

ABSTRACT

Interviewee: Elizabeth Hoffman Kirke - much more prevalent than we realize - and Grandmother Hoffman's

Interviewer: Rhea Adler - and John Hoffman to Europe - three daughters

Date of interview: three months

Previous residences of Hoffman family - first 1843 - boyhood of Hoffman brothers - farming and raising produce for the Chicago Market, "South Water St."

First retail store (general merchandise) at Ridge/Wilmette Ave. - burned Dec. 8 - well stocked for Christmas trade

Ice house at Twin Lakes, Wisconsin - sister Ann an artist and Grandparent's journey from Germany described - suddenly very

Childhood of John and "Phil" Hoffman - father's death when John was 12 years old and Phil was 14 - boys ran farm

Drove produce to "South Water St. Market" - \$.05 beer and a free lunch

Decision that there were easier ways to make money than farming

Hoffman Brothers first store on southeast corner Ridge and Wilmette Ave. - business prospered - fire in 1909 -

lumber yard fire - Ice House at Twin Lakes burned Wholesale houses who replenished merchandise

Commerce to and from Wilmette by ships - Gage piers - Drury builders

Stores built on N.E. corner Ridge/Wilmette Ave.

Witt's Dairy - livery stable - first fire house

Purchased Coal and Lumber Co. and called it Hoffman Bros. Coal and Lumber Co. - John ran it and Phil ran the

merchandise - no accounting from 1888 until 1945 when Philip Hoffman died

Gross Point from Central St., Evanston to Lake Ave., Wilmette had 13 or 14 saloons - drinkers as well as "riff raff"

came - Lauer's at Elmwood and Ridge (N.B. N.W. corner)

Lauer's/Vollmann family account

Towns in Germany from whence they came

Hoffman's trip to Denn, Germany in 1950

Elizabeth Hoffman manages merchandise store for 25 years - Girl Scout leadership - people involved

Father Netstraeter and St. Joseph parish

Father Vattman - Spanish American War chaplain - father - typhoid fever 1908-09

St. Joseph's - parish in Chicago Diosces - old school and church in one building

Discussion of higher education in latter 19th century in Illinois - originally post office was "Wynetka" in census of 1860



Hoffman family great travelers - travel much more prevalent than we realize - Uncle Phil and Grandmother Hoffman's two European trips - an uncle and John Hoffman to Europe - Mrs. John Hoffman and three daughters and a niece went in 1950 for almost three months.

John Hoffman, Jr. - library board member "for years" - Police/Fire Commission - on first board of First Federal and Loan - Director of Wilmette Bank 1945 to 75 - brother Phil also served in various capacities in village -

brother Joe served in World War II with the "Seabees" for 4 years - managed the hardware store (now Spitzer's) Mary Hoffman an attorney - younger sister Ann an artist and teacher - American Academy of Art - died suddenly very young

Ridge Ave. - a "family street" - settled by a group who came together

Treaties - Chicago - 1833

Gypsies at 17th Lawndale for weeks every year - Willows and willow whistles

Visits to Lincoln Park - open Cadillac - Leghorn hats - popcorn balls - cotton candy - organ grinder/monkey man

Oh, yes.

And when my mother and father were first married, they

lived with Grandmother Hoffman in the Hoffman homestead

which is a street two blocks and four something wide

is the address, 17th Lawndale.

And there, near the corner of Halsted.

Yes, right next to the house that is next to the Hubert

Hoffman florist in the Hoffman homestead.

I see. It still exists.

Yes, it was - well, it was destroyed and completely

replaced in a block of flats, 17th Lawndale.

I see. Do you know when your first building would

your grandfather build that house?

I would guess that