

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Mark Plummer

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Historians Speak* Oral History project

Interview # HS-A-L-2008-045

Mark Plummer, an eminent Lincoln Historian and Professor of History at Illinois State University, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Historians Speak* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 12, 2008      Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. John Hoffmann, ALPL volunteer

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL Volunteer

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff & \_\_\_\_\_, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1 hr 58 min / 1.97 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 5, 2008.

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

Interview being  
processed

© 2008 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

# Abstract

Mark Plummer, *Historians Speak*, HS-A-L-2008-045

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Mark A. Plummer was born on June 1, 1933, in Seneca, Missouri, and grew up in that small town on the Oklahoma border. He attended the University of Missouri at Columbia for two years and then transferred to Pittsburg (Kansas) State University, where he received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in 1951 and 1952, and became particularly interested in American and Asian history. After serving in the U.S. Army in Europe, he taught high school in Kansas City, Kansas, before pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Kansas.

A member of the faculty of Illinois State University from 1960 to 1994, Plummer was chair or acting chair of the Department of History on three occasions. His major publications include *Lincoln's Rail-splitter: Richard J. Oglesby*; *Robert G. Ingersoll: Peoria's Pagan Politician*; and *Frontier Governor: Samuel J. Crawford of Kansas*. He also served as president of the Illinois State Historical Society.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Parents; mentors (including Dudley Taylor Cornish and Robert W. Johannsen); sports (including football and coaching); nineteenth-century Kansas and Illinois political history; the history of Japan and China; Fulbright professorship at National Taiwan University, and other trips to East Asian; teaching undergraduate courses and advising graduate theses at Illinois State University.

**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.

## COPYRIGHT

**The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**