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### Interviews with Ernest Robert Morton, Mrs. H.E. Carlson, Kathleen Squire and Paul Retch

Alice Fern Brown

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RT  
398  
F666m  
1962

no. 14  
Index

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FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

CONTRIBUTOR: Ernest Robert Morton  
INTERVIEWER: Alice Fern Brown  
Oberlin, Kansas, 1962

(3 3/4)

(Volume is low at first but increases)

- 0- 6 Introduction
- 7- 10 His birth
- 11- 17 School life in England
- 18- 31 Christmas vacation in England
- 32- 40 Decides to come to America
- 41- 48 How he came to Kansas
- 49- 53 How he became a farmer
- 54- 66 His marriage and children
- 67- 74 His work with livestock
- 75- 76 His retirement
- 77- 92 The custom of the monarch entering London
- 93-100 Haunted houses
- 101-103 The contributor knows no English jokes
- 104-120 His visit to England in 1956
- 121-132 London's bomb scars
- 133-148 St. Martin's-in-the-field
- 149-156 The ages of his brothers and sisters
- 157-164 The churches and the bombings
- 164-171 The extent of his travels in England

CONTRIBUTOR: Mrs. H.E. Carlson

- 172-178 Introduction
- 179-189 Early childhood illness and an encounter with a missionary
- 190-203 Sweden's beauty
- 204-211 The contrast between it and America when they first arrived
- 212-222 Her courtship and wedding
- 223-258 Her children
- 259-270 Her plans to stay with her children
- 271-279 Her sons
- 280-309 Swedish saying (in Swedish and English)
- 310-317 Swedish superstitions
- 318-330 "Security" (In Swedish) (vocal)
- 331-347 "The Pearly Gates" (In Swedish) (vocal)

CONTRIBUTOR: Kathleen Squire

- 348-354 Introduction
- 355-363 Information about the museum
- 364-371 Description of the museum
- 372-377 Interview interrupted--blank
- 378-380 (Rejoins in progress)
- 381-386 Indian artifacts
- (Tape becomes faulty--increasingly indistinct)
- 387-391 The main annex
- 392-405 Five rooms reconstructed in the pioneer period
- 406-411 The country store
- 412-419 The doctor's office
- 420-425 Department of wild life, fossil, and rock

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426-431 Musical instruments  
432-439 Primitive farm tools and appliances  
440-448 A sod house  
449-481 Five societies and their old-fashioned dinners  
482-489 Success of the museum  
490-498 Two old cars  
499-503 World War I exhibit  
504-519 A feud exhibit  
520-535 The Old Sod Organization  
536-556 A story told by one of the "Survivors"  
557-595 The questions asked by foreign visitors  
596-635 The museum visitors  
636-659 The Indian mummy  
660-667 School children that visit  
668-687 Growth of the museum  
689-702 Their John D. Rockefeller desk  
703-714 The contributor calls attention to various items  
715-757 Some personal details  
758-770 The pocket in the petticoat  
770-797 Home remedies  
798-816 Social life and an incident at an "entertainment"  
817-853 Her respect for the pioneers

CONTRIBUTOR: Paul Retch

854-865 Introduction  
866-892 His coming to America  
893-935 The big cattle companies crowd out a small rancher; he goes to Kansas  
936-946 His father goes, too  
947-953 Their first sod house  
954-978 They cross a river  
979-988 Their mode of travel  
989- Tape ends; interview is ended in mid-sentence

SIDE 2 Blank

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20 min

Interview with Ernest Robert Morton - 1962  
born in England, small town, school until  
12 yrs old - worked - tells of Xmas goodies  
in England - age 16 came to America - trip to  
America took 9 days - 1914 came to Oberlin, Ks  
for harvest + stayed there - married there  
+ had 4 children - besides farming interested  
in livestock also - Retired + <sup>enjoyed</sup> ~~franklin~~ <sup>travels</sup> of  
customs in London. They visited London  
in bombed London in 1936 - people gathered  
in basement of St. Martin's - in the field,  
the church was never bombed. Tells of  
brothers + sisters total were 8. The only  
church bombed in London, was St Paul's  
Cathedral, 20 feet of north wall was  
blown in +

16 min

Interview with Mrs. M. T. Carlson - 1962  
not a very well person when young +  
encounter with missionary - living in  
Sweden - very lonely place - met her  
husband + married about at 19 yrs old.  
They had 6 children - 3 girls + 3 boys -  
Tells of her children's experiences - In later  
years after husband died, stayed with  
Some of children - Sang Swedish songs

Paper #

Time

Break between Side A and B

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18 min

Interview with Earnest Robert Morton of Oberlin, Ks. Attended school in England in grade school until he was 12 years old - then went to work - tells of food for Christmas - At age 16 - decided to come to America - took 9 days to come Canada & stayed for 3 years - In 1914 came to Kansas work in harvest & have been in Kansas for 48 years - started farming in 1916 - married & had 4 children - children married & had 3 grandchildren - worked with livestock from Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska & Colorado, Missouri - now retired from all & enjoying life - tells of custom of monarch entering London - tells of visit to England with his wife in 1956 & visited where he was born - spent 6 weeks in England - tells of church, very different church - had basement & where people hid during bombing & never was bombed.

14 min

Interview with Mrs. H. T. Carlson of Oberlin, Ks. Tells about childhood days - not well child - encounter with a missionary - born in Sweden & came to America - not happy at first - tells his courtship & married at 19 years of age - Had 6 children - 3 girls & 3 boys - tells of 2 children worked as missionary - & rest of children went to school & got married - Stayed with her children at 83 - tells of Swedish sayings & translated them in English & tells about superstitions in Sweden - sings couple songs in Swedish

Tape #	Time	Break between side A and B
RT 398 F666m 1962 no. 14 Index	20 min  (very interesting of details of museum)	Interview with <u>Mrs. Kathleen Squire</u> at Oberlin, Ks - Started museum in 1958 from surrounding towns - started with one small room + after few years rooms were added + tells of beautiful items donated - Items of every state of the union - some items from 1880 on - tells of bed room donated 150 years ago - many unusual items donated - also have God house + have food served there - tells of Indian mascaras + tells of customs - tells of Indian survivors - also have 2 old cars one 1911 + one 1907 in museum - had country store exhibits - members of the organization has people from all over the country that had sodhouse experience. Tells of school children visit -
Continued on Side B.	32 min -	Tells of Canadian people visiting + all over the world - and the respect for pioneer days - had school children visiting over 4,000 + being only 4 years old museum Mrs. Squire doing lots of research + plans to write book - Tells of petticoat with pockets which stored their jewels + valuable. Tells of home remedies - bags of acidity <sup>around neck</sup> + smells bad - from getting diseases - Tells of social life + wholesome respect of older people + respect for pioneers

Tape #

Time

Break between side A and B

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7 min

Interview with Paul Retch of Obealin, Ks -  
Came to America - big cattle company  
crowd out small ranchers, then he goes  
to Kansas - had first sod house - they  
cross a river - their mode of travel -  
part of tape is blank in mid-sentence -

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Continued  
Side B

Tape #	Time	Break between side A and B
F1962 no. 14 Index (continued)	23 min.	<p>Interview with <u>Mrs. M. Squire - Oberlin</u> - Has home next to museum - started in 1958 and tells of donations to museum. This museum started very small, but before long had to enlarge it. The museum was on one side and the other side has a shop - from exhibits from all over. Museum has exhibits of 1880 - An exhibit of the old country stove, very complete as in early days - wildlife animals, fossils, school exhibits, organs, victrolas and all in working order - a sod house exhibit + all items used at that time. Tells of Indian massacre + there is one survivor about 90 yrs old - Tells of cataloguing about 2000 exhibits - very few loans - exhibits of many ages - has over 2000 members of the museum - will write a book later (Very interesting Tape about museum)</p>
Original F1958 no. 2	12 min	<p>Interview with <u>Mr. Phillip Hanson</u> in 1958 at Wakeeney, Ks - Sings Swedish song - tells of missing dinner - <u>Mrs. Margaret Hanson</u> tells of "The Indian Tale". <u>Ella Powers</u> tells of "Shrinking-Machine Canyon" 1 mile west of Cedar bluff <u>Margaret Hanson</u> - tells of Origin of the names of Ogallah and Wakeeney, in 1877</p>