

[Sam Broillar]

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FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W Lincoln, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. Sam Broillar, Wilbur, Nebraska

2. Date and time of interview. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Friday afternoon

3. Place of interview. Wilbur, Nebraska.

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

Edward Grantham, 851 No. 26th, Lincoln, Nebr.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. Ed Grantham, 851 No. 26, Lincoln, Nebraska.

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Small home, heating stove in front room. Old pictures very C15 - 2/27/41 - Nebraska

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Geo Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W Lincoln, Nebraska

DATE Nov. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Sam Broillar Wilbur, Nebr.

1. Ancestry. German-English
2. Place and date of birth. Iowa 1851
3. Family. Lives with second wife.
4. Place lived in, with dates. Iowa, 1851-1863—Nebr. 1863-1938
5. Education, with dates. Primary school
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Printer.
7. Special skills and interests. Poetry
8. Community and religious activities. Latter Day Saints.
9. Description of informant. Small, well built. Slightly nervous.
10. Other points gained in interview. He has a good memory. Has been printing the Wilbur Democrat for many years. Is a minister of Latter Day Saints Church in Wilbur.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W Lincoln, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Sam Broillar, Wilbur, Nebr.

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In June, 1863 I came to Nebraska with a party of seventeen and I am the only one left. When we came, there was only one dug-out between DeWitt and Camden. Camden is now obsolete.

The fires kept all timber from growing, even along the Creeks and the rivers.

When the river was up we used to ferry it in a canoe made out of a log. We used to jump in the river after the cows and pulled them back by their tails.

Wild life was plentiful when we first came here. Deer, Ducks, Geese, Buffalo and all animals and other life.

The soil was virgin and in the winter time where the ground was frozen the rain would run down to the rivers filling them up full and creating draws.

In those days the Blue river was as clear as a bell and you could see the bottom. After the prairie was broken up the mud ran down and so now Blue river is muddy.

The soil in Nebraska is thin because of the early prairie hay and fires, making the dust storms. In the later years. Turkey Creek located in Saline county used to be twenty to thirty feet wide and flowed rapidly. Now it is almost gone because of the plowing.

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The kids in early days had to be very good swimmers.

Square dance calls. "Honor your partners right and left." Then all join hands and circle to your left" Alley man left.

"Everybody goes around each other, right hand your partner right and left." Each one does this and then promenades.

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When this is done, first couple leads up to the right and faces second couple and then partners leave your lady with the man and then lead to the next. When the first couple gets around the second couple does the same until all partners are around.

Play party song. "King William was King Davids son, And from the Royal race he run Go to the east, go to the west, And chose the one you love best, If she's not there to take the part, Chose another one with all your heart. Upon this carpet you must kneel An sure as the grass grows in the field Salute your bride and kiss her sweet, And now arise, and stand up on your feet.

(Played at games) The needles eye that doth supply The thread that runs so true 3 Many a beau that I let go Because I wanted you.

(then a partner would be picked out and sung so forth)

Riddles.

What is it that go up the chimney, but can't come down the chimney up. Answer—
Umbrella.

What is it that is black and white and read all over. (The newspaper).

I went in and out again

From the dead the living came;

Six there were and seven there will be

Come tell me this riddle or set me free.

Ans. (A bird had a nest in a dead horse's carcass and hatched out six birdies).

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Religious There was a little family that lived in Bethany, Two sisters and a brother composed this family. With praying and with singing Like Angels in the sky, At morning and at evening They raised their voices high.

(Composed from scriptural quotations sung a little over a century ago) Martha, Lazara and Mary.

Years ago the preacher was the only one that had a book and would quote two lines from a hymn and then the congregation would remember and follow.

One time a young man wanted to marry a girl but he knew her parents would not agree to their match. So he went to the judge and asked for advice. The old judge told the boy to have his girl get a horse and 4 come by his house and then the boy would get on behind her and then they would go and get married by the proper authorities.

The song was song like this. She'll steal you they can't deny. That will avoid all fury. For it tis a law That I have made without judge or Jury.

The farmer's boy. The sun went down behind yon hill over yon dreary moor, When weary and lame the boy came up to a farmers door. "Say can you tell me of any there is That can give to me employ, To plow and mow and reap and now and be a farmer's boy. My fathers dead, my mother's left with five children small, And worse for mother, I'm the oldest of them all. Though small I am, I fear no work, if you'll give to me employ To plow and mow and reap and sow and be a farmers boy. In length of years this boy grew up, The good old farmer died. He gave the lad the farm he had and the daughter for his bride.

Receipe for optimist and pessimest They took a bit of courage That simmered in the sun And mixing it with patience And just a spice of fun

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The poured in hope and laughter Then with a sudden twist They poured it all together and made an optimist. They took a pint of vinegar That mothered in the dark. And mixing it with grouch's green persimmon bark They poured in stale complainings Wouths a downward twist and [?] the whole [concoctchin?] And made a pessimist.

One time in Swan City a Circus was traded for 240 acres of land. This was in the 1870's. The man, named Dunbar, owned 240 acres adjoining Swan City, the first town in Saline county. A one ring circus showed in town that day and in the performance a little lady jumped through a hoop on the run and on to the horse. The ring master shouted: "Didn't she go through there slick?" The clown nearly said: "Just as slick as o'Conner went through Dunbar for his farm."

One time a young woman thought she saw a light in the dark and was very frightened and thought it was a ghost. When her husband came home she told him she saw a ghost. Laughingly he told her it was only a plow with the reflection of the moon showing on the plow.

A picture The farmer sat in his easy chair, Smoking his pipe of clay, And his hail old wife by the open door Was clearing the dinner away;

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And a sweet little child with fine blue eyes, On grandpap's knee was catching flies The old man laid his hand on her head, With a [tear?] on his wrinkled face, He thought how often her mother, dead, Had sat in the self-same place. As the tear stole down from his half shut eye, "Don't Smoke!" said the child; "how it makes you cry!" The house-dog lay stretched out on the floor, Where the shade after noon used to steal; The busy old wife, by the open door, Was turning the spinning wheel; And the old brass clock on the mantle tree. Had plodded along to almost three. Still the farmer sat in his easy chair While close to his heaving breast The moistened brow and the cheek so fair Of his sweet grandchild were

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pressed; His head bent down, on her soft hair lay: Fast asleep were they both that summer day!

When we first came here the indians were hunting, trapping up and down the river. They has ponies loaded down with supplies. They drug the tent-poles and articles on them. We could see the three tracks. They would visit each (the [otoes?] and Pawnees etc.) The old bucks liked to smoke Tomahawk pipes. They smoked bark from a shumak bush. This

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This kin-i-kinic was a pleasant smelling smoke. The squaws did all the work, the braves all of the hunting.

The buffalo grass was eaten by horses all winter as it dried with some of the nourishment left in it.