

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Michael Devine

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*IHPA Legacy* Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2014-022

Dr. Michael Devine, the Illinois State Historian as well as the Director of the IL Historic Preservation Agency during the late 1980s, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 25, 2014    Location: Abraham Lincoln Pres. Library, Springfield, IL

Date: Mar 27, 2015    Location: Abraham Lincoln Pres. Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

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

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

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 2:26 + 1:08 + 2:52 / 2.43 + 1.13 + 2.87 = 6.43 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, Peace Corp and historian career to selection as IHPA Director

Session 2: Experiences at Director of IHPA and state historian

Session 3: Experiences as IHPA director and career after leaving Illinois

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 12, 2015.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
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## Abstract

Dr. Michael Devine, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-A-L-2014-022

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Michael Devine was born in January, 1945 in Aurora, Illinois, and graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 1967. He then attended Ohio State University, majoring in history, and earned his Ph.D. in 1974. In 1969-70 he also served as a Peace Corps volunteer, and met his wife Maija while there. After working at a variety of positions in Ohio, Dr. Devine served as the Deputy Director for the Historic St. Mary's City in Maryland, then in 1985 was selected to serve as the Illinois State Historian as well as the newly created Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), headquartered in Springfield.

IHPA included several dozen historic sites spread throughout the state, as well as the Illinois State Historical Society, and the Historic Preservation Division, with a staff of approximately 260. During his tenure, Devine introduced living history events at the Old State Capitol, opened the Dana Thomas House in Springfield, a historic Frank Lloyd Wright home, and enhanced both the annual History Conference and History Fair. Late in Devine's tenure, the state also procured the sprawling Pullman factory complex in suburban Chicago. He worked closely with the IHPA Board of Trustees, especially the board chair, Julie Cellini, and also the Illinois State Historical Society. Gov. Jim Thompson, as an avid antique collector, admirer of Lincoln and history buff, was very supportive of an otherwise small agency. In 1991 Dr. Devine took a position at the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming, and in 2001 became the Director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, where he retired in 2014.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; Illinois's Old State Capitol; Dana Thomas House; Julie Cellini; Tom Schwartz; Gov. Jim Thompson; Illinois State Historical Society; Illinois State historian; Robert Coomer; Historic St. Mary's City; Harry S. Truman Presidential Library; Pullman factory site

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