

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Neil Dahlstrom

Part of the Illinois State Museum's and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Oral History of Agriculture in Illinois*

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-079

Neil Dahlstrom, author and John Deere Company Archivist, 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: 10/1/2008 Location: Moline, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio / Digital video

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support: Robert Warren, recording engineer, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

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Abstract

Neil Dahlstrom, *Agriculture in Illinois*, Oral History project

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Neil Dahlstrom was born on August 23, 1976 in Moline, Illinois. After completing his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in History, Neil moved to Virginia to take a job in a new commercial Space Museum. Eventually the funding for this new museum dissolved and Neil was shown a job near his home in Moline, IL. After a lot of consideration, Neil decided to take the job and move back to be the archivist for the John Deere Company. After spending some time in the company archives Neil realized a great opportunity to write a book about John Deere and the lesser known Charles Deere. Neil explained that without these two figures the company would have failed. According to Neil, John Deere was really the company salesman and after a rough start in life he was able to finally get the right mix in Moline Illinois. Neil describes Charles as the educated son of John who was less frontiersman and more businessmen. According to Neil, Charles is the reason for the company's existence today.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Moline, IL; Virginia, IL; Space Museum; Archivist; John Deere Company; Book re John and Charles Deere; John Deere; Charles Deere

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