

**Oral History Project  
Cedar Rapids Public Library**

**Ruth Richardson**, 72, was interviewed, by Laura Derr on Thursday, March 28, 1996 at her home, 309 E 9th St, in Vinton, Iowa.

**Laura Derr (LD):** I would like to begin by asking you what is your birth date and where you were born.

**Ruth Richardson(RR):** Well, I was born December 30, 1923 right here in Vinton and grew up in Vinton.

**LD** : You were an Iowan from the beginning to the present.

**RR** : That's right, with a few little side trips.

**LD** : Ruth I would like to take a little time at the beginning and talk about your parents names, your growing up years and your educational background. Basically, how did you get to the point where you became a professional librarian.

**RR** : Well, that's quite a long story.

**LD** : We've plenty of time.

**RR** : My father was Ashley Riser Richardson, my mother was Elsie Schmidt Richardson. I grew up in Vinton where my father had a hardware store. My mother worked in the post office and the bank, but after marriage she was a housewife. We grew up during the depression, so it was rather a stressful time.

**LD** : How about your educational background. Where did you go to school, and where did you go to college.

**RR** : I graduated from high school right here in Vinton and I took a normal course, in highschool. so I taught in a rural school my first year out of high school.

**LD** : What is a normal training course? I have never heard of that before.

**RR** : Well, that means you're training to become a teacher. The teacher's college used to be called a normal college. I have no idea why. But, I taught in this rural school, which was quite an experience since I had never been in one until I did this week of practice teaching. Then I went to Iowa State Teacher's College and graduated from there in 1946. Then I taught English and Spanish

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