

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Keith McClow

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-102

Keith McClow, a site manager at the historic Kline Creek Farms, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 31, 2008 Location: Kline Creek Farm, DuPage County, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Dr. Robert Warren, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Maniscalco and Jack Warren, Illinois State Museum

Video Indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 5 Total Time: 13 min / 0.22 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 11/20/2009.

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

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Abstract

Keith McClow, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-102

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Keith McClow was born on May 20, 1966 in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Purdue University in 1988 with a B.S. degree in Management. Keith is the Site Manager of Kline Creek Farm, an 1890s living-history farm in DuPage County, Illinois. In this interview, Keith discusses the history of the farm, its livestock, its crops, and staff demonstrations of period farm activities that occur on the farm today. The Kline family arrived in DuPage County in 1835. Three buildings at the site are original: the house (built in the late 1880s), the barn, and the smokehouse. Added buildings include a wagon shed, livestock sheds, a chicken coop, an ice house, and an outhouse. The main crops raised on the farm today are oats, corn, and soybeans. Oats are planted in the spring and harvested in the summer using horse-drawn planters and binders. Oat seeds are separated from chaff (straw) using a threshing machine powered by a steam tractor. Livestock raised on the farm includes Percheron draft horses, Shorthorn and Angus cattle, Southdown sheep, and several varieties of chickens. Apples, pears, and cherries are produced in the orchard, and bees in the apiary pollinate plants and produce honey. An important winter activity is harvesting ice from nearby frozen lakes. Ice stored in the ice house is used to cool and preserve fresh milk during the warmer months of the year. A kitchen garden, planted and harvested by local school kids, produces a variety of vegetables that can be eaten fresh or canned for later use.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Kline Creek Farm; log cabins; 19th century farm buildings; kitchen gardens; dooryard gardens; harvesting ice; crops: oats, corn, soybeans, hay, straw; 19th century orchard: apples, pears, cherries; apiary: bees, honey, pollination; livestock: Percheron draft horses, Shorthorn cattle, Angus cattle, Southdown sheep, chickens; meat; wool.

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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