

# Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



## Beverly Hopkins

Interviewed 16 March 2023

**Biographical Information and Summary of Interview:** Beverly Hopkins and her husband Jimmy's Brimfield story begins as they are looking for a small town to raise their family. This interview highlights the reasons that the Hopkins family chose Brimfield as their home and includes homes they lived in, businesses they owned, and community activities they participated in. Mrs. Hopkins retired from teaching at Brimfield Grade School and she shared the changes in the school building while she worked there. Lorayne Stevenson, Mrs. Hopkins's aunt, also retired from teaching at Brimfield Grade School. This interview also shares Ms. Stevenson's WW2 story and the Brimfield homes she resided in.

### Time Stamp for Major Topics:

Introduction

02:55 Country schools

03:58 World War 2

05:45 Abingdon High School

06:40 College

07:32 Meets and marries Jimmie Hopkins

07:50 Jimmie drafted Korean war.

09:00 Moved to Brimfield 1961

11:45 Community Involvement

13:32 Ms. Lorayne Stevenson

14:36 Lorayne's brother killed in training in WW2.

18:00 Lorayne Stevenson's Brimfield residences

21:45 Hopkins's Brimfield residences

28:26 Teaching at Brimfield Grade School

37:01 Old Brick Grade School Building

38:00 Brimfield Grade School building history

41:23 Businesses

46:40 Conclusion

### Topics Covered/Key Words:

Southern IL University

WWII

Ms. Lorayne Stevenson

Army Air Corp

Douglas Aircraft

Clinton Street

Madison Street

Galena Avenue

Clay Street

Illinois Street

Brimfield Cemetery Road  
Tornado  
Brimfield teacher  
Brimfield Grade School  
Special Education  
Brimfield Heating and Air Conditioning  
BJ Coin Wash  
Laundromat  
Central Transfer Company

**Interview Format:**

Zoom with Slide Presentation

**Interviewer:**

Kim Claybaugh Hanks

**Total Time:**

48:35 minutes

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 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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