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Sidney Oral History Project
Collection, 1986-1989

Collection 107

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Cristina Kuhn; Sherrie Bowser
Creator/Corporate Name: Sidney Historical Society
Inclusive Dates: 1986-1989
Physical Description: 1 box (0.75 linear ft.)
Language: English

Provenance:

The Sidney Historical Society Oral History Project collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in September 2011.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

The Sidney Historical Society was formed in May 1987. Its purpose was to collect and preserve information regarding the history of Sidney, Illinois and its environs. One of its projects was to create and collect oral histories. From 1987 to 1989, Kevin Erb interviewed Sidney's older residents and then made the interviews accessible to members at the Sidney Public Library. The project also recorded lectures, discussions, and panels that were part of the monthly meetings of the Sidney Historical Society.

The Sidney Historical Society was active until 1992. In 2010, a Dissolution of Domestic Corporation Not-for-Profit was issued and the Society was officially disbanded.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of 30 audiocassette recordings that were created and maintained by the Sidney Historical Society. The audiocassettes consists of recordings of events that took place during the meetings of the Sidney Historical Society and interviews of long-time senior residents of Sidney. General information about these recordings can be found in the administrative and meeting records of the Sidney Historical Society (Collection 68). The donation included an inventory of 33 cassettes, however only 30 were donated. The three audiocassettes not included in the donation are "9/28/89 Quilt", "Dora Green Tape 1 5/2/87" and "Dora Green Tape 2 9/26/87".

Arrangement:

The 30 audiocassettes are arranged into two series: Sidney Historical Society Roundtable Discussions and Lectures and Sidney Residents Interviews. All audiocassettes are in chronological order within each



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group and are noted at the item level. The dates on the tape labels of the first series correspond with meeting minutes [See Collection 68]. Audiocassettes with unknown dates are at the end of each series.

Subject Terms:

Champaign County (Ill.) -- History -- Anecdotes.
History -- Societies, etc.
Local Histories -- Illinois -- Sidney.
Sidney (Ill.) -- History.
Societies -- Records and correspondence.
Societies and clubs.

Name Terms:

Baines, Bill
Bonnell, Rovilla
Dees, Clara Wilson
Erb, Carol
Erb, Ella
Erb, Kevin
Finfrock, Bob
Godfrey, George
Hobbar, Ella Faye Hutchinson
Hulmes, Mark
Kammin, Bill
McElroy, Virginia
Mumm, Luther
O'Neal, Wayne
O'Neal, Sarah Ann
Thomas, Mary
Trick, Melvin
Updike, Leonora
Warnes, Clara
West, Ruby
Woodard, Ralph
Woodard, Vera

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Sidney Historical Society Roundtable Discussions and Lectures

Tape 1: Rural Schools, March 30, 1981
Tape 2: Businesses in Sidney, August 27, 1987
Tape 3: Fun in Sidney's Past, September 24, 1987



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Tape 4: Melvin Trick Program, September 1987 [duplicate of tape 26?]

Tape 5: October, 1987

Tape 6: Indians of Illinois by Bob Finfrock, February 1988

Tape 7: "Early Settlers," by Virginia McElroy, joint meeting Sidney and Homer, June 7, 1988

Tape 8: Old Time Cures & Remedies, August 25, 1988

Tape 9: Paper Preservation by Bill Baines, September 22, 1988

Tape 10: Behrens, Civil War, [June 22, 1989]

Tape 11: Threshing, August 1989

Tape 12: #2 Quilt, September 28, 1989

Tape 13: Valentine's Day

Tape 31: George Godfrey speaks about the Potawatomi "trail of death."

Series 2: Sidney Residents Interviews

Tape 14: Luther Mumm, February 27, 1986

Tape 15: Wayne O'Neal & Wife (Sarah Ann Dunn), January 17, 1987 [side 1]/Wayne O'Neal, Deers, Olive Chapel [side 2]

Tape 16: Mark Hulmes, Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad, February 8, 1987

Tape 17: Ruby West, Sidney Area, August 23, 1987

Tape 18: Clara Wilson Dees, August 23, 1987

Tape 19: Rovilla Bonnell, September 29, 1987

Tape 20: Ralph & Vera Woodard, December 27, 1987, Olive Chapel, Sidney [additional writing on label: transcribed January 16, 1989 although no additional document(s) were provided with this tape]

Tape 21: Part 1 Bill Kammin, Carol Erb, Ella Erb; Part 2 Rovilla Bonnell; Part 3 Mark Hulmes cont'd, January 31, 1988 [1 or 2]

Tape 22: Mark Hulmes cont'd 5 min., January 31, 1988 [2 of 2]

Tape 23: Ella Faye Hutchinson Hobbard, June 26, 1988

Tape 24: Rovilla Bonnell/Mary Thomas, Tape 1 of 2, February 26, 1989 [side A] Rovilla Bonnell/Mary Thomas [side B; Has attached note: "Sidney Red Light District, High School-Must have them Jennie's House, Marriage & Maidens; Queens Quality"]

Tape 25: Rovilla Bonnell & Mary Thomas, Tape 2 of 2, February 26, 1989

Tape 26: Melvin Trick, August 13, 1989 [side A]/ Melvin Trick, 1987 [side B] [currently unknown which is the correct year or could be two separate interviews on each side]

Tape 27: Clara Warnes/Kevin Erb, late 1980's

Tape 28: Rovilla Bonnell

Tape 29: Luther Mumm/K. Erb

Tape 30: Leonora Updike [additional writing on label: Transcribed September 4, 1988 although no additional document(s) were provided with this tape]