

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Richard Herndon

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember – Cold War Oral History project

Interview # VRC-A-L-2017-079

Richard Herndon, who grew up in Springfield, Illinois in the 1960s and early '70s in a home where his father had built a fallout shelter, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – Cold War* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 23, 2017 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio/Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:14 / 1.23 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 12, 2017.

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

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Abstract

Richard Herndon, *Veterans Remember*, VRC-A-L-2017-079

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Richard Herndon was born on February 27, 1957 in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in Springfield, Illinois where his father had a private practice in internal medicine. In the early 1960s, during the height of the Cold War, Richard's father built a fallout shelter in the basement of their home on Woodland Avenue, directly east of Washington Park. The shelter was equipped with an air ventilation system and provisioned with food, water and other essential supplies. There were also several bunks in the shelter. The entire family occasionally would run drills so they knew how to react to a nuclear attack or a natural disaster.

The Herndon children were at the height of the baby boom, and when their parents were concerned about the quality of education they would receive in the Springfield public schools, they decided to send the children to a small new private school, City Day School. Following his graduation from City Day High in 1975, Richard attended Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. He spent the majority of his working career at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield in a variety of positions, finishing his career doing information technology work at the Department of Pharmacology.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Cold War era fallout shelter; Richard F. Herndon; City Day School, Springfield, Illinois; John F. Kennedy assassination;

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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