

[Mrs. Kate Jenkins]

[personal narrative?] S. Sioux [S?] - 241 - DAK. DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Edna B Pearson ADDRESS 108 E 18 So Sioux

DATE November 3, 1938 SUBJECT Interview No 17

1. Name and address of informant Mrs. Kate Jenkins 326 W. 17 St. So Sioux
2. Date and time of interview November 3, 1938, 3:30 P M
3. Place of interview At above address
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant No one
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

No one

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

Mrs. Jenkins lives with a daughter, Mrs. Frank Macomber, in Sioux City, I do not have her address there, but at present she is doing practical nursing at 326 West 17th Street, in South Sioux City, for C. D. Smiley, one of the old pioneers of Dakota County. Mr. Smiley is to ill to be interviewed or I could obtain some very valuable information from him. His home, at the above address, where I interviewed Mrs. Jenkins, is a very nice modern kelistone bungalow on a corner lot. C15 - 2/27/41 - Nebraska

FORM B Personal History of Informant

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NAME OF WORKER Edna B Pearson ADDRESS 108 E 18 So Sioux

DATE November 3, 1938 SUBJECT Interview No. 17

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Sam (Kate) Jenkins 326 W. 17 South Sioux

Ancestry Parents name was McCann

2. Place and date of birth Manchester, Iowa, 1864

3. Family, two daughters

4. Place lived in, with dates Lived in Manchester from birth until 1886, lived in Sioux City short time and in South Sioux City until the last few years

5. Education, with dates Had about an eighth grade education

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Housewife

7. Special skills and interests —

8. Community and religious activities Member Presbyterian church

9. Description of informant Mrs. Jenkins is a very nice looking and nice appearing woman; snow white hair, blue eyes, medium height and rather chunky; very jolly and very willing to be of assistance

10. Other points gained in interview —

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Edna B Pearson ADDRESS 108 E 18 So Sioux

Library of Congress

DATE November 3, 1938 SUBJECT Interview No.17

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Sam (Kate) Jenkins 26 East 17th South
Sioux

I was married in 1884 and my husband and I came out to Sioux City, Iowa, from Manchester, Iowa, in 1886; he worked for his brother-in-law for a couple of months and then wanted to go back to Manchester but I said No. Then we crossed the Missouri river and came to Nebraska to his brother; here we met Judge Griffey, who was then Judge of the District Court, who lived on a farm between South Sioux City and Dakota City, and worked for him on a farm for \$27.00 a month, both of us, for quite a while.

Then we came to South Sioux City and Mr. Jenkins drove the mule car (Street car) for a good many years; they soon changed to horses instead of mules. The street car line ran from the depot in the south end of South Sioux City to the ferry, and later to the pontoon bridge. People used to have to pay five cents car fare in South Sioux City, then pay to cross the river on the ferry or on the pontoon bridge, and then pay car fare from the landing place down to the business part of town. Of course the ferry or the pontoon only crossed the current of the river and we used to have to wade in sand almost up to our knees to get to the bank of the Missouri. Some times they would land near where the combination bridge is now, and sometimes down near the stock yards, depending on the current of the river.

We used to have to pay 25 cents a barrel for river water for cooking and washing, which had to last us a week, as the man came with water only once a week. Well water was poor and we didn't want to dig a well; then we had a cistern and used the cistern water for cooking, drinking and washing.

When we first came here Mr. Jenkins cut wood when he was not working, for 60 to 65 cents a cord.

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At that time we could have bought any lot in Sioux City, except business lots, for \$50.00, and almost any lot in South Siouc City for \$25.00 to \$35.00.

People were much more sociable then than they are now, and would visit back and forth and have parties. I remember a bunch of us would pile in a lumber wagon and E. L. Wilbur, father of Judge E. B. Wilbur, would take us to Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian Church, and to parties. Every time a new barn was built we would all get together and have parties and square dances. I have danced so many square dances but just can't remember any of the calls. So many of the old fashioned tunes are played over the radio now. We would think nothing of eight or ten couples of us getting into lumber wagons and have a party and dance for somebody who was moving away. We danced the polka, schottish, etc., and used to have masquerade balls. There were quite a few young married couples and we used to have a dance club and no one could get in to the dance only those we invited.

My mother came from Ireland; when she was 10 or 12 years old. She was coming to her sister in the United States and when she got across the ocean and was going to her sister's, she [?] learned that her sister had died. Father was born in Ireland, too. After he and mother were married they came to Manchester, Iowa and bought a farm; later moving to Kansas.

The 12th of January, 1888, I remember, that old building that was used for a shoe factory, on what used to be Frederick Street, now 17th Street, since rebuilt into a bungalow, my brother was working there; Sam (Mr. Jenkins) was driving the horse car and couldn't get to the barn, only three or four blocks from our house, to feed the horse, for two or three days. When Sam first started to take toll on the bridge he used to have to climb a ladder and light the lamps on both sides of the bridge, before they got the electric lights; he was on the bridge 32 years; died in 1932. [When?] they had to open the bridge, some of the men at the toll house would go down town in Sioux City and get several men and get them

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to go back to the bridge and help open the bridge, and some times it would take half a day, and traffic would be held up all that time. [?]

Captain William Luther ran a ferry boat, the Mary E. Bennett, and carried passengers, cattle, hogs, etc. Even after the combination bridge was built Captain Dick Talbot ran an excursion, or pleasure, boat on the Missouri River.