

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

November, 1938 Interview	Original typed form	2
	Transcript	7

Courtesy Federal Writers Project

November, 1938

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Handwritten notes:
6-20
8-10-38

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF INTERVIEWER *Frederick N Paul*
 L & Hollins ADDRESS *Hastings, Nebraska*
 DATE *Nov. 1938* 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, wall 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.

Courtesy Federal Writers Project



November, 1938

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FORM 3

Persons, History of Informant

Frederick F Eaul
 NAME OF INFORMANT L A Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr.
 DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. John Grosvonor, Hastings, Nebr.

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, Neb.
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 gathered in interview
 Her and her husband live alone. Have been married 58 years.
 Started out together on a homestead with nothing. Retired now
 many years. Enjoys life immensely.
 Note--Above as quoted by Mrs. Grosvonor

Courtesy Federal Writers Project

November, 1938

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FORM C

Text of Interview (J credited)

Frederick W Maul
 L A Rollins
 NAME OF WORKER.....ADDRESS Hastings, Neb.
 DATE.....Nov. 1938.....SUBJECT.....Folklore
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT.....Mrs. John Crossman, Hastings, Neb.

Attached copy

Courtesy Federal Writers Project



November, 1938

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Federal Writers' Project
 Frederick W. Paul—L. A. Rollins
 Hastings, Nebraska.

Source:
 as related by Mrs. John Grosvenor,
 1404 West 2th St., Hastings, Neb.

Wester 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 thru this hole and drifted from bed to the roof.

We had only a straw barn and Paw got out to see about first 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 ~~safe~~ ^{call} we put in the lean to kitchen. Chickens we put in the dug out bedroom. It kept on snowing and the wind got stronger. It snowed for 3 days and 3 nights and dark nearly all the 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 thru in a hurry.

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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.

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. "

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Courtesy Federal Writers Project

FORM A
Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Frederick K. Kaul, L.A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebraska
DATE November, 1938 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 glassware covering accumulations over the last sixty years.

FORM B
Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Frederick K. Kaul, L.A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebraska
DATE November, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore
NAME 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.
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.
- 11.

FORM C
Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Frederick K. Kaul, L.A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebraska
DATE November, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore
NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Nebraska

Attached copy

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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."