

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Debra Reid

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project
Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-091

Debra Reid, a farm daughter who became an historian of living history farms, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and the Illinois State Museum.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 5, 2008 Location: IL State Museum, Research & Collection Ctr

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: Mike Maniscalco and Amy Moore, Illinois State Museum

Video indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 22 Total Time: 1:13 / 1.21 hours

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

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

© 2009 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Debra Reid, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-091

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Debra Reid was born in Chester, Illinois on July 2, 1960. Debra grew up on a small 200-acre farm that her father and mother had purchased five years prior to her birth. Her family was involved in numerous aspects of agriculture, including chicken egg production, feeding out cattle, hogs, and some corn and soybeans. When Debra was in high school, her parents decided they needed to have a steady income to supplement the farm, so Debra's mother went to work in a factory. In the end, Debra's parents could not take care of the farm due to their age and eventually had to sell the cattle, which was described by Debra as "a sad day for the whole family".

Debra's rural youth helped her focus her research in her academic carrier. Debra is a historian and has worked in numerous living history farms across the United States and in Denmark. She has focused much of her studies on the history of agriculture, especially as it has been practiced in Illinois. Debra shares her impressions on why Illinois is a special place for agriculture, pointing to the transportation systems, the different types of land and soil, and the different waves of immigrants.

Subject Headings/Key Words Candling Eggs; Diversified Farming; Illinois Agricultural History;

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955