

Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



Roger Higgs, PHD

Interviewed on 30 June 2022

Biographical Information and Summary of Interview:

Roger Higgs was born in 1938 to Estella and Gerald* Higgs and spent the first few years of his life in Trivoli Township. In 1944, his family purchased and moved to the Forney Homestead northeast of Brimfield. Dr. Higgs is a novice historian and genealogist and through this interview shares his passion for both. He details what it was like growing up on the farm, especially during World War II. Roger attended Shane School, a one room school, before transitioning to Brimfield Grade School, and then graduated from Brimfield High School with honors. Roger went on to earn a PHD in plant genetics and enjoyed a successful career as a university professor. One of Roger's written articles was about the Brimfield Community Building, and he shares that information in this interview.

*Roger's father's name is incorrectly stated in the interview and on the slide in the interview. Roger's father's name is Gerald (not Gene). We are very sorry for this error.

Time Stamp for Major Topics:

03:13 Forney family

07:44 Growing up on the farm

18:34 Shane School

34:49 Transition to Brimfield Grade School

49:25 Brimfield provided good foundation for his career

50:25 Brimfield Community Company

Topics Covered/Key Words:

James Forney Farm

Maude Forney Hasselbacher

Growing up on the farm

Dorothy Jamison

WW2

4H

FFA

Shane School

Brimfield Grade School

Brimfield High School

Union Church

Veteran

Brimfield Community Company

Brimfield Community Building

Chichester Hall

Ewalt Recreation Center

O.S. Kelly

Chamberlain Corners

Interview Format:

Zoom mp4 with Slide Presentation

Interviewer:

Kim Claybaugh Hanks

Total Time:

1:07:44

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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