

[Henry N. Safford]

LM/ [??] [?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss ADDRESS 6934 Francis St., Lincoln

DATE October 17, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore (English)

1. Name and address of informant Henry N. Safford, 3328 "O" St.
2. Date and time of interview October 17, 1938 - 7:45 to 10:15 p.m.
3. Place of interview Home of informant
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Herbert Ruff, 3250 "A" St. Lincoln, Nebr.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

None

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

Fine home, well furnished living room, piano, etc. Shows taste and refinement American type and influence. Average well-to-do neighborhood of city residences on main street of Lincoln. Two blocks from Wyuka Cemetery. Surroundings better class than average. C. 15 Nebr.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

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NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss ADDRESS 6934 Francis St., Lincoln

DATE October 17, 1938 SUBJECT American-English Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Henry N. Safford, 3328 "O" St., Lincoln

1. Ancestry English
2. Place and date of birth Colinworth village, Bedfordshire, England, May 20, 1867
3. Family 2 sons and wife all living
4. Places lived in, with dates Bedfordshire, Eng., 1867 to [1884?] Toronto, Canada, 1884-1885 Lincoln 1885 to date.
5. Education, with dates Elementary school - England, 1873 to 1881.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Tending wooden paving Block saw 1884-1885-Toronto Working in railroad grading gang, Nebr., Kansas, 1886.
7. Special skills and interests Salesman, mostly retail, [18 7?] to date selling Hobby is walking. Planning interior home furnishing and arrangement.
8. Community and religious activities Lodges and social work - Episcopal Church
9. Description of informant Average English features; slight build, about 5 feet, 7 inches in height; congenial personality, sincere, efficient.
10. Other points gained in interview Intelligent, keen observer, and broad minded. Inclined to analyze situations and get other's viewpoint. Is thoroughly Americanized and has a good sense of order and proportion. An all around good citizen, interested in the welfare of others. Does not look to be over 60 years old.

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FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

The village of Colinworth, where I was born, is about half an hour from Bedfordshire, the county seat. In England they would speak of distance by the time it took to go by train or cab rather than in terms of miles. In the towns or cities it was customary to say 'so many turns' instead of blocks or streets.

The English people are not clannish and being good mixers it was easy for them to establish themselves in all kinds of places, and with all kinds of people. They, of course, keep in touch with one another much the same as any people would who moved to a new, strange place. People of the same race and nationality always feel drawn to one another in a strange land. Even within our own land, those who hardly have a speaking acquaintance in their own home town, may become fast friends in a distant place.

Lots of the English are pretty superstitious and 'wishy washy' as we would say. Some think it is bad luck to pass one another on stairs and I once had an English lady here cry out to me to please not start down the stairs until she had walked up them, as it was bad luck, and 'didn't I know it.'

I do not talk with the English or Cockney accent and misplace the H's. It is sometimes difficult to understand an Englishman talk and there are a number of groups who talk a different dialect. A Half Penny might be called a "Ha' Penny"; two pence-"tu' Pence"; six pence-"tanna "shilling-"a bob." America is referred to as "The States."

Most English expressions were naturally brought to the States, but many were discarded here, although still in use in England. They are apt to say 'commons' for park there. This term is hardly used in America.

An Englishman likes his tea and hardly ever misses the afternoon tea services.

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Workmen carry tea with them and make their tea on the job. Even tramps carry tea and do not hesitate to ask for [?] hot water at any nearby house.

The people in England were afflicted with warts to some extent and they had a general notion that if one would rub a wart with a piece of meat and then bury the meat, the wart would go away. It seemed to work or at least that's what they thought.

I have heard of it being practiced here, but then people are not bothered much in this country like they were in England.

I made a trip to my old home there in 1932 and could not help but notice the queer looking faces of a good many of the young people. They had a frightened look. I asked about this, in fact, as it impressed me very much. Their explanation was that during the world war the people there in Bedford, always were in fear of air raids of the Germans and the women, who were with child during this time, knew great fear and it affected the unborn babies to the extent of marking them with this scared look.

Being an Episcopal, the coming marriage of any of the people was published in the church for 3 weeks. It was called "Askin in the Church." This gave plenty of opportunity for anyone to object if they had a reason.

When my father died in England my mother was left with eight children and a store to run. A young friend of ours came home on a visit from Canada and he told what fine country it was. I was fired with a desire for adventure and to see the world and this attracted me also, as he told how well one could do in America. So I went alone to Quebec and then to Toronto.

But my mother had relatives in Lincoln so I came on here after a time in Toronto, Canada. Lincoln was a small place then and there were still covered wagons and a few oxen trains passing thru. I worked in a grading camp for a while on the Orleans, St. Francis line of the

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B and M railroad but returned to Lincoln and have been here ever since. I never lacked for a job have always [likedit?].

There is something about the west that makes us like it. One English lady said, 'I love your sun here.'

I remember one verse of a Railroad song they used to sing: Said a tired brakeman to his conductor, I'm dying for a snooze I've been out all night To a brakeman picnic And I'm loaded down with booze.

We used to ride broncos and buckboards to the country dances. Englishmen are great walkers and it is a hobby with me. I always walk to work and back, 20 blocks each way, now. People in an earlier day here used to have to walk through the mud to the board sidewalks. They would wear their rubbers until they got to a sidewalk and then take them off and hide them under the walk. English people are very exact in most of their customs, and follow a certain pattern in their everyday life through conforming to the popular practice.