		<b>August 13, 1868</b>	
7. Ancestry		9. Education (Circle highest) Grade school 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 <b>8</b> High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Languages spoken:			
10. Places of residence:		Dates:	
<b>Rush County</b>		<b>1877</b>	
<b>Hodgeman County</b>		<b>1879</b>	
<b>Lane County</b>		<b>1900</b>	
11. Present occupation: <b>retired</b>		12. Former occupations: <b>Probate Judge of Lane County</b>	
13. Father's name: <b>A. E. Myers</b>		17. Mother's name: <b>Aliza Myers</b>	
14. Father's place of birth: <b>Iowa</b>		18. Mother's place of birth: <b>Tennessee</b>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <b>Didn't know these</b>		19. Grandfather's place of birth:	
16. Grandmother's place of birth:		20. Grandmother's place of birth:	
21. Place and condition of interview: <b>At the home of Mr. A. J. Myers, Dighton, Kansas—July 4, 1958</b>			
22. Remarks:  <b>A recording of his song, "On the Bed Ground—in a Cow Camp" as heard by a Cow-puncher, Dick Gadie, in 1882, near Leoti, Kansas This cowboy was working for E. K. Outfit Headquarters out of Garden City. The Blizzard of '86 put this outfit out of business.</b>			
		Collector's name: <b>Mrs. Alma D. Johnson</b> Address: <b>Shields, Kansas</b>	



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1 copy

# ON THE BED GROUND IN A COW CAMP

Come all you tender colleges, if you should have some fun.  
Go out among the cowboys, they will show you how its done.  
They will ride the prairies over and at night when they lay down.  
Their hearts as gay as the flowers in May with their bed made on  
the ground.  
They will go to the ball and swing the girls, they are pretty good  
at that,  
They will ride the bucking bronco and wear the wide brimmed hat,  
With a California saddle, with pants stuck in their boot,  
You will hear the spurs a jingling and may be some one shoot.  
  
Oh, they are a little rough, I must confess at least.  
They will bet on a horse race or poker seven up,  
But, if they win or if they loose you will hear them squeal  
But the very next time they meet you, they will give you a different deal.  
  
Did you ever meet a cowboy, when you were hungry and dry?  
And ask of him a dollar and have him deny,  
No, he'll pull out his pocketbook and give you a note,  
They are the very best boys to strike when you are hungrey and broke.

—Sang by Andy J. Myers, July 4, 1958  
Dighton, Kansas

## Song or Story Information Form

1. Informant's name: Andy J. Myers	2. Date July 4, 1958
3. Informant's name of song or story: "On the Bed Ground—In A Cow Camp."	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story:	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? From a cowboy, Dick Gadie, near Leoti, Kansas	
7. Approximate date of learning: In 1882.	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes _____ No <u>x</u> (Where and when)	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes _____ No <u>x</u> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate):	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant:  A recording of his song, "On the Bed Ground—in a Cow Camp" as heard by a cow-puncher, Dick Gadie, in 1882, near Leoti, Kansas. This cowboy was working for the E. K. Outfit Headquarters out of Garden City. The Blizzard of '86 put this outfit out of business.	
12. Remarks:  Words, as Mr. Myers sang it.	
<div>Collector's name: Mrs. Alma D. Johnson Address: Shields, Kansas</div>	



Interview with Andy J. Myers of Dighton, KS on July 1958. Mr. Myers is 89 years old. In 1920 moved to Dighton. Was Justice of the Peace for 9 years. Came to Ravanna in 1880 tells of fight between county seat Ravanna and Eminence county seats. 1887 had county seat election and conflict and crooked elections. Tells of a very honest negro on collection committee and was killed because he wouldn't sign his name because he knew it was dishonest election. Gives a good definition of a writer. Sings a song called "Around in a Cow Camp". Relates about a fight at Tavanna 60 years ago after a dance. He tried to stop it because it involved his younger brother. Next morning he drive 21 miles to Jetmore to see a doctor. The doctor saved his life.

Went to first school in Jetmore in 1885 and to Ravanna school in 1883. Had never been to school until he was 9 years old. Tells of first election 1890 and county attorney pay was 200.00 per year. Came to Kansas in covered wagon from Missouri and it took 40 days. Tells of visiting Lawrence after quantrills raid. Tells of eyesight trouble and doctor could not help him. Tells of seeing first young buffalo. Tells of early sights. Relates of first book he read was "Crucifixion of Christ" when he was 11 years old. Mr. And Mrs. Myers had 3 children.