

**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

10-09
2005.10.68

