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Interview with Elizabeth Hanover "Lizzie" Anthony Opdycke

Wilmer Strecker

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RT
398
F666m
1960
no. 1
Index

Side # 1 - 3 3/4 ips.

Interview with Mrs. H. A. Opdycke at Russell, Kansas on
April 15, 1960, by ~~W. H.~~ Strecker.

- 0- 31 Coming to Kansas via railroad.
- 32- 35 Hotel in Russell.
- 36- 43 "Colored Emma" and other Negroes.
- 44- 52 Early buildings in Russell.
- 53- 65 Population and description of Russell.
- 66- 97 Mainstreet of Russell.
- 98-113 Residences and trees in Russell.
- 114-129 Government requirement for land ownership.
- 130-142 Early days on the homestead land.
- 143-155 Water well at the claim.
- 156-182 Experience while going after drinking water.
- 183-205 Early incidents of her mother in Kansas.
- 206-243 Experience with Indians.
- 244-261 Childlife in the early days.
- 262-277 Story of Alma Pratt.
- 278-298 Teachers and schools of the day.
- 299-304 Children's activities.
- 305-334 The Sabbath Day and home life.
- 335-344 Churches in Russell.
- 345-374 First Christmas in Kansas.
- 375-404 Entertainment for children; and Decoration Day.
- 405-430 Incident about one Decoration Day.
- 431-438 School vacations.
- 439-478 Provision for ice in early days; and ice cream socials.
- 479-544 Soldiers Reunion.
- 545-558 Preparation for becoming a school teacher.
- 559-611 First teaching position.
- 612-668 Experience while seeking teaching position.
- 669-693 Second teaching position.

Interview with Mrs. H. A. Opdycke at Russell, KS in 1960. Mother came to Kansas in 1875 by rail in 4 days and 3 nights with 2 small children. Soon found colored colony came to Russell and small orphan colored Emma. Colored Emma was employed at hotel. Emma became great character to all. Russell at that time had population of about 300 people. No streets laid yet. Describes Russell main street - about 4 or 5 blocks, not stores side by side, as they are today. Buildings then were small, very few trees then for protection. Government requirement for land ownership for deed, must live on it 3 months of year, or cultivate it. Getting drinking was an experience - in a barrel. Tells of escape from Indians- how people feared for their lives. Found out not an Indian war scare - just traveling to another place. Child life in early days. Story of Alma Pratt- teachers and and schools of those days were very limited. Sabbath day was strictly observed. Sunday school in mornings and no games or romping around on Sunday. First Xmas tree was in the First Christian Church built in Russell. Her first Xmas had orange and doll in Xmas stocking. The Decoration Day was second most celebrated day at that time. Children in wagon parade, and marching - rain or shine. School vacations and ice cream socials were very rare from ice house. Tells also about soldiers reunions because of shade provided (now where Lucas is). This lasted a week. The camp fires were there. Speakers - music furnished with pipe and drum corp. War songs were very popular in singing. Preparation for me to be teacher as I matured. Having no teaching certificate, so took oral exam, so I could teach 3 months and held good until next test available. Her first 4 months of full time teaching was rewarded with balance of 3 months school year teaching \$5.00 per month raise.

Tape #
RT
F 1960
No. 1
Index

Time

40 min.

Break between side A and B

Interview with Mrs. N. A. Opldycke at Russell, Mo in 1960. Coming ^{mother came} to Kansas in 1875 by rail in 4 days and 3 nights with 2 small children. Soon found colored colony came to Russell and small orphan colored Emma. Colored Emma was employed at Hotel - Emma became great character to all. Russell at that time had population of about 300 people - no streets laid yet - describes Russell main street - about 4 or 5 blocks, not store side by side, as are today. Buildings then were small, very few trees then for protection. Government requirement for land ownership for deed, must live on it 3 months of year, or cultivate it. Getting drinking was an experience in a barrell - tells of escape from Indians - how people just fled for their lives - found out not an Indian war scare - just traveling to another place. Child life in early days - Story of Alma Pratt - teachers + schools of those days were very limited - Sabbath day was strictly observed. Sunday school in morning + no games or romping around on Sunday - First Xmas tree was in the first Christian Church built in Russell - Her first Xmas had orange + doll in Xmas stocking - The Decoration Day was second most celebrated day at that time - children in wagon parade, and marching - rain or shine - School vacations + Ice cream socials were very rare from ice house - tells also about soldiers reunions - because of shade provided (now where Lucas is) - This lasted a week.

Tape #	Tera	Break between side A and B
RT	10 mins	Interview with <u>Mrs O. Dyke</u> continues
F 1960		The camp fires were three - speakers -
no. 1		music furnished with pipe & drum corp.
Index		War songs were very popular in singing
(continued)		Preparation for me to be teacher as I
Side B -		matured - Having no teaching certificate
		so took oral exams, so I could teach 3 months
		& held good until next test available.
		His first 4 months school of full time teaching
		was rewarded with balance of 3 months
		school year teaching + \$5.00 per month raise.