

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Bruce McMillan

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Family Memories Oral History project

Interview # OSM-A-L-2018-002

Bruce McMillan, former Illinois State Museum Director, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Organizations & Agencies – Illinois State Museum* Oral History project.

Interview dates: 22-23 & 31 Jan 2018

Location: Museum of Art and Archaeology, Museum Support Center, University of Missouri-Columbia

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark Flotow, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:45 + 0:57 / 1.75 + 0.95 = 2.7 hrs

Session 1: Early life, training as an anthropologist and Career with IL State Museum

Session 2: Emiquon Wetlands project, later career at ISM and it's closure in 2015

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 2, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Bruce McMillan, *Family Memories*, OSM-A-L-2018-002

Biographical Information Interview: Robert Bruce McMillan was born December 3, 1937 in Springfield, Missouri. His parents, both teachers, settled during Bruce McMillan's formative years in Steelville, Missouri, where he graduated from high school in 1956. He earned a B.S. in Education from Southwest Missouri State College (now Missouri State University) in 1960, and an M.A. in Anthropology at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1963. McMillan did archaeological fieldwork with Dr. Carl Chapman, considered the foremost Missouri archaeologist of the time. McMillan furthered his graduate training at the University of Colorado-Boulder, earning his Ph.D. in 1971. McMillan moved to Illinois in 1969 when he accepted a position as Associate Curator of Anthropology with the Illinois State Museum. He advanced to Curator and Head of the Anthropology Section, then to Assistant Museum Director, and then Director, a position in which he served from 1977 – 2005. McMillan guided the Museum through a period of rapid expansion from two to six facilities. The Illinois State Museum was known for its excellence in interdisciplinary research and innovation in exhibits and education. The Research and Collections Center in Springfield became a state-of-the-art facility that attracted scholars and researchers from around the world. The Dickson Mounds Museum near Lewistown received a major renovation after the federal Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 became law, and after on-site protests by Native American representatives. McMillan served on numerous boards and oversight commissions and became active in national museum associations and their accreditation efforts. Among McMillan's honors was a recognition by the U.S. Senate of his service in 2006. In 2007, he became an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he pursued research and added to scientific knowledge through publications.

Topics Covered: Interdisciplinary Quaternary Studies Program (later called Landscape History program); Illinois State Museum (ISM) centennial (1977); Dickson Mounds Museum; Cahokia Mounds; Illinois Artisans program; development of IL State Museum Research and Collections Center; ISM Society; ISM public outreach efforts; Emiquon Wetlands project; Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA); Peoples of the Past exhibit; Harvesting the River exhibit; relationship with the Russian Academy of Sciences; museum accreditation; "The Living Museum" publication; October 2015 closure of IL State Museum

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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