

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Richard Schachtsiek
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
IHPA Legacy Oral History project
Interview # HP-A-L-2010-010

Richard Schachtsiek, a retired interpreter and site manager, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: March 3, 2010 Location: 61 Frontier Lake Drive, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Newlyn Hosea, ALPL Volunteer

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): NA

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 24 Total Time: 1:25 / 1.42 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 04/20/2010.

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

© 2010 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Richard Schachtsiek, IHPA Legacy, HP-A-L-2010-010

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Richard Schachtsiek was born on August 22nd, 1951, and grew up in Quincy Illinois. After graduating in 1969 from Petersburg's Porta High School, he attended Western Illinois University. He graduated from Western Illinois University in 1973 with a B.A in Education. In 1975 he accepted a job with the Illinois Department of Conservation as a site interpreter at New Salem. After serving approximately two years there, he became the site manager at the Bryant Cottage State Historic Site. From Bryant Cottage, Richard, returned school to obtain his M.A. in small museum administration from Eastern Illinois University, graduating in 1979. In 1982 Richard accepted a position as a site interpreter at Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield, Illinois. From there he became the site administrator at the Postville and Mt. Pulaski Court Houses state historic site. He remained in this position until 2002 when he retired.

This interview reviewed Schachtsiek's career with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency from 1975, when it was still a part of the Department of Conservation, until 2002 when he retired. He discusses the state historic sites of Bryant Cottage, New Salem, Lincoln's Tomb, and the Postville and Mt. Pulaski courthouses, addressing the historic significance of each. He discusses the change from being a division within the Conservation Department to being part of the new Historic Preservation Agency. He reflected on the differences that occurred during good and difficult financial times. He discussed the important role of local people and volunteers, especially as budgets grew tighter. Mr. Schachtsiek also addressed his relationships with local authorities and groups, other site administrators, and the administration in Springfield. Included is a discussion of the effect of the beginnings of the Abraham Presidential Library and Museum on local historic sites.

Topics Covered: General review of the career of an historic site interpreter, and site administrator for IHPA; Mid 1970s New Salem; IL Conservation Department and state historic sites; Bryant Cottage; Piatt County Historic Society; Eastern Illinois University small museum administrator program; Lincoln's Tomb; Logan County Tourism Bureau; Postville Courthouse; Mt. Pulaski Courthouse; Interactions with the IHPA; Robert Coomer; focusing on the career of Abraham Lincoln; working with local officials, volunteers, and tourism groups; impact of budget cuts on site management

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