

[C. H. Thaelcke]

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FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Oct. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT [O?]. H. Thaelcke 415 West 3rd North Platte

1. Name and address of informant C. H. Thaelcke 415 W. 3rd North Platte
2. Date and time of interview Oct. 10, 11 a. m.
3. Place of interview His Real Estate office
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. Ordinary office, above his own desk are the two large pictures of which he speaks.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Oct. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Lincoln County Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT O. H. Thaelcke, 415 W. 3rd, North Platte

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1. Ancestry German
2. Place and date of birth Iowa
3. Family 5 children
4. Places lived in, with dates Iowa 1873 to Nebr.
5. Education, with dates to at least 8th grade
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farm boy cowboy show boy and real estate dealer.
7. Special skills and interests An admirer of horses and dogs; and a [fishing?] man
8. Community and religious activities
9. Description of informant 6 ft. slender but not thin, rather narrow face, slender large head, German blue eyes, gray hair sparse in front prominent nose, features regular front, decisive side jaw line, large hands, medium medium blunt fingers.
10. Other points gained in interview. A hard headed business man, but relaxed when talking of his boyhood. A trace of sentiment when speaking of his horses. An amusing evidence of this man's being at a loss to believe his wife would dare destroy his old pet hats.

FORM C Text of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Oct. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Lincoln Ct. Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT O. H. Thielcke 415 West 3rd Street

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My name is a German name. I came with my parents In 1873 from an Iowa City. My father homesteaded, pre-empted and timber-claimed.

I went short terms to the Bratt school and others and got into the 8th grade and the old school was torn down.

My father's ranch was just the first place East of what is now the State farm, 4 1/2 mi. S and E of town in what is now known as Osgood precinct. We had several places and often had some very hard times. There were 2 girls and 3 boys, Emma and Bertha, Harry, Otto and Lewis. My one sister Bertha Thoelcke, was 47 years in school work, retired 3 or 4 years ago and now lives in Omaha. She used to drive a team and buggy all over the County, used to get into blizzards and suffer exposure and came in after having been gone all week.

We had drouths and grasshoppers and there were times when the people just couldn't stay and they'd go East and others would come after a while so the country was changing.

I hauled tye from my fathers place to Milldale over on the South Loup River [?] , a haul of about 75 or 80 miles and waited and had it milled up by water power into four and bought it back over and peddled it. We used to raise sorgum cane and make mollasses and sell it. My father had a sorgum grinder made in the East and we used to lots of sorgum mollasses and peddle that.

My father went into the jewelry business and built these two buildings (Dixon Buildings) and al he made he put into the ranch and it kept him broke but he had faith in the country and was one of the early promoters of this valley (Platte Valley)

He imported a colony of Germans from around Cleveland's Iron Foundarys and settled them in what is now known as "Dutch Flats" over by [Wellfleet?], there were the Widow Meyers and Pullmyers etc. there are only a few any more.

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We had the old Uniarian Unitarian hall for religious and social gatherings. We had "home talent" plays and literaries and we used to have dances, mostly the square dance, one started off like this: Round and around and around we go Ladies to the square and the coffee O. Cage your honey and them hand around — but I can't remember the rest of it.

Once in a storm the roof blew off the round house. I remember and a sign blew off on West Front. Thats all I remember of that storm because I happened to be under the sign when it blew off and hit me on the head and I swooned.

I'm not bragging much about my boyhood days. We boys headquarters was a big slew South and West of where the jail is now. After that storm the town was flooded with the big rain and we had board side walks. The boys took parts of them out and used them and box car doors for [?] rafts in the water.

One of our favorite diversions after school was to swipe some old ladies clothes line. We used to go to the stock yards too, there were a lot of cattle brought in off /# the Western ranges and unloaded here at North Platte at the stock yards for feed and water. Old man [Casl?] had the stock yards and he used to sneak around and open the gates and he carried a big black snake whip, he'd come on us when we weren't watching and whip us with that whip.

I've shot ducks all over the S. E. part of town and by the stock yards. I was always quite a hunter, I kept a pack of hounds and always kept the best saddle horses in the county. If I saw a horse in some ones pasture that I thought was better than the one I had I would commence to deal for it. I used to have a hat, not the exagerated cowboy hat because we didn't wear that kind in those days but a big [wentern?] western hat and in the leather band inside the hat I had every brand I saw or could hear about. It was a regular record of brands. I used to have a hat that I had a map of every creek and a river in where I fished. I like to fish and go to Wyoming and places fishing. I still ride some and still have my boots.

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The biggest tree that I or anyone else ever saw in Lincoln County was in [Well?] Canyon on the old Bueanan place. An old Eml and you could hardly see a double buggy and team on the other side of it.

I worked for Buffalo Bill, I was supposed to go to Europe when the show made that trip, I was less than 20 then but my folks talked me out of it. Cody brought me a dog from Ireland, a pure bred Irish setter, Cody was big-hearted, too much so for his own good. I have a shaving mug that was Buffalo Bill's. I have a large picture of the show when they entertained for their first circuit and /# one of the show and band in New York before they sailed. I have a shaving mug that was Buffalo Bill's. I was personally acquainted with Doc Carver, [Pnny?] Bob, whohhad been an express rider, John Baker who was a crack shot, Bill Sweeney and Annie Oakley and a good many others.