

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Retta Keithley

Part of the Dixon Historic Center's  
*Ronald Reagan* Oral History project

Interview # ISR-V-D-2010-067

Retta Keithley is a native of Dixon, Illinois and was just four years younger than Ronald Reagan, who attended the same schools. She was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Dixon Historic Center's *Ronald Reagan* Oral History project.

Interview dates & locations:

Date: May 2010    Location: Heritage Square

Interview Format: Digital Video

Interviewer: Rev. Scott Porter

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): Jerry Knox, Dixon Historic Center

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages:\_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 3 min / 0.05 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 30, 2015.

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

## Abstract

Retta Keithley, *Ronald Reagan*, ISR-V-D-2010-067

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Retta Keithley was born at the Dixon, Illinois Hospital and attended grade school and part of high school in Dixon. She recalls an instance where she saw Ronald “Dutch” Reagan performing in a play at the North Side Grade School, around the late 1920s. She is four years younger than Ronald Reagan so she did not know him personally. Retta also recalls a memory of Reagan walking his girlfriend, Margaret Cleaver, home, while all of the grade school kids were heckling him. Retta passed away on March 25, 2016 in Dixon, Illinois.

**Subject Headings/Keywords:** young Ronald Reagan in Dixon, Illinois; Dixon, Illinois Hospital; Margaret Cleaver; North Side Grade School

**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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