

**Guide to the Oral History of
JOHNS, W. BROOKE (1893-1987)**

Biographical/Historical Notes

W. Brooke Johns was a long-time resident and civic leader in Montgomery County. He was born in 1893 in Georgetown and spent his early years in Washington, D.C. Johns had an interesting and varied professional life, including farmer, Chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, radio show host, and newspaper columnist. His main career was as a vaudeville performer in the 1920s. He also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Interview – Interviewed March 2, 1975 by Luella Eldridge for MCHS.

Subject

Montgomery County (Md.) – Board of Commissioners
Morning in Maryland – Radio Show
Olney (Md.) – History
Rural life – Montgomery County
Uncle Brooke (Johns)

Subject Names

Barnsley Family
Roosevelt, Theodore

Table of Contents/Index – See also Interview Index for additional subjects and topics. Archive file also contains an artist sketch of Johns.

Birthdate: Dec. 23, 1893

Occupation: Retired

Interview Index

Side I

Estimated Time on tape:	Subjects covered, in approximate order:
<u>1 - 11</u>	<u>Birth in Georgetown, School in Washington.</u> <u>At White House with Roosevelt sons. TR as President</u>
<u>12 - 14</u>	<u>First trip out Georgia Ave. to Olney</u>
<u>15 - 20</u>	<u>Wife's family settling in Olney. Toll gates on</u> <u>Georgia Ave. Farm life.</u>
<u>21 - 25</u>	<u>Parents - Wedding of parents-in-law</u>
<u>26 - 30</u>	<u>Farming - driving sheep to Washington - dairying</u>
<u>31 - 34</u>	<u>Buying present farm in 1925</u>
<u>35 - 40</u>	<u>Beginning career in New York. Family background.</u>
<u>41 - 42</u>	<u>Theatrical career</u>

(continued on back)

Side II

<u>0 - 10</u>	<u>Mr. Johns' Radio Program "Morning in Maryland"</u>
<u>10 - 22</u>	<u>"Uncle Brooke" on Television</u>
<u>23 - 26</u>	<u>Movies</u>
<u>27 - 28</u>	<u>Newspaper column</u>
<u>29 - 31</u>	<u>Early days in theater</u>

continued on back ~~use~~ back of sheet if necessary

Mr. Johns' children

Going to London

Birth of Children, Montgomery Hospital

On Vaudeville Circuit

County Commissioner - Politics

Depression

Country fairs. Travelling by horse & buggy

34 First World War

38 Schools

48 Mr. Johns' recordings and his playing
the banjo.