



Oral History Guide

Reminder: Histories were recorded in the early 1980's

Nels Anderson, Julius Baker, Harry Baker Families

Early settlers of Hawarden, recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife, 1981. Length of recording is approximately 12 minutes.

- Nels Anderson and his wife Martha immigrated from Norway in 1875. They lived in Norman, IA for several years before moving to Hawarden in 1983. More information can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book, pages 517-519.
- Julius Baker and his wife Ann moved from the state of Wisconsin to LeMars in 1883. Four years later they moved north of Calliope and later to Union County, SD.
- Harry Baker managed the first oil station in Hawarden in 1918. Etta, his wife, managed a hotel, located on the north end of Highway 10 and Central from 1926 to 1942. HHS Note: Discrepancy between this recording and Etta's obituary, which stated that she died in 1940. Not sure which hotel she managed – possibly old Brewer Hotel.

David Brunskill, Wesley Ruttan Families

Family history recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife, 1981. Length of recording is approximately 12 minutes. David Brunskill and his wife came to the Hawarden area in the early 1890s. Interesting story of how Gladstone got its name.

John Finnie

Family history recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife, 1981. Length of recording is approximately 3 minutes. Early settlers in Union County, SD, John Finnie and his wife Harriet migrated from Canada in the late 1880's. Their address was Hawarden, which they considered their home town. Check out Finnie Creek in Union County, SD. More information can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book, pages 604-605.

Warren and Grace Gregg

Interview is being recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife. Length of recording is approximately 37 minutes.

Alpha Lake

Miss Alpha Lake, an early resident of Hawarden, taped her memories and thoughts of her early life on the farm in South Dakota and subsequent move to Hawarden. They were later recorded by Alma Thompson, a representative of the Historical Society. Alma is reading from the taped interview made by Alpha on September 18, 1978. Alpha was 95 at the time. More information on Alpha can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book - pages 692-693. Length of recording is approximately 7 minutes.

HHS Note: Proctor Maynard recordings are described at the end of this document.

Lewis & Harriet Meeter

Family history recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife, 1981. Length of recording is approximately 7 minutes. More information on the Meeter Family can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book - pages 726-728

Mathias and Mamie Schon

Family history recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife, 1981. Length of recording is approximately 5 minutes.

Gilbert and Clara Shoemaker

Gilbert Joseph Shoemaker history as told by Harold Shoemaker to Edith Slife. The interviewer is Verl Shoemaker. Length of recording is approximately 12 minutes.

Jennie Shriner

"Golden Chain of Memories" from 1892 thru 1963. Length of recording is approximately 25 minutes. Paper is being read for the Historical Society by May Janet Smith Wilkens (Jan, 1980), niece of Anna & Jennie. More information on Jennie and her sister Anna Smith can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book, pages 806-807.

Anna Smith

Pioneer life in Sioux County. Length of recording is approximately 25 minutes. Paper is being read for the Historical Society by May Janet Smith Wilkens (Jan, 1980), niece of Anna & Jennie. More information on Anna and her sister Jennie Shriner can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book, pages 806-807.

David Stone

Early settlers in Calliope recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife. Length of recording is approximately 14 minutes. More information can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book, pages 810-812.

Wendell Lansing Sumner

Family history recorded for the Historical Society by Alma Thompson. Length of recording is approximately 10 minutes. More information can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book, pages 813-815.

John E. and Vesta Tilgner

Family history recorded for the Historical Society by Alma Thompson and Tom Tilgner. Length of recording is approximately 12 minutes. Yes – this is the Tilgner family of the Ben Franklin store in Hawarden. More information can be found in the Hawarden 1987 Centennial Book, pages 821-822.

Myrna Ver Hoef

February 10, 1984. Myrna Ver Hoef, member of the Historical Society, describes visit of Ken Bode, representing the NBC TV Today Show, to Hawarden. Length of recording is approximately 10 minutes. Following is an excerpt from her recording – which should not be missed – VERY FUN!

"But this week has been exciting in Hawarden, IA. On Tuesday evening, January 31, 1984, Ken Bode telephoned me from NBC saying that "he had plans to come to Iowa next Monday, February 6, to do a story on Iowa – a Caucus story." In that conversation he stated that he wanted to prepare his story through small town Iowa – via Hawarden – via their interviews and photo taking, and wanted permission to use some of the 1300 photos we had in our 1981 photographic exhibit of the Development and Growth of Calliope and Hawarden."

Reverend Donald Walton

Family history recorded for the Historical Society by Edith Slife. Length of recording is approximately 6 minutes. Reverend Donald Walton was born in 1896 in Calliope.

Proctor W. Maynard

Following picture is of Proctor Maynard & his wife Martha at Central Cafe, 815 Central Ave, during a meeting with various historical society members. Proctor made 5 categorized oral tapes of various historical topics as a gift to Hawarden. He covered 60-70 topics. Proctor graduated from Hawarden High School in 1923, U of Iowa grad 1927, graduate work at U of MN, and taught in NE MI, IL, & IN at high school & college levels.



The recordings were made in October & November, 1980 when Proctor was 80 years old.

- 1.1 Length of recording is approximately 45 minutes.
- 1.2 Length of recording is approximately 45 minutes.
- 2.1 Length of recording is approximately 29 minutes.

HHS Note: What is Chautauqua? Chautauqua (*/[əˈtɔːkwə/ shə-TAW-kwə]*) was an adult education and social movement in the [United States](#), highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout [rural America](#) until the mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, showmen, preachers, and specialists of the day.^[1] Former U.S. President [Theodore Roosevelt](#) was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America."

July 11, 1915, Chautauqua held at site of the City Hall, 1130 Central Ave. For more information, check out the Hawarden Independent Archives <http://siouxcounty.advantage-preservation.com/>. Select Hawarden Independent, put in the search term Chautauqua and time from 1900-1930. Lots of interesting articles.



2.2 Length of recording is approximately 24 minutes.

HHS Note: What is GAR? The Grand Army of the Republic (**GAR**) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army (United States Army), Union Navy (U.S. Navy), Marines and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service who served in the American Civil War. It was founded in 1866 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew to include hundreds of "posts" across the nation.

3.1 Length of recording is approximately 43 minutes.

3.2 Length of recording is approximately 33 minutes.

HHS Note: What is a Pest House? A pest house, plague house, pesthouse or fever shed was a type of building used for persons afflicted with communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera, smallpox or typhus.

4.1 Length of recording is approximately 43 minutes.

4.2 Length of recording is approximately 41 minutes.

5.1 Length of recording is approximately 30 minutes.

5.2 Length of recording is approximately 23 minutes.