

[Mrs. John Grosvenor]

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FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER F. W. Kaul & L. A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 1936 SUBJECT 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 glassward covering accumulations over the last sixty years. c.15-2/27/41 Nebraska

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER F. W. Kaul & L. A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Neb.

DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Nebraska

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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.
10. Other points gained in interview Her and her husband live alone. Have been married 59 years. Started out together on a homestead with nothing. Retired now many years. Enjoys life immensely. Note above as quoted by Mrs. Grosvenor.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER F. W. Kaul & L. A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Nebraska

Easter Sunday Storm of [1873?]

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"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 mothers 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 thru 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 ones 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 rop around them. It wasn't so cold but the wind and such thick wet and heavy snow that stuck to everything and chilled right thru in a hurry.

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. Were so sick of snow water. The well was right close to the house.

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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."