

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Susan Henry

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-Alternatives in Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-025

Susan Henry, who home schooled her three children during the 1990s and 2000s, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 2 & May 9, 2018 Location: Susan Henry's home in Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:57 + 2:17 / 1.95 + 2.28 = 4.23 hrs

Session 1: Susan's childhood, education and experiences home schooling her children

Session 2: Experiences home schooling her children, and home school community

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 16,
2018.

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

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Abstract

Susan Henry, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-025

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Susan Henry was born in April 1959 in Boulder, Colorado. She grew up in Harvard Illinois, the oldest of four children. She attended Harvard Community High School, graduating in 1977. She then enrolled at Wheaton College, graduating in 1981 with an Illinois teaching certificate. Later that year she married John Henry, and they began their life together in Indiana. By 1992 the couple was living in Rochester, Illinois. When it came time to send their son to school in 1993, Susan and John made the decision to have Susan home school him. They later made the same decision for their two daughters as well.

Susan talks extensively about the experience of being a home school parent/teacher. She used the Abeka Homeschool curriculum, a comprehensive curriculum she had used early in her career when teaching at a parochial school in Indiana. Over time, she met other parents who were also home schooling, several through her church, Southern View Chapel in Springfield. She discussed tailoring her teaching style to each child's particular learning style, and stressed the importance of character development along with the more traditional subjects of English, math, science, and the social sciences. As the children grew older, she continued to rely on Abeka's various curricula, often supplementing them with other resources. Additionally, each child had some involvement with the local Rochester High School, including band, choir and driver's education. While in middle school she tested each child using the Iowa Test of Basic Skills to gauge their progress relative to other children. She also made sure her children were developing socially. All three children have gone on to excel in college and in their chosen professions. Susan discussed the importance of attending home school conferences and conventions, and also mentioned some of the home schooling organizations that exist to support the growing number of home school parents. These include the Illinois Christian Home Educators (ICHE) and Illinois H.O.U.S.E. (Home Oriented Unique Schooling Experience), a group which does not emphasize religion as part of the home schooling experience.

Subject Headings/Key Words: home schooling; Abeka Homeschool curricula; character development for home schooled children; Illinois Christian Home Educators (ICHE); Illinois H.O.U.S.E. (Home Oriented Unique Schooling Experience); Iowa Test of Basic Skills; Southern View Chapel, Springfield, Illinois; Wheaton College;

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