

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Parris Brewer

Part of the Illinois State Museum's and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Oral History of Agriculture in Illinois*

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-077

Parris Brewer, Marketing Coordinator for Growing Homes project, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: September 5, 2008

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support: Robert Warren, Recording Engineer, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Michael Maniscalco and Rachel Thompson, Illinois State Museum, & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Video Indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 29 Total Time: 42 min. + 55 min. = 1 hr 37 min / 1.61 hours

Session 1: Brewer discusses his route to Growing Homes & its role in his life.

Session 2: Walking tour of Growing Homes, an urban vegetable garden.

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

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Abstract

Parris Brewer, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AIS-V-L-2008-077

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Parris Brewer was born on December 26th 1958 in Chicago. As a child, Parris was raised by his grandmother since both of his parents worked to make ends meet. He remembers being told to help in his grandmother's garden and work on the house. He now jokes that he had a farm boy childhood in the city of Chicago. After getting into some trouble with the law Parris was directed to Growing Home where his first experiences of true farming were fear. After getting over the fear he began to excel in the Growing Homes seven-month program and eventually became the organizations marketing coordinator. This position requires Parris to sell fruits and vegetables at the farmer's market and through interested local restaurants.

Keywords: Chicago, IL; Grandparents; Growing Home; Farmers Market, Restaurants; Family Garden

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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