

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kay Smith

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Organizations & Agencies – Looking for Lincoln* Oral History project

Interview # LFL-A-L-2018-026

Kay Smith, former Executive Director for Looking for Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Organizations & Agencies – Looking for Lincoln* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 24, 2018

Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Heather Wickens, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 0:50 / 0.83 hrs.

Session 1: Creation of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area's comprehensive management plan.

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

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# Abstract

## Kay Smith, *Looking for Lincoln*, LFL-A-L-2018-026

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Kay Thread was born in September 1950 in Robinson, Illinois and grew up in Springfield, Illinois. Following high school graduation, she attended college for several years, then married Jerry Smith in 1972. The couple moved away from Springfield the following year. Kay served as a chief assistant in a major law firm for many years. In 2006 the Smiths returned to Springfield, where Kay volunteered at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. She soon applied for and received a contract to serve as the Lincoln Bicentennial Coordinator for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's (IHPA). In that capacity Smith coordinated all of the events related to the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 2009. Following, her work as the Lincoln Bicentennial Coordinator, Smith served as the Executive Director of Looking for Lincoln.

This interview covers Kay's work with the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition as a contractor and then Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area from late 2009 through 2011. Smith discusses her involvement in the development of the comprehensive management plan for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. She also talks about several other projects and programs that were occurring while she served as its executive director.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area; Looking for Lincoln; Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition; Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA); Dr. Bryon Andreasen; Brett Stawar; Nicky Stratton; Sheila Blodgett; Hal Smith; Sarah Watson; Robert Crosby; Jeanette Cowden; (Cyndi) Cynthia Fleischli; Sue Pridemore (National Park Service); Heritage Strategies; Peter Benton (Peter from Heritage Strategies); A. Elizabeth Watson (Elizabeth from Heritage Strategies);

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