

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Wright

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

Interview # CR-A-L-2017-046

Thomas Wright, long-time resident of Rochester, Illinois who spoke about delivering ice, 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 26, 2017 Location: Spurgeon family home in Rochester IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carole Strick, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 0:14 + 1:19 / 0.23 + 1.32 = 1.55 hrs.

Session 1: Thomas Wright's life story

Session 2: The Rochester ice house and other memories

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 20, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Thomas Wright, *Communities Stories*, CR-A-L-2017-046

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Thomas Wright was born October 25, 1926 in rural Sangamon County outside Rochester, Illinois. He was one of nine children, and graduated from Rochester High School in 1944. During the 1940s, Thomas worked with his brother, James delivering ice from the family owned an ice house to rural areas around Rochester. Wright served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1947, and was assigned to USS Sarita (AKA-39), an attack cargo ship. He saw action in the Pacific theater, and spent time in post-war Japan. He married Martha Lou Sexton in December 1956 and is the father of two children. He spent his working career working for the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway as a railroad detective. He also joined the Naval Reserve. He is of the Baptist faith.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Rochester, Illinois; ice house; railroad detective work; Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway; railroad detective;

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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