

## [Jim Turpin]

[???] DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER E. E. Holm ADDRESS Mariaville, Nebraska

DATE December 2, 1938 SUBJECT Jim Turpin Jim Turpin

1. Name and address of informant

Jim Turpin, Mariaville, Nebraska. Rock Co.

2. Date and time of interview

Dec. 2. 1938, in the evening.

3. Place of interview

In the home

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with David Peacock, sr. M  
Newport, Nebraska.

informant

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you Mrs. E. E. Holm

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

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The dining room where we visited was clean and orderly. It was a small four room house, modern in no way. There were several other buildings revealing signs of depression. There is a grove on the north and west of large cottonwood trees. [??] Nebraska

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER E. E. Holm ADDRESS Mariaville, Nebraska

DATE Dec. 7, 1938 SUBJECT

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Jim Turpin Mariaville Nebraska

1. Ancestry Irish
2. Place and date of birth
3. Family
4. Place lived in, with dates Came to this locality at the age of three in 1878. Lived in this locality practically all his life except one year when sheep herder out in Wyoming.
5. Education, with dates Meager country school
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farmer
7. Special skills and interests  
Some skill as a blacksmith, repairs wagons
8. Community and religious activities interested in local politics but does not hold office
9. Description of informant

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About 145 lbs. smaller than average in stature, reddish complexion,

10. Other points gained in interview

very fast talker from one subject to another, seems to have a very good memory for details, names and dates, etc. very frank in opinions.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER E. E. Holm ADDRESS Mariaville, Nebraska

DATE Dec. 7, 1938 SUBJECT

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Jim Turpin, Mariaville, Nebraska

Jim Turpin came to this locality, when three years old, with his parent from Iowa in the spring of 1878. They came up from Atkinson on what was then the Black Hills Trail, which came by way of the present location of Newport, then northwest to Karns where it crossed the Niobrara River. Several families because it was easier to get water, fuel, and shelter settled along the Niobrara east of Karns and not far from the present site of the [Hegan?] bridge. Because of Indian rumors they placed their homes within speaking distance of each other. The railroad at that time came only as far as Wisner Nebraska. About the only farm machinery brought along was a breaking plow. But they later used fourft. mowers and 8 foot rakes. The first hay was put up with the use of a fork and a scythe. This was no ranch country so they had no quarrels with the ranchmen. They were just squatters, but later filed for their land. Game was plentiful. During the winter [months?] they received \$2- \$4 a dozen for frozen undressed quails and prarie chickens, which were shipped to eastern points. Cedar posts twelve cents each at the nearest railroad point.

Travellers occasionally came trough on horseback and asked to buy me als. If the men folks were home they would stop and visit sometimes for hours. If no men were around

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they would stay in the saddle, buy their meal and then ride on. That was the custom. The vigilantes were bigger horse thieves than the horse thieves themselves. Kid Wade was taken from custody and hung to the whistle post because he knew too much about the vigilantes.

They saw little of Indians, mostly rumors. Some men from around here were called into service in 1890.

The Turpins had a red deer. They put a red apron on it so that people would know [then?] they were not to shoot it. It became quite a pet. It would go out and meet the freighting trains. But it would never go unless there was one actually coming, seemed to sense it for miles. It was finally stolen and sold to a party in Chicago for \$25.00.

Andy Culbertson stayed at the Turpin home one winter night. It was their custom to take in anyone who came through needing a night's lodging. They visited until midnight. Then Culbertson hung his weapons on the wall and went to sleep in the next room. He left early the next morning. Later at Ainsworth, Culbertson was convicted for horse stealing on evidence that the Turpins knew to be false because he had stayed at their home the night that the crime was supposed to have been committed. The vigilantes by working together could convict anybody.

Jim lived at home until 25 when his widowed mother married again. Then he herded sheep in Wyoming about a year.

On the Hutton tree claim.....and others pulled up the young trees to prove lack of title but evidence worked against them. Jim's father sold a tree improved claim for \$25.00.

Richardson Father-law- of law of Doc Middleton was horse thief and a vigilante himself.

There was some freighting on the Black Hills Trail with Ox teams. Later when the railroad came through they made a north swing from Stuart to Newport because of the body of

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water there then. They could row a boat between the towns at that time. Now it is very dry and the [new?] highway has been placed straight through this lowland.

There were a few disputes [ofer?] land claims. At one old settler's picnic Jim received a \$1.00 prise for being the oldest reisdent in the county present.