

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Geneva Sweet

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-025

Geneva Sweet, lifelong farmer, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: April 3, 2008

Location: Jacksonville IL

Interview Format: Digital audio / Digital video

Interviewer: Michael Maniscalco, IL State Museum Oral Historian

Technical Support: Robert Warren, camera, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Michael Maniscalco and Amy Moore, Illinois State Museum

Video indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

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

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# Abstract

Geneva Sweet, *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-025

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Geneva Hart was born on August 28, 1911 and now lives by herself on her husband's family farm three miles north of Franklin, Illinois. She rents out the majority of the land, but has retained sixty acres for planting corn. Geneva's mother, Clair Bell, was a school teacher who taught school in one room school houses in and around Franklin, Illinois during the early 1900's. Her father, W.C. "Will" Hart, was a blacksmith as well as a judge in Franklin. Geneva still remembers her father holding court on the front lawn of their home under a large tree. She particularly remembers going with her mother during shucking time when her mother and grandmother would cook large meals for the shucking crew.

Around 1930 Geneva married E. Leroy Sweet, and moved out to the family farm. In approximately 1945 she and her husband took over the operation of that farm. They had three children, who helped out with chores on the farm. Geneva remembers when the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) brought electricity to the farm. It was Geneva's job to cook and clean the home, spending a lot of time dressing chickens for dinner, but she also performed many of the farm tasks normally associated with men, including feeding the hogs and driving the tractor. The majority of her garden produce was canned and stored for winter consumption.

**Topics Covered:** Franklin Illinois; Crops; Farm House; One Room School House; Blacksmithing, Old time Courts, Corn Shucking Time; Waverly IL; Star Store; E. Leroy Sweet; REA (Rural Electric Association); gender roles; garden; canning

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