

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sarah Ann Benner

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Community Stories Oral History project

Interview # CW-A-L-2016-024

Sarah Ann Benner, Williamsville Historical Library and Museum co-founder, curator and volunteer, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Community Stories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 2, 2016 Location: Benner Residence, Williamsville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Valerie Patterson, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:35 / 1.58

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 22, 2016.

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

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Abstract

Sarah Ann Benner, *Community Stories*, CW-A-L-2016-024

Overview of Interview: Sarah Ann Benner, life-long resident of the Williamsville area, was born June 4, 1927. Her parents were Harry H. Fleming and Cora Ellen Drake Fleming, who made their living farming. Sarah Ann was the middle child of three in the family; her sister Helen Drake Martin was born in 1916 and her brother Charles Fleming in 1933. Sarah Ann graduated from Williamsville High School in 1945. She married Donald E. Benner in 1948. Like her parents, Sarah Ann and Don were a farming family. Don and Sarah Ann had five children together: Kathy (1949), Tom (1952), Nadine (1959), Steve (1961) and Dave (1962). Sarah Ann is a life long member of the Williamsville United Methodist Church, where her parents also attended, and where she is a member of the Methodist Women. While she enjoys spending her extra time with family, as well as on ceramics, sewing and service in her church, Sarah Ann's life-long passion has been preserving local history. She is co-founder of the Williamsville Historical Library and Museum as well as the Williamsville Community Foundation. This interview details the formation of the Williamsville Community Foundation and its relationship to the Williamsville Historical Library and Museum and the boxcars in which it was housed. Sarah Ann describes her work, including the most fulfilling and challenging aspects she experienced over the years. Sarah Ann has worked closely in all aspects of the history of the Williamsville Historical Library Museum, from its inception in 1989 to its growth and finally to its merger into the Williamsville Public Library and Museum in 2013.

Contact or visit the Williamsville Public Library and Museum for additional artifacts, photographs, clippings, pamphlets and other documents that help bring this and other local history stories to life. Learn more at www.williamsville.illinois.gov.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Williamsville (Illinois) Historical Library & Museum; Williamsville Community Foundation; community volunteering; Autumn on the Boulevard in Williamsville, Illinois; historical preservation efforts; Williamsville Public Library and Museum

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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