

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John Alexander

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

Interview # AI-A-L-2010-027

John Alexander, a resident from Virden, Illinois who was extensively involved in the 2008-2009 school consolidation for Girard and Virden, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – School District Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 29, 2010    Location: Books on the Square, Virden, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:27 / 1.45 hrs

**Transcript  
being processed**

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Nov 18, 2010

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

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## Abstract

John Alexander, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AI-A-L-2010-027

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** John Alexander was born on May 9th, 1942 in Muncie, Indiana, and grew up in Virden, Illinois. After graduation from college, he returned to Virden and began a real estate business, and also taught political science courses at Lincolnland Community College in Springfield, Illinois. He has lived most of his life in Virden, and has always been involved in community affairs, including serving as a Board of Education member as well as a trustee at Lincolnland Community College. In 1995 he opened the 'Books on the Square' bookstore in Virden.

In June of 2008 Alexander served as chairman of an ad hoc committee that later became the Committee of Ten, the formal organization that examined the potential consolidation of the Girard and Virden school districts. That group spearheaded a referendum vote on the consolidation of the two school districts, which passed in April of 2009. He was a strong proponent for what was a very contentious initiative, and discusses the history and current issues and events that surrounded the debate. The new district is now called the North Mac school district, # 34.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** School reorganization and consolidation; school referenda; Virden, Illinois schools; Girard, Illinois schools; Committee of Ten; North Mac School District # 34;

**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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