

School days in Princeton, Illinois 1913-1975
an Oral History

Anna Johnson, Interviewee
Of Princeton, Illinois

Interview Date: July 27, 1975

Oral History Tape Number: TC OH 28 JOH
Tape Number: 28
Number of Transcribed Pages: 2

Subject(s) Covered: teaching

Starved Rock Library System History Collection

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NARRATOR: Anna Johnson
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 27, 1975
TAPE #: 1
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: RR. # 1, Princeton, ILL.
INTERVIEWER: Kelly Johnson
FOR: Starved Rock Library System

I: My name is Kelly Johnson and we're at R.R. 1, Princeton and this is the 27th of July of 1975, and I'm interviewing Anna Johnson and she will tell you about herself.

N: I have lived in this community all of my life, coming from Ohio township, moving into Princeton township and attending school in the '20's. I drove a horse and buggy to high school which perhaps not many of you have done. I lived Northwest of Princeton close to a little road called Little Demark. There were forty children on this mile of road. We had lots of good times together. In the wintertime we would go coasting on the hills and just enjoyed ourselves tremendously as a child. I married and had a family of two children and my activities have been farming and _____.

I: Tell us somemore about your school?

N: There were forty some children in a grade school. One room building with one teacher. My first teacher was Hortense Johnson, who was married and lived up by Mendota. Her sister was school librarian in Princeton High School at the time that I attended high school.

I: You have any memorable experiences that happeded in school?

N: I have losts of memorable experiences, perhaps differnt that what you have. In our 7th and 8th grade there were some boys that probably repeated the 8th grade three and four times. They didn't go to high school to much at that time. This would be about 1918.

I: _____

N: And they had quite a time. They would almost get the best of the teacher. But we all enjoyed having them at school. We played baseball, Pump, pump, Pull Away, Ante Over, and perhaps some of these children don't know what those games are, In the wintertime we played Fox and Geese at recess.

Weeveryone participated.

I: Do you have any more things that happened at school?

N: I really don't remember too many things. I remember going to high school and I drove a horse that would really go fast. I was frightened lots of times. I would have to unhitch it and put it in the barn right across from the present high school.----- and there were several others that kept their horses there.

I: Do you remember when the high school burned down?

N: That was a very sad evening. I was studying for a test----- and one of my friends called me and said the high school was on fire. I looked out through the door and could see the flames going. I had all my school books at home and at that time all I thought about was my gym suit is being burned up. We ~~were~~ much different then what they wear today. They were black bloomers with a middy blouse and a tie.

I: How did you go to school after it burned down?

N: After the fire we went from one building to another. I went to the post office, to the Misson Church, to the Christian Church and graduated from the Appelo Theatre. This was in 1925. We just had our 50th class reunion. Our only class reunion. It was quite a memorable evening.

I: Well, thank you, Mrs. Johnson, for letting me interview you and have a good life.

Beverly Black
Transcriptionist

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STARVED ROCK LIBRARY SYSTEM

January 12, 1976

Mrs. Anna Johnson
R. R. #1
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Dear Mrs. Johnson,

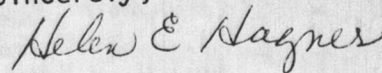
We wish to thank you for the Oral History tape interview which you made with Kelley Johnson recalling early school days in Princeton.

This tape is one of many which was made by members of Mr. Robert Lord's American History class this past summer. Your taped interview has been processed and is now a part of the Starved Rock Library System collection. Your tape along with 44 others is available through your local library. We have not made a transcript of your tape as yet but we will do so in the future. We feel at this time listening to the tape itself instead of reading a verbatim transcript is more in keeping with our program.

We encourage you to make use of the Oral History collection of the Starved Rock Library System as it affords an exciting way in which to learn of our past and our present from those persons like yourself who have taken part in the making of a history of our people. Your personal contribution has made this collection possible.

If you have any questions or comments on the Oral History project we would be most happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Helen E. Hayner
Coordinator - Oral History Project

HH

For and in consideration of the participation by anna johnson in any programs involving the dissemination of tape recorded memoirs and oral history material for publication, copyright, and other uses, I hereby release all right, title, or interest in and to all of my tape-recorded memoirs to Starved Rock Library System and declare that they may be used without any restriction whatsoever and may be copyrighted and published by the said System which may also assign said copyright and publication rights to serious research scholars.

In addition to the rights and authority given to you under the preceding paragraph, I hereby authorize you to edit, publish, sell and/or license the use of my Oral History memoir in any other manner which the System considers to be desirable and I waive any claim to any payments which may be received as a consequence thereof by the System

PLACE RR 1st Princeton

DATE 7-22-75

Anna M Johnson
(Interviewee)

Kelley Johnson
(for Starved Rock Library System)

INTERVIEW CONTENTS

NARRATOR'S NAME Anna Johnson

TAPE NO 1

TIME

SUBJECTS

- | TIME | SUBJECTS |
|------------|---|
| 1 to 16 | 1. blank time |
| | 2. introduction |
| 25 to 26 | 3. life & school |
| | 4. driving horse |
| 41 to 45 | 5. where she lived when she went to school |
| | 6. number of children that went to school (what they did) |
| 55 to 63 | 7. time after school |
| | 8. more about school |
| 77 to 97 | 9. memorable happenings - eight grade boys |
| | 10. boys |
| 107 to 129 | 11. high school - horse |
| | 12. high school burning |
| 143 to 155 | 13. where they went to school |
| | 14. class reunion |
| 160 to | 15. conclusion |
| | 16. |
| to | 17. |
| | 18. |
| to | 19. |
| | 20. |
| to | 21. |
| | 22. |
| to | 23. |
| | 24. |

INTERVIEWER'S NOTES AND WORD LIST

Instructions to the Interviewer:

To assist the transcriptionist, please identify:

1. Passages which may be difficult to understand because of outside noise, other people in the room, problems with the tape recorder, etc.
2. Passages which are confidential and therefore should not be typed.
3. Passages which need to be treated in a special way.

Please list words or phrases which might be difficult to understand, all proper names, and unfamiliar terms. If there is more than one tape, note where the second and succeeding ones begin.

TAPE NO. 1

Dosse School
Little Demark

omit the beginning tell I say
my name

40 children
Tell us more about your school
Hortense Johnson - still alive

1918

Popp Pump Pull away
Andy over

fox + geese

I did do very ^{well} good on my test
1925

Post office

Mission Church

~~Christian~~ Christian Church

Appala Sheatta

(Continue on Reverse)

INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS

Annt. Johnson..... Memoir
(narrator's name)

Interviewer's observations about the interview setting, physical description of the narrator, comments on narrator's veracity and accuracy, and candid assessment of the historical value of the memoir.

Note: Use parentheses () to enclose any words, phrases or sentences that should be regarded as confidential.

She was a little nervous because of not being use to tape recorders. This recording should give some information on what it was like going to school at that time

7-27-75.....
(date)

Kelley Johnson.....
(interviewer's name)