

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Michael Johnson

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

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-088

Michael Johnson, a farmer and sawmill operator, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and the Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: October 8, 2008 Location: Rural Carroll County, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support: Robert Warren, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Maniscalco and Sue Huitt, Illinois State Museum

Video indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 33 Total Time: 1:52 + 0:23 / 1.87 + 0.38 = 2:15 / 2.25 hrs

Session 1: Johnson's life as farmer and sawmill operator

Session 2: Walking interview of sawmill

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

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

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Abstract

Michael Johnson, *Oral History of IL Agriculture, AIS-V-L-2008-088*

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Michael Johnson was born on June 29th, 1949 in Elgin, Illinois. Michael grew up loving the outdoors, and his grandfather's influence led him to an interest in forestry. Today, Michael owns a farm, where he grows trees and operates a sawmill in Carroll County, IL. Most of his timber is hardwood lumber that is sold for furniture making. In addition to forestry, Michael and his wife, Patricia, have been bee keepers. They are interested in using their land in ways that are responsible and sustainable, while still making an income. Michael and Patricia are members of the Illinois State Committee for the Tree Farm System. Also a Commercial Photographer, Michael produces large-scale black and white pictures, taken primarily with a Deardorff View Camera.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Elgin, IL; Forestry; Trees; Sawmill; Carroll County; Timber; Hardwood Lumber; Furniture Making; Bee Keeper; Sustainable; Tree Farm System; Commercial Photographer; Deardorff View Camera

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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