

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Wayne Temple

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Historians Speak* Oral History project

Interview # HSL-A-L-2015-004

Dr. Wayne Temple, a distinguished Lincoln scholar and long-serving Chief Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Historians Speak* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 17, 2015	Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Date: Feb 27, 2015	Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Date: Mar 11, 2015	Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. James Cornelius, Lincoln Curator, ALPLM

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:42 + 2:04 + 1:28 / 1.7 + 2.07 + 1.47 = 5.24 hrs

Session 1: Early family life, wartime service, education and early career

Session 2: Early profession career as historian, and Lincoln scholarship

Session 3: Reflections on Lincoln scholarship, and relations with IL Secretary of State

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 29, 2015.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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## Abstract

Dr. Wayne Temple, *Historians Speak*, HSL-A-L-2015-004

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Wayne Calhoun Temple was born on February 5th, 1924 on a farm in Thompson Township, Delaware County, Ohio, an only child. He did farm work and other chores and graduated from Prospect High School, in Marion County, Ohio, in 1942. He served in WW II and was on General Dwight D. Eisenhower's personal staff for a time. He studied history at the University of Illinois-Urbana, receiving his B.A. in 1949, an M.A. in 1951, and a Ph.D. 1956, advised by Prof. James G. Randall. His dissertation was on journalist and Lincoln friend Noah Brooks. After receiving his doctorate, Dr. Temple taught at Lincoln Memorial University, in Harrogate, Tennessee, including a six year period where he was the John Wingate Weeks professor of history. He also was editor of their quarterly, *The Lincoln Herald*. He began working at the Illinois State Archives in about 1964. He married Sunderine (Sandy) Wilson in 1979; she worked for forty-one years as an interpreter and supervisor at the Old State Capitol. The Temples had no children of their own, but Sandy had two sons by a previous marriage. 'Doc' Temple authored scores of speeches, short articles, and research notes about Abraham Lincoln, as well as a half-dozen important volumes, with particular focus on Lincoln's military, religious, surveying, and domestic lives. He is also very widely credited in others' books as a leading guide toward sources and ideas for their work and has been given honorary degrees and directorships for his work on Lincoln. He still worked at the State Archives at the time of his interview in 2015.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Abraham Lincoln; U.S. Civil War; teaching and study of history; historical archives; World War II; James G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall; University of Illinois; David Herbert Donald; Harry E. and Marion B. Pratt; Carl Sandburg; Lincoln Memorial University; Old State Capitol; Lloyd Ostendorf; Dwight D. Eisenhower

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