



Oral History of Illinois Agriculture

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Abstract: Frederick Henry Baumberger was born in Reno, Illinois on May 17, 1920, of German and Swiss ancestors. The family initially settled the land in the 1830s. Baumberger attended Blackburn Junior College, then was drafted into the Army, seeing action in the Pacific theater, where he participated in several landings, including on Leyte in the Philippines. He returned to farming after the war, and later got involved in farm organizations, including the Soil Conservation Board, the Bond County C U #2 Board of Education, the 4-H, the Utlaut Hospital Board, and the creation of the Academic Foundation. Baumberger also raised standard bred race horses, served as a farm reporter for WGEL radio, and also served on the Reno and the Bond County Unit #2 Board of Education, where he was involved in a school consolidation, especially the Forrest-Strawn-Wing school district.

Keywords: Grain and Livestock farming in central Illinois; school consolidation; Bond County Unit #2 Board of Education; Illinois Master Farmer program; soil conservation; Leyte Gulf, Philippines; Utlaut Hospital Board; Forrest-Strawn-Wing school consolidation; Works Progress Administration; 4-H; hospital development; Academic Foundation; WGEL radio; raising standard bred race horses; author of *My Life History* (unpublished memoir)

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