

**Taped Interview**  
**Mrs. Ida Brockmiller**  
**October 20, 1970**

Dearborn Historical Museum

Oral History Program

Interviewee: Mrs. Ida (Woehlke) Brockmiller

Interviewer: Mrs. Jean Hatch

**Topic: Ida Brockmiller's Parents Arriving in Dearborn as Pioneers**

Jean Hatch: This is an interview with Mrs. Ida Woehlke Brockmiller. Mrs. Brockmiller, will you please tell us when and where you were born?

Mrs. Brockmiller: In Dearborn September 1, 1882.

Mrs. Hatch: Will you please tell us the names of your parents?

Mrs. Brockmiller: Mrs. Ettie Woehlke and Mr. Charles Woehlke

Mrs. Hatch: How long had your parents lived in the Dearborn area?

Mrs. Brockmiller: My mother lived here all her life. She used to live here on a farm. My mother was born in Dearborn but my father was born in Germany.

Mrs. Hatch: What was your mother's maiden name?

Mrs. Brockmiller: Prush.

Mrs. Hatch: When you say she lived on a farm in the Dearborn area, can you tell me approximately where it was?

Mrs. Brockmiller: Yes. Now let me see, near Ann Arbor Trail.

Mrs. Hatch: What kind of name is Prush? Is that German too?

Mrs. Brockmiller: I think it's part German and Part French.

Gladys Salisbury: I think his wife was French but the name Prush is German.

Mrs. Hatch: When did your mother's people come to the Dearborn area?

Mrs. B: Well, I couldn't tell you. All I know is I remember them telling that when they got here, it was all woods. They came as pioneers. They came over in a sailboat. I remember them telling that they settled here and it was all like woods, you know, just trees. She said they build up a little shack. She said, "So we could live in it." She said, "We were so happy" that they knelt down and thanked the lord that they had a place to live in. They came from Germany.

**Topic: Ida Brockmiller Attending A One-Room School House**

Mrs. H: Do you remember any of the teachers you had?

Mrs. B: Kit Magoonaugh. Miss (Agnes) Magoonaugh had the ice cream stand up in Dearborn here. Kit was her sister.

Mrs. H: Which one was your teacher in school?

Mrs. B: Kit, I guess, they called her.

Mrs. H: How many grades were held together in one classroom, do you remember?

Mrs. B: Well, I don't know. There was – I know Jen Howe and Lou Howe and those girls- Florrie Brown and Laura Brown. They were all upstairs (in) this school. There must have been six, seven grades or something like that.

Mrs. H: In one classroom, would they have, say, the first, second and third grades all together or do you remember?

Mrs. B: Yes, I think they did.

Mrs. H: Do you remember how many teachers there were in the school?

Mrs. B: No, I don't remember that. I know there was a principle upstairs. I think there was only two teachers. I think so.

**Topic: Ida Brockmiller Remembering Michigan Ave**

Mrs. H: What was the Michigan Avenue area like during that time?

Mrs. B: Oh, I'll tell you, Mrs. Hatch, we bought our first car in 1915, our Ford car. And when we'd get in that car and leave our driveway and get onto the main street, before we'd get to Michigan Avenue (that

was only about a block), we were tired. It was just up and down, muddy and ruts and just terrible until we'd get to Michigan Avenue.

Mrs. H: Michigan Avenue wasn't paved until about when?

Mrs. B: No, it wasn't paved but yet it was a lot better driving there because there was much more traffic there.