

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with R. Lee Slider

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

Interview # HSI-A-L-2019-083

R. Lee Slider, who spent a lifetime as an historic interpreter and conservationist in Macon County, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Historians Speak – Illinois History* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Oct 17 & 23, 2019 Location: Interviewer's home in Decatur, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Robert Sampson, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

**Transcript
being processed**

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:47 + 2:39 / 1.78 + 2.65 = 4.43 hrs

Session 1: Early history, military, working career and early conservation work

Session 2: Career as conservationist and historic interpreter in Macon County

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 15, 2020.

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

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Abstract

R. Lee Slider, *Historians Speak - IL*, HSI-A-L-2019-083

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Robert Lee Slider was born in Decatur, Illinois on March 12, 1934. He graduated from Decatur High School in 1953, then attended Millikin University in Decatur, majoring in history and political science.

Lee served as a cultural interpreter for the Macon County Conservation District, and from the 1960s on he was a leading activist for historical preservation, interpretation and education in central Illinois. He was also active in the field of archeology. He worked at the Homestead Prairie Farm in the Rock Springs Conservation Area southwest of Decatur for decades. The farm includes the Macon County Conservation District's restored 1850-era log home. The Illinois State Historical Society and the Illinois Council on Humanities awarded Lee for his exemplary service and dedication as the cultural interpreter for the site.

Subject Headings/Key Words: living history; Homestead Prairie Farm; Macon County Conservation District; Oakley Dam and Reservoir Project (Lake Springer, Illinois); Civil War re-enactors; Decatur history; archeology in Illinois; Rock Springs Conservation Area

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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