

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Beverly Helm-Renfro

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2007-043

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation
For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Beverly Helm-Renfro was born in the Chicago area and was adopted along with her brother, James Helm, in 1946. She discusses growing up in Springfield, her family, various jobs she has held, changes she has witnessed in Springfield over the years, her interests and hobbies, segregation in Springfield, and working as a secretary for state senator Barack Obama.

Interview date(s):	January 5, 2007
Interview Location:	Springfield, Illinois
Interview Format:	audio cassette
Interviewer:	Lee Patton
Transcription by:	_____
Edited by:	_____
Total Pages:	_____
Total Time:	1 hr, 3 min, 43 sec / 1.06 hrs.

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

Abstract

(Interviewee's Name), Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

Biographical Information and Synopsis: Beverly Helm-Renfro was adopted from the Chicago area in 1946 when she was six months old. She grew up in Springfield and attended Franklin Middle School and Springfield High School. After graduation, she got married and began working for the state. When her boss retired, she moved to Ohio and worked in insurance sales and foster care for eight years. Realizing that she loved working with kids, Beverly opened a day care out of her home which she operated for thirteen years. After she closed her day care, she began working as a secretary for state senator Barack Obama. Finally, she discusses segregation that she has witnessed growing up and living in Springfield

Topics Covered: Springfield, 1950s – present; ‘Doc’ Helm; foster care; changes in Springfield; Barack Obama; segregation in Springfield

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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