

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Terry Ransom

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2004-030

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation
For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Terry Ransom was born in Champaign, Illinois in 1941. He moved to Springfield with his parents when he was still a child. He talks in detail about his family history, including his relatives that first came to Illinois in the mid-nineteenth century. Terry has conducted extensive research on the Underground Railroad and developed a map of routes passing through Illinois, which he discusses in this interview as well.

Interview date(s):	November 8, 2004
Interview Location:	Springfield, Illinois
Interview Format:	audio cassettes
Interviewer:	Jackie Wilkes
Transcription by:	_____
Edited by:	_____
Total Pages:	_____
Total Time:	1 hr, 11 min, 52 sec / 1.2 hours

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

Abstract

Terry Ransom, Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

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Biographical Information and Synopsis: Terry Ransom was born in 1941 in Champaign, Illinois. When he was still a child, he moved to Springfield with his parents who shortly thereafter got divorced. Terry became interested in history in his forties and began developing a map of the Underground Railroad routes that passed through Illinois, which is still a work in progress. Ransom talks in great detail about the Underground Railroad, focusing especially on Illinois and the involvement of Illinoisans in the Underground Railroad. He mentions some of the notable stops and routes through Illinois, including Alton, Springfield, and Quincy. He also discusses some of the problems he has encountered while studying African-American history.

Topics Covered: Springfield, 1940s-present; Underground Railroad; “Middle Africa”; Jim Gray Trial; Springfield and the Underground Railroad; Alton, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Jonathan Turner; New Philadelphia, Illinois; Frank McWhorter

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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