

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William R. Iseminger

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*IHPA Legacy* Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2017-038

William R. Iseminger, Senior Interpreter for Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's IHPA Legacy Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 24, 2017

Location: Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio/Digital video

Interviewer: Pete Harbison

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:56 / 1.93 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 26, 2017.

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

Transcript  
being processed

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## Abstract

### William Iseminger, IHPA Legacy, HP-A-L-2017- 038

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** William (Bill) Iseminger was born in Bloomington, Illinois in September, 1944. He grew up in Arlington, Virginia. Bill graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1967 with a B.A. degree in anthropology. He attended Southern Illinois University from 1967-1971 and received a M.A. anthropology.

Iseminger worked on digs at Dickson Mounds in 1967 and Cahokia Mounds in 1968. He was hired to work at Cahokia Mounds as a full time employee in 1971. Iseminger has experienced firsthand all the many changes to the site as well as the archaeological information that has been uncovered over the last fifty years. The biggest changes at the site have been undertaken to restore as much of the original features as possible, and to preserve the site. These changes include physically manipulating the surrounding environment, purchasing property, constructing a new museum and making changes to how the site operates.

Iseminger discusses how the following changes impacted Cahokia Mounds: inclusion as a World Heritage site; increased land acquisition; change from an Illinois State Park to State Historic Site and related management and emphases; reconstruction of Woodhenge on site; opening the new museum; installing stairs up Monks Mound; removal of subdivision, airport, drive-in theater, tract houses and other site intrusions; increased archaeological research

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Cahokia Mounds; archaeology of Native American sites; Mississippian Period of Native American history; Dickson Mounds; World Heritage Site; Illinois State Museum; Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency

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