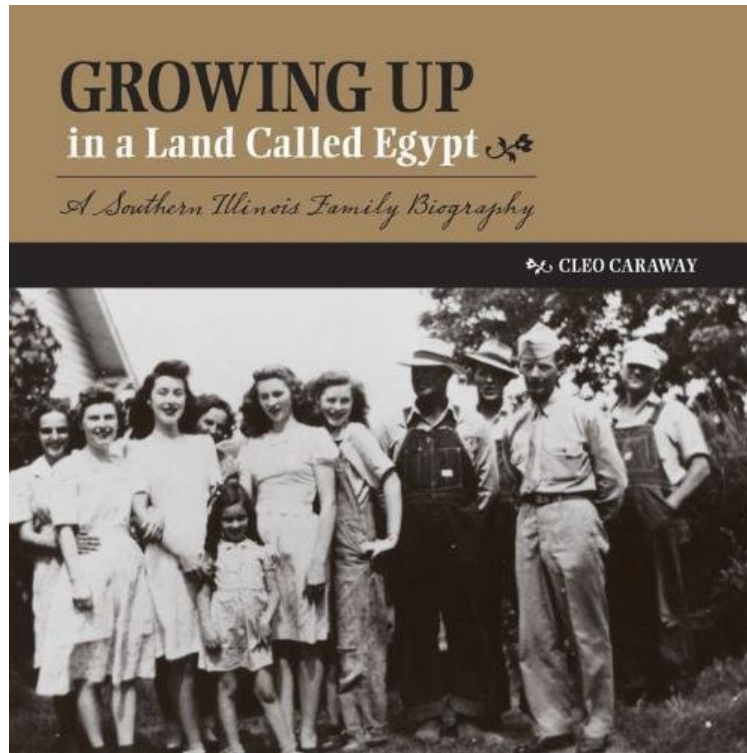


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Growing Up in a Land Called Egypt: A Southern Illinois Family Biography (Shawnee Books)

Cleo Caraway

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Cleo Caraway : Growing Up in a Land Called Egypt: A Southern Illinois Family Biography (Shawnee Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Growing Up in a Land Called Egypt: A Southern Illinois Family Biography (Shawnee Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Egypt over there...Egypt over here in the USA By KitA relative turned me on to this book...because there's a photo of my Dad and his family in it. I was surprised what an interesting read it was...I grew up in Southern Missouri, just across the river from "the land called Egypt" which was named that because where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers meet, it's very much like the Nile delta...and a lot of the towns in the area were named for Egyptian cities...bet you didn't realize that!!! If you like this, don't miss Foothold on a Hillside...written by Cleo Caraway's Dad before this book was written...both very interesting 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It took me home again. By joe suitss I have not lived in Illinois for over 25 years, and although the book is from an even earlier time, I absorbed the sense of my home and the area I grew up in. Excellent read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Growing Up in a Land Called Egypt: A Southern Illinois Family...By American Mom A gift purchased for my brother who grew up in Southern Illinois. They enjoyed it very much. Very nostalgic to read.

In Growing Up in a Land Called Egypt: A Southern Illinois Family Biography, author Cleo Caraway fondly recalls

how she and her siblings came of age on the family farm in the 1930s and 1940s. Like many others, the Caraways were affected by the economic hardships of the Great Depression, but Cleo's parents strived to shelter her and her six siblings from the dire circumstances affecting the nation and their home and allowed them to bask in their idealistic existence. Her love for her family clearly shines from every page as she writes of a simpler time, before World War II divided the family. Caraway revels in the life her family lived on a southern Illinois hilltop in Murphysboro township, marveling at the mix of commonplace and adventure she experienced in her childhood. She remembers her first day of school, walking three miles to the wondrous one-room building with her siblings; reminisces about strolling through the countryside with her mother, investigating the various plants and flowers, fruits and nuts; and recollects her fascination with the Indian relics she found buried near her home, a hobby she shared with her father. She also writes of seeing *Gone with the Wind* on the big screen at the Hippodrome in Murphysboro, of learning to sew dresses for her dolls, and of idyllic life on the farm—milking cows, hatching chicks, feeding pigs. Along with her personal memories Caraway includes interviews with neighbors and many fascinating photographs with detailed captions that make the images come alive. A delightful follow-up to her father's popular *Foothold on a Hillside: Memories of a Southern Illinoisan*, Caraway's book is a pleasant change from the typical accounts of southern Illinois before, during, and after the Great Depression. Instead of hardscrabble grit, *Growing Up in a Land Called Egypt* offers a refreshingly different view of the period and is certain to be embraced by southern Illinois natives as well as anyone interested in the experiences of a rural family that thrived despite the difficult times. The author's lighthearted prose, self-deprecating humor, and genuine affection for her family make reading this book a rich and memorable experience.

About the Author Cleo Caraway worked for the Forestry Sciences Laboratory on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale for more than forty years. She is a recipient of the USDA Honor Award for Superior Service.