

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Richard Carwardine

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Historians Speak Oral History project

Interview # HSL-A-L-2018-008

Professor Richard Carwardine, a Welsh-born scholar who has spent the latter part of his professional life studying Abraham Lincoln, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Historians Speak - Lincoln* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 9, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. James Cornelius, Lincoln Curator, ALPL

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:05 / 2.08 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 12, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Richard Carwardine, *Historians Speak*, HSL-A-L-2018-008

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Born in Cardiff, Wales in 1947 but growing up in small south Wales mining villages, Richard Carwardine attended a public [i.e., private] school in Monmouth, Wales, then Oxford University for undergraduate and graduate work, completing his dissertation on American religious revivalists in the U.K. in the decades before the American civil war. He spent a year at the University of California – Berkeley in 1969-70, then taught mostly American history fulltime at Sheffield University, England from 1971-2002. He married Linda M. Kirk in 1975. He was named Rhodes Professor of American History and Institutions at Oxford University in 2002, a post he held till 2009, then served as president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, from 2010 until his retirement in 2016. His early work focused on American and Anglo-American religious activity during the 19th century, until he was asked in 2002 to write a biography of Lincoln for Longmans (acquired by Pearson) entitled *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power*. This book won the prestigious Lincoln Prize (\$50,000) even before it was published in the United States by Knopf in 2006. His serious political study, full of jokes, for the Concise Lincoln Library of S.I.U. Press, *Lincoln's Sense of Humor* (2017), brought him to Springfield again in February 2018 to speak to the annual banquet of the Abraham Lincoln Association; and at three other places in the east.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Abraham Lincoln; American religious history; Anglo-American religious history; Anti-slavery activity and the churches; Oxford University, colleges and organization; Sheffield University, England; University of California – Berkeley; *Lincoln's Sense of Humor*, published in 2006

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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