

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Stella Svoboda Gaskamp**

Ms Gaskamp was born in 1937 in Rosenberg to a tenant farming family. They raised cotton, corn, chickens, hogs, cows, hay and vegetables. They also belonged to a beef club. Stella attended a one room school with 3 grades and quit school in the 7th grade to work on the farm.

She met her husband, Clarence, at the Moonlight Hall in Pleak, Texas. He played in a band in the different dance halls. Stella reminisces about being an only child and the different families she grew up with in the Fairchild area.

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Stella Svoboda Gaskamp died on May 1, 2012. Her obituary may be found at: <https://www.garmanycarden.com/obituary/1471480>

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order.)

Mrs. Beard – teacher
 Mrs. Brumbelow – teacher
 Angeline Curie – school mate, friend
 Clarence Gaskamp – spouse
 Mrs. Harrison – teacher
 Helen Jakubik – school mate, friend
 Rabinowitz – Fairchild Grocery owner
 Ernest Rebok – owned Fairchild Grocery later
 Arnold Svobada – cousin
 Mrs. Sware – teacher
 Jerry & Pete Vacek – farmers, neighbors
 Mrs. Yanek – teacher

Places / Businesses

Brown Community School
 Carranza's Cafe, Needville
 Concord School
 Damon, Texas
 Fairchild Grocery
 Fairchild, Texas
 Foster School
 Golden Antique
 Lane Airport

Longpoint School
 Moonlight Hall, Pleak
 Needville, Texas
 Needville High School
 Pleak Village
 Rosenberg, Texas

Events

Stella was 74 years old at the time of this interview. Her husband Clarence died in 1995.

Stella recalls life on the farm, as an only child, picking cotton and weighing cotton, and growing vegetables. They had Allis Chalmers tractors that created 2 rows at a time to plant cotton or corn.

She describes a “beef club” where member families shared in the butchering of a cow each week so that everyone had fresh meat throughout the year.

During 7th grade, Stella quit school with other friends to work on the farm and hold down various jobs in the area.

She met her husband Clarence Gaskamp at Moonlight Hall. He played in a band at various dance halls.