

## [Christina Staples]

5-241-Li DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Oct 14, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Christina Staples, 2101 West 9th
2. Date and time of interview Oct. 6. 4-6:30 p.m.
3. Place of interview Home of friend
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.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Oct. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Christian Staples

1. Ancestry
2. Place and date of birth '74, New York

## Library of Congress

3. Family

4. Places lived in, with dates New York, Iowa, Nebraska

5. Education, with dates

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

7. Special skills and interests

8. Community and religious activities

9. Description of informant Has been quite large, is very wrinkled, looks very old, very sharp eyes, small and not particularly pleasant.

Knobby blunt hands.

10. Other points gained in interview

FORM C Text of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby W. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Oct. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Christina Staples 2101 West 9th St.

We came here in '84. We proved up on a homestead, a timber claim and a pre-emptian. Our homestead was on the divide between — and Maywood and that threw us over into the canyons and that what I didn't like.

I was 20 years old when I came to Nebr., and I had 2 children, a boy and a girl.

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If the Lord had give me wings I'd have raised and I'd have left.

We came from Iowa here and we lived in a [trench?] about 36 feet long with about 2 feet of stove pipe stickin' out. It had not gables.

I never in [all?] my life got into such a place. I thought I could see eyes in the dark corners at night and there was buffalo fleas and they were so bad I had to put my baby on the table so he could sleep. I brought chickens and geese here with me and soon lost them all, the coyotes got them.

We hauled water twice a week from the Medicine Creek. It was about 3 miles from where we lived.

The Bakers owned that timber country and they used to let us have down wood, and we burnt cow chips.

The first snow storm lasted just 1 hour and the sun came out and we wondered if Nebraska winters were all like that in 1884 but we found out different.

The men folks was workin' over on the bottom (as North Platte was known). My mother-in-law and father-in-law and my husband and me and my 2 children had all come together. I've seen the time I didn't have nothin' but shorts to eat.

The kids had 3 miles to school. We had to come across Fox Creek, through that hilly country there. I used to take the baby and go after them if they didn't come when I thought they should, I was right after them.

Father Staples, my father-in-law used to be a great hand to go to the dances. He'd put the kids into the wagon and go over the hills.

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I was sacred of them hills. My father-in-law never played for the dances but he was a great hand to whistle and sing. We used to have some good times.

One time after we came here I went to North Platte and I saw some well dressed ladies and when I asked who they were my husband just laughed at me I found out they were from the old "square top." It was painted white and it [was?] a nice lookin' home then. I didn't know they was "fancy women."

We used to have some good teams and wagons. The men used to freight clear through to Holdrege. Used to freight hay to Curtis and Maywood and [East?]. Got the freighting shortly after we [came?] here of some of the merchants at North Platte and the men worked at our building just when they were at home.

We had church at Mr. Thompson's, a [neighbor?] about 4 miles in good weather to Sunday School.

We didn't know what it was to have the Doctor. I was the doctor. We just used turpentine and lard and salt and hot water.

We got a thrashing machine and moved up on the bottom (North Platte) about 44 years ago. I've got a girl that lives here and she wasn't born here, she was born down in there. And we got a hay baler and farmed up near Hershey then 18 years ago moved back here.

If any body has a good farm I don't know what they'd want in town.