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Interview with Michael and Elizabeth Wendelin

Judith Blankenburg

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MICHAEL AND ELIZABETH WENDELIN (Interviewed by Judith Blankenburg)

- 1- 3 Introduction to interview with Michael Wendelin
4-173 Reminiscences of immigration and early pioneer life.
174-181 Reminiscences of Buffalo Bill
182-348 Miscellaneous reminiscences
349-354 Introduction to interview with Elizabeth Wendelin
355-850 Reminiscences of immigration and early pioneer life.

RT
398
F666m
1958
no. 11

Interview with Micheal Wendelin. Tells of coming to America in 1881 from Austria, Germany. Immigrated to Lincoln Neb. and tells of early pioneer life. How the Indians came into houses, no harm to them. Continues about early pioneer life and hardships . Then left for Kansas with wagon in 1890 with experiences. Tells about sod houses, water leaked in house, cattle , his brother, and his own experiences. Very little schooling came from a very large family. difficult times and very cold winters. Rabbits were plentiful. Tells of hanging person on trees. And talks about Buffalo Bill and Comanche Indians around the territory

Tells of public school and confirmation school when fires started, walked away and 18 horses killed. In 1904 got married on \$15.55. Had no job and hardly any money, but made it after 56 years. 1903 started in blacksmith shop and worked there over the years. Traveled to Baltimore in 1927 and then to New York to work and saw Babe Ruth Play.

Interview with Elizabeth Wendelin came to U.S. in 1871. Was married in 1903 in McCook, Neb. then moved to Denver Colorado. Lived there for 20 years 1912 moved to Salt Lake City for 11 months and then back to Denver. Had 3 children. Tells of work on the farm. Went to school for 3 years. Later went to McCook and worked. For recreation attended square dances and went fishing. Wore dress and sun bonnets. Hair straight back or in a bun. Their school teacher was also their preacher on Sundays and he stayed at their house. Tells of shivery at weddings and grandfathers death and cemetery burial. Christmas was very meager then. Tells of celebration after harvest and how beer was a big item. Tells of building railroads around Herndon. Tells of flood in 1912.

Original
F666m
1958
Y 11

23 min.

Interview with Michael Wendelin - tells of coming to America in 1881 from Austria, Germany. Immigrated to Lincoln, Nebraska + tells of early pioneer life - How Indians came into house, no harm to them - continues about early pioneer life of hardships. Then left for Kansas with wagon - in 1890 with experience. Tells about sod house, water leaked in house. Tells of cattle, his brother + himself's experience. Very little schooling - came from very large family - difficult times, + very cold winters. Rabbits were plentiful - tells of hanging person on tree - Reminiscences about Buffalo Bill. Tells about Comanche Indians around the territory + relates of incidents.

Tape #	Time	Breaks between side A and B
Original F666m 1958 no. 11 (continued)	28 mins	Continued interview with <u>Michael Wendelin</u> - tells of Public School & confirmation school - when fires started, walked away + 118 houses killed - In 1904 got married on \$15 ⁵⁵ - lost money - returned to Saloon + found the money on floor - then did finally get married with father - in law's help. Had no job + hardly any money - but made it after 56 years - 1903 started in blacksmith shop - worked there for 7 years - went into different type of jobs over the years - Traveled to Baltimore in 1927 + to New York to work - saw Babe Ruth play.
	10:23 30 mins	Interview with <u>Elizabeth Wendelin</u> came to US in 1871. Was married in 1903 in Mc Cook, Nebr. - then moved to Denver, Colorado, lived there for 20 years - 1912 moved to Salt Lake City for 11 months - moved back to Denver - had 3 children - tells of trouble with Indians - On farm, tells of work on farm women did when she was younger - Went to school for 3 years only + at 3 years old, did housework. Later went to Mc Cook, Nebr + worked, then on to Denver. For recreation - attended square dances - went fishing - wore long dress + sun bonnets - hair straight back & hair in bun - Their school teacher was also their preacher on Sunday + he stayed at their house - Tells of shivers at weddings, men only did this - Tells about grandfather's death + of cemetery burial - Xmas very meager then - Tells of celebration after harvest - beer big item on special occasion - tells of building railroads around Herndon - Round house was there Had Catholic + Lutheran churches + nice school. Tells of flood in Herndon, 1921.

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY FORM

K 1
398
F666m
1958
no. 11

1. Name: MICHAEL WENDELIN		2. Date: JULY 4, 1958	
3. Address: 223 S. LOGAN ST., DENVER, COLO.		4. County: DENVER	5. Age: 78
6. Place of Birth: GOLS, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY			
7. Ancestry: HUNGARIAN		9. Education (Circle highest) Grade school 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 <u>PUBLIC</u> College 1 2 3 4 SCHOOL	
8. Languages spoken: ENGLISH, GERMAN, HUNGARIAN			
10. Places of residence:		Dates:	
GOLS, AUSTRIA-HUNG.		1878-1880	
NEBR-HERNDON, KS.		1880-1890	
CRIPPLE CREEK, LEADVILLE, COLO.		1903-1910-1930's	
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH; MARVEL, COLO.			
CHICAGO, ILL.; NEW YORK CITY, BALTIMORE, ETC. AS BLACKSMITH			
DENVER, COLORADO		1890 — 1958	
11. Present occupation: RETIRED		12. Former occupations: BLACKSMITH-TOOLSHARPENER	
13. Father's name: GEORGE WENDELIN		17. Mother's name: SUSANA HERZOG WENDELIN	
14. Father's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY		18. Mother's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY		19. Grandfather's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY		20. Grandmother's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY	
21. Place and condition of interview: HOME -- HE IS QUITE DEAF WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR SOME REPETITION.			
22. Remarks: CORRECTION - MOVED TO DENVER IN 1890 - NOT 1900, AS TAPE RECORDS 1893 BEGAN IN SMITHY SHOP, NOT 1903. WENDELIN FAMILY ORIGINALLY DESCENDED FROM A CARDINAL WENDELIN, BAVARIA. INTO HUNGARY FROM FRANCE DURING A WAR (RELIGIOUS).			
Collector's name: JUDITH BLANKENBURG Address: OAKLEY, KANSAS			

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY FORM

K1
398
1-666 m
1958
No. 11

1. Name: MRS. ELIZABETH WENDELIN		2. Date: JULY 4, 1958	
3. Address: 223 S. LOGAN, DENVER 9, COLO.		4. County: DENVER	
5. Age: 78		6. Place of Birth: HERNDON, RAWLINS CO., KANSAS	
7. Ancestry: HUNGARIAN		9. Education (Circle highest) Grade school 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Languages spoken: ENGLISH, GERMAN			

10. Places of residence:	Dates:
HERNDON, KANSAS	1880-1903, 1921-24
DENVER, COLO.	1903-19-

11. Present occupation: HOUSEWIFE	12. Former occupations: HOUSEWORK
13. Father's name: MATTIAS WURM	17. Mother's name: ELIZABETH WURM WURMA
14. Father's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY	18. Mother's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY
15. Grandfather's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY	19. Grandfather's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY
16. Grandmother's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY	20. Grandmother's place of birth: GOLS, HUNGARY

21. Place and condition of interview: HOME

22. Remarks:

HER MAIDEN NAME WAS THE SAME AS
HER HUSBAND'S — BUT ^{NO} FAMILY RELATIONSHIP.

MRS. WENDELIN ATTENDED GERMAN SCHOOL UNTIL SHE WAS 12. THEN SHE WENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL THROUGH THE 3RD GRADE.

Collector's name: JUDITH BLANKENBURG
Address: OAKLEY, KANSAS