

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gerald “Jerry” Campbell

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Community Stories - Rochester* Oral History project

Interview # CR-A-L-2019-047

Gerald ‘Jerry’ Campbell, a life-long resident of Rochester, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s *Community Stories - Rochester* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location

Date: Apr 11, 2019      Location: Home of Jerry Campbell, Rochester, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carole Strick, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 0:55 / 0.92 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 25,  
2020.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,  
Illinois.

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## Abstract

Gerald H. Campbell, *Community Stories-Rochester*, CR-A-L-2019-047

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Gerald H. ‘Jerry’ Campbell was born June 19, 1940 in Springfield, Illinois, although his family lived in Rochester at the time. At the time of the interview he still lived on property originally settled by the Sattley family but purchased by his 2nd great grandfather in 1858. The Campbell family has been a part of the Rochester community since that time. Jerry’s father, William Everett Campbell, abandoned him and his mother not long after his birth, and Jerry was raised by his uncle Hugh and Aunt Doris. Hugh was sheriff of Sangamon County from 1958 through 1962 and 1966 through 1970. Jerry is very knowledgeable about the Rochester community and locations of many businesses and structures that are no longer present. When Hugh Campbell was Sangamon County Sheriff, the family lived in the Sangamon County jail building and Jerry tells many stories of that time.

Jerry attended Rochester schools and graduated in 1958. He married Nancy Newell on October 15, 1961. He worked for City Water Light and Power in Springfield for thirty-six years. He has two children, Tracy (1964) and Brian (1967). His hobbies include fishing and old cars.

The family is very proud of their connection to Lincoln, that Abraham Lincoln purportedly delivered one of his earliest speeches on their property in 1832 when he was running for the state legislature. The speech took place in front of what was later the home of Nelson Campbell in front of a walnut tree. When the tree was later cut down, the Campbell family made a box out of some of the wood. In 2018, the Campbell family donated the box to the Rochester Historical Society.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Rochester, Illinois; Abraham Lincoln; Sangamon County; Sattley family of Rochester, Illinois;

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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