

Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



## Jeanne (Clark) Challacombe

Interviewed 7 April 2022

**Biographical Information and Summary of Interview:** Jeanne Clark Challacombe was born to John and Genevieve (Maher) Clark. She grew up in Brimfield, Illinois during the 1930s–1950s. She attended Brimfield Grade and High Schools and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. She married Kenneth “Kenny” Challacombe and had six children together. They lived and raised their family in Brimfield. Jeanne had several different jobs and interests in town. These include newspaper correspondent, multiple positions with the Village of Brimfield, artist, and shop owner. Her husband, Kenny was responsible for the Village public works systems; a job that her son, Kevin, holds today. Jeanne talks about growing up and raising a family in town, attending school, church life, her work as an artist, Old Settler’s and her families work with the Village of Brimfield.

### Time Stamp for major topics:

Introduction

00:54 - Origin Story: Birth and Parents

02:01 - Growing up years

04:33 - School days

09:00 - Interest in the arts

13:27 - Old Settlers

16:43 - Church life and Saturday night fun

22:34 - Marriage and family life

29:06 - Occupations

42:44 - Current life with Dale Sollenberger

### Topics Covered/Key Words:

Hamilton house

Brimfield Grade School

Brimfield High School

Donna (Clark) Rahn

Maher family

Susie Clark

Mrs. Hayes (schoolteacher)

Mrs. Blundy (schoolteacher)

Mrs. Doubet (schoolteacher)

Kickapoo, Illinois

Artistic talents and work

Mrs. Sherman’s mother

Bernadine Tucker (local artist and schoolteacher)

Vale’s Market

Farmer's Table Restaurant  
Shoe kicking contests  
Keith Challacombe  
Free Movies on Saturday Nights  
St Joseph Church burning  
Charles "Charlie" and Bertha Marks  
William "Bill" Harding  
Parkside Cafe  
Lucky's Cafe  
Elmer "Red" and Aileen (Bollman" Corney  
Father Thomas Harrison  
Della Robbia statue  
Community Building  
American Legion building  
Miss Elizabeth "Lizzie" Fuchs, church organist  
Debbie (Challacombe) Peters  
*Brimfield News*  
Sara Maher  
Melva Lafollett  
Guyer cabin  
Wilma Shipley  
Kathryn (Maher) Miller  
Caterpillar Tractor Company  
Thomas "Tom" Maher  
Wilma Young

**Interview Format:**

Zoom mp4 digital video. PDF slide presentation.

**Interviewer:**

Diane Minor

**Total Time:**

44:47

The interview is archived at the Brimfield Public Library District in Brimfield, Illinois.

The Brimfield Oral History Project is a long-term effort to record the stories of Brimfield's past in the voices of those who remember and make these original sources available for generations to come. This collaboration is a partnership between Brimfield Public Library District, Brimfield Area Historical Society, and the Peoria County Genealogical Society.

Readers of interview transcript, if available, should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee, and editors sought to preserve the interview as recorded. Brimfield Public Library District and project volunteers are not responsible for the factual accuracy of this interview, nor for the opinions expressed within.

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