

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Martin

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

Interview # AI-A-L-2018-006

Thomas Martin, a farmer and entrepreneur in Logan County, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 17, 2018 Location: Family farm in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Craig Moots ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:58 / 2.97 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 19, 2019.

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

© 2018 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Thomas Martin, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AI-A-L-2018-006

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Thomas Martin was born in 1956 and grew up on the family farm two miles south of Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. Tom is the 6th generation to live on the farm, with his first ancestors arriving in Illinois in 1826. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Illinois and graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with a degree in Biology. After several years away from farming, Tom returned to the farm and was an early adopter of no-till farming and planting earlier in the season, a change from cultural practices which were designed to improve soil structure and achieve sustainably high yields.

Martin has been very active in his community as a member of the Mt. Pulaski Economic Development Board, the Mt. Pulaski Courthouse Foundation, the Agriculture Leadership Program and the development of the Lincoln Heritage Area. Other subjects discussed include changes in rural communities, the impact of local landownership verses investment ownership, changes in the landlord tenant relationship and windfarm issues. Tom was named one of three Illinois Master Farmers in 2017 by the *Illinois Times*. Tom is married and has two grown children.

Subject Headings/Key Words: agriculture in Logan County, Illinois; changes in the rural community; rural economic development; Mt. Pulaski Courthouse; economic and environmental impact of windfarms; Lincoln Heritage area; rural depopulation;

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955