

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Rose Moser

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Immigrant Stories* Oral History project

Interview # IM-A-L-2016-012

Rose (Russler) Moser, who grew up in Cold War era East Germany before immigrating to the United States, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Immigrant Stories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: February 23, 2016 Location: Home of Rose Moser, Chatham, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Paula Seifert, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:35 / 1.58 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 23, 2017.

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

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# Abstract

## Rose Moser, *Immigrant Stories*, IM-A-L-2016-012

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Martha Roswitha (Rose) Russler was born in October, 1944 in Auerbach, Germany, and while she has some memories of World War II, her childhood was mostly spent under the Communist regime in East Germany. Her father was a soldier in the Wehrmacht during the war, but never returned home, and her mother eventually remarried. The memories of her years behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War are much more vivid, including working on a collective farm during the summer. In 1960 Rose's parents decided to flee to West Germany. They purchased train tickets from their home in the south to the Baltic Sea, then got off the train in Berlin and walked across the border into West Berlin. (The Berlin Wall was built in 1961.)

Rose met her future husband, Donald L. Moser, while he was stationed in West Germany during the Cold War. They were married in 1963 and moved to the United States in 1965. Settling in St. Louis, Rose and her husband raised their two sons. In September, 1970 she became a U.S. citizen. They moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1973, where Rose was a wife, mother, friend, employee as well as a college student, later a college graduate, and now a grandmother and great-grandmother. While she has maintained family contacts back in Germany, often making trips to her homeland, she proudly calls herself an American today.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** World War II; Communism in East Germany; Collectivization of Farm Property; Cold War; 'Father' Joseph Stalin; Education in East Germany; post-war resettlement in Germany; discrimination; emigration from Germany to the United States; naturalization; becoming an American citizen; American College Education; employment opportunities in America for immigrants

**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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