

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James A. Rapp

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-Community College Oral History project

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-047

James “Jim” A. Rapp, John Wood Community College’s long-time attorney, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s *Education is Key-Community College* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 21, 2013 Quincy, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Susan Burke ALPL Volunteer

Edited by: Janice Culp

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

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Abstract

James A. Rapp, Education, Key-Community College, EC-A-L-2013-047

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: James “Jim” Rapp was born in Williamson, West Virginia in 1949, a region noted for the famous Hatfield/McCoy feuds. Jim’s father worked as the company surgeon for the coal mines before moving to Quincy, Illinois. His mother, after raising the family, earned a degree from Quincy College and then became a CPA. Jim graduated from Christian Brothers High School and later received a BS from the University of Illinois. Later, he graduated from the Washington University School of Law. Jim is an attorney with Schmiedeskamp, Robertson, Neu and Mitchell, LLP in Quincy, Illinois. He began his career with John Wood Community College as the school’s attorney in 1974 and still holds that position. Jim represented JWCC before the Illinois Supreme Court to establish its validity. He has written numerous journal articles, has published a seven volume Educator Law Guide, and is a frequent public speaker on various school matters. This interview chronicles the history of John Wood Community College, from 1974-2013, and explores its unique formation, its experiment with “School Without Walls,” and its transition to an extension campus serving western Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: John Wood Community College; Common Market Service; “Classrooms Without Walls”; interscholastic sports; 1973 Senate Bill 1188; Rey Brune; Spaulding Illinois Community College Board; Dr. Paul Heath; “Open Learning Center”; Perry Agricultural Center.

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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