

# Brimfield

## Oral

## History

## Project



### Henry Peters

Interviewed 18 February 2023

**Biographical Information and Summary of Interview:** Henry Peters was 91 years of age when he was interviewed. He has lived in the Brimfield area his entire life. Henry was born on a farm off Thousand Dollar Road where he lived with his parents Harry Sr. and Sena Behrends Peters and ten brothers and sisters. In this interview, Henry tells of his time growing up on the farm and becoming a farmer on his own. He talks about his attendance at Bramble School and Brimfield High School and dating his soon-to-be wife Harriett Clark. Henry shares photos from his military service in the Korean War. Henry also talks about the jobs he has had and retiring from the strip coal mines. Community service is a key part of this interview as Henry talks about his volunteer work with the Brimfield American Legion and Brimfield Men's Club.

#### **Time Stamp for major topics:**

Introduction

1:00 Parents

1:54 Farm Life

4:25 Sister Wilma

5:40 Sick as a baby; Dr. Welch

7:30 Farm-automobiles

9:14 World War 2

10:10 family photos

11:33 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

14:24 Bramble School

18:46 Brimfield High School

21:45 Bramble-bull

22:45 Brimfield High School

14:59 Dating in high school

28:02 Military service

32:10 Built first home

34:16 Honor Flight

36:20 Marriage

39:07 Adult jobs

39:39 Peabody Coal Mine

45:45 Changes in farming

47:00 Community Service

53:30 Conclusion

**Topics Covered/Key Words:**

Farm life  
Dr. Welch  
hard road  
vintage cars  
World War 2  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Fairview Farms  
carillon  
Glen Johnson  
strip coal mining  
WPA  
outhouse  
Ms. Alice Reents  
Brimfield High School  
Bramble School  
hitch hike  
free movies  
Ewalt's  
American Legion  
Brimfield Men's Club  
Brimfield Health Center  
Frank Binder

**Interview Format:**

Zoom with Slide Presentation

**Interviewer:**

Kim Claybaugh Hanks

**Total Time:**

56:32 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 Area Historical Society, and the Peoria County Genealogical Society.

Note to Reader: 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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