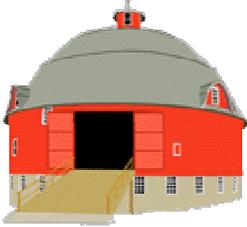


Oral History of Illinois Agriculture



Land Management Essay

The 2008 oral history of the late Michael Scully, grandson of landowner William Scully, has descriptions of the management of tenant farms.

What is a tenant Farm? What is cash rent? How does this system differ from sharecropping and land ownership by purchase or inheritance? What are the positives and negatives of this system from the landowner and tenant farmer points of view?

Research the different land management systems

Illinois State Museum



[Http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/](http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/)

Land Management Systems in America

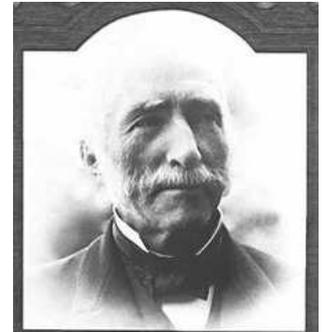
in agriculture and apply that knowledge to your analysis. There are oral interviews in the OHIA database that discuss cash rent today, land systems in England, Scotland, and Germany, and the influence of those cultures' systems on American agriculture.

Listen to the video segments of the Michael Scully oral history (<http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/viewclip/3083>) in which Scully describes the tenant system of his grandfather's and father's estates of over 250,000 acres in several states,

including Illinois. Make note of the Scullys' focus on the merits of the cash rent system and tenants' rights. <http://ohia.museum.state.il.us/oral-history/cliplist/242>

Also listen to the segments of today's farmers and their family's experiences:

<http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/viewclip/3232> — William Hubbard
<http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/viewclip/3722> — Roger Brown
<http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/viewclip/3002> — Doug Parrett
<http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/viewclip/592> — Karl Boekenhauer



William Scully, Grandfather and American Patriarch, who purchased almost 250,000 acres of land in Illinois and other state by 1860: Photo from William Scully and the Scully Estates of Logan County, Illinois by Paul J. Beaver

Research Newspapers

Special points of interest:

- Introduction
- Research Newspapers
- Print Resources
- Writing or Discussion
- Learning Standards
- Parents and Teachers

Use a web browser to find articles on William Scully and the Scully Estates. Some are listed below. Read them and take notes, noting any contradictions in stated facts or attitudes and noting the dates at which these articles were written.

Access biographies of William Scully, listed below. Other research

includes learning about the Irish land system of the mid-nineteenth century, tenant farming systems in the US, and land speculators in the Midwest in 1850.

Compare Michael Scully's comments and explanations of his father's and grandfather's farm practices with the newspaper articles, editorials, and books on

the subject.

How are the related versions similar? How are they different? Whose point of view is espoused in each source? How did the Irish system of land management fare in the United States from 1850 to 1950? What systems took its place on the large holdings of Scully and others? Why?

Print Resources on William Scully

Research Sources:

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,765942,00.html> Big Deal in Bates County. August 11, 1941 Time Magazine.

<http://www.lincolncourier.com/archive/x1644563963/Logan-County-land-heir-Scully-dies> Obituary of Michael Scully with family background, Lincoln Courier, 2008

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9D07E6DD1E39E033A25755C1A9679D94649ED7CF> WILLIAM SCULLY'S METHODS; How the Notorious Land Monopolist Treats His Tenants. From *The Chicago Inter-Ocean*. November 16, 1895, Wednesday, Page 14, 552 words

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9D01E7DC1330E533A25753C2A9659C94679FD7CF> "Irish Landlords in America" March 20, 1886, *New York Times*

<http://books.google.com/books?id=cP5Irh8xmgC&pg=PA129&lpg=PA129&dq=william>

m+scully+land&source=bl&ots=HPTpa4u-AV&sig=P2XX2hELd63VujTkii6JPzBYFpI&hl=en&ei=nbOuSbHP E JGjtgfyg LHBBg&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=10&ct=result Homer Socolovsky, "American Land Policies and William Scully," P. 129- of *Working the Range* by John Wunder. Greenwood Publishing Group, 1985

http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/chicagotribune/results.html?st=advanced&QryTxt=William+Scully&type=historic&sortby=REVERSE_CHRON&datetype=6&frommonth=01&fromday=01&fromyear=1886&tomonth=03&today=31&toyear=1886&By=&Title=&restrict=articles List of articles on William Scully in the 1886 *Chicago Tribune*.

www.geocities.com/findinglincolnillinois/.../beaverscullypages.pdf Advertisement for *William Scully of the Scully Estates in Logan County, Illinois* by Paul Beaver, 2003.

Resources on Land Management:

Cash Rent Leases pdf by University of Iowa. www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/FM1801.pdf

Google:

CASH RENT FARMING to find many interesting sources telling the advantages, disadvantages, and statistics on cash rent farming today. OWNING VERSUS LEASING FARM LAND will give you similar results about the economics.

JSTOR article:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/136552?cookieSet=1> "English Land Tenure on the North American Continent: a Summary" explains the feudal system as it evolved in Canada during colonial times.

You can download this presentation at slide-share.

<http://www.slideshare.net/beachta/ch19-1-agriculture-and-the-land> It is a high school illustrated presentation on farming and the land—history of land systems in Europe from 1650 to 1850, showing us how many of our ancestors lived.

Persuasive Writing or Discussion

Compare Michael Scully's comments and explanations of his father's and grandfather's farm practices with the newspaper articles, editorials, and books on the subject. How are the related versions similar? How are they different? Whose point of view is espoused in each source? How did the Irish

system of land management fare in the United States from 1850 to 1950? What systems took its place on the large holdings of Scully and others? Why?

Make conclusions about what you learned on the issue of land management systems. Give economic and historical reasons for

your point of view. Use examples from your research to bolster your reasoning. Include timeframes in your conclusions – whether under some conditions, one type of land management emerges as more economically sustainable than another, and who, if anyone gains.

Learning Standards for Teachers

Illinois Standards for Social Studies:

Middle School: 16A.3c: Identify the differences between historical fact and interpretation.

High School: 16A5a: Analyze historical ... developments using methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support inferences with evidence, report findings).

Descriptor for economic systems: 16C: Identify economic choices (e.g., crops to plant,

items to trade) made by people in the past and present.

National Standards: Historical Thinking Skills: 3- Historical analysis and interpretation

Illinois Standards for Language Arts – Writing:

Middle School: 3C3a: write for a variety of purposes and for specific audiences in various formats.

Descriptor for Persuasive writing: Compose a multi-page persuasive

piece that presents one position of an issue that offers sufficient support through multiple strategies (e.g., cause/effect, compare/contrast).

Rubrics: Here are some online rubrics for persuasive writing
<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/research/RubricsSelfPE.htm>
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/25653/Persuasive-Writing-Rubric-TLE>
www.howard.edu/library/Assist/Guides/rubrics/historical.pdf

For Parents or Teachers

This activity involves persuasive essay writing or discussion after doing research on an historical topic.

Primary sources such as audio and video oral histories, newspaper articles, and documents such as lease agreements are used to give evidence of facts and attitudes of the time.

Many people take it for granted in the United States that farmers own their own land. Tales of the pioneers and western settlement reinforce this attitude. Many of the immigrants to the United States came here precisely because they could not own land in their home country, such as Ireland, Scotland, or England.

There are reasons why farmers either want to own their land, or why they may want to rent land. Discover the ups and downs of both types of land management in agriculture.

“It cost almost as much to lease land in England as it did in Illinois to buy it”

— Stephen Black, talking about his ancestors who came to Illinois in 1920.

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