

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jacqueline (Jackie) Stites

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

Interview # FM-A-D-2014-054

Jacqueline (Jackie) Stites, whose volunteer work at the Elijah Iles House, Governor's Executive Mansion, and ALPLM provides insights into community service throughout Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below and donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Family Memories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: November 10, 2014

Location: University of Illinois-Springfield, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Beth Kruse, University of Illinois-Springfield History Graduate Student

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 0:52 / 0.87 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 7, 2017.

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

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Jacqueline (Jackie) Stites, *Family Memories*, FM-A-D-2014-054

Biographical Information: Jackie Stites (Coleman) was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1940. Her father, Albert Coleman, was a U.S. postal time clerk and later a civil service examiner. Her mother, Sylvia Coleman (Thompson), worked as an executive assistant. Jackie was the youngest of three children, siblings Ronald and Roberta preceding her in 1930 and 1938, respectively. She graduated from Feitshans High School in 1958, the very same year that she married her high school sweetheart John Stites. Jackie and John had three children together, John Jr. in 1959, James in 1961, and Kim in 1963. Jackie first found work as an Avon representative, then as a typist at Sangamon Electric, until finally she found work at Springfield Public School District #186 as an administrative assistant to the principal. John's career spanned over 46 years in the Production Department of the State Journal Register. The pair both retired by the early 2000s and loved travelling together in their new free time. Jackie also further dedicated much of her free time to various volunteer organizations throughout the Springfield area. Today, now widowed, Jackie still continues to give back to her community.

Overview of Interview: This interview covers Jackie's long dedication to volunteerism in the Springfield, Illinois area. It begins with her first experiences with community service, serving as Parent Teacher Association President at Hazel Dell School, Jefferson Middle School, and Southeast High School. It then primarily deals with Jackie's volunteer efforts outside of the school district, at the Elijah Iles House, Governor's Executive Mansion, and the ALPLM. As she recounts her time with these organizations, Jackie gives an insight into not only the state of community service at the time, but also to the current roles and conditions of these places. She reflects on how volunteerism has evolved since the 1960s and tells of the prominent Illinois statesmen she has got to meet through her work. Throughout the interview, Jackie stresses how vital volunteerism is to these organizations as well as how it brings the community together.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Springfield, Illinois; volunteerism; Elijah Iles House; Governor's Executive Mansion; ALPLM

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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