

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larzette Hale-Wilson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hale, Larzette Golden, 1920-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larzette Hale-Wilson,
Dates:	March 17, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	2 Betacame SP videocassettes (0:51:06).
Abstract:	Accountant and association chief executive Larzette Hale-Wilson (1920 - 2015) was the first black female CPA in the United States to also hold a Ph. D. in accounting. As president of the AKA sorority, she initiated the sorority's coordinated central accounting system and began the Heritage Series, which produced more than five thousand copies of booklets on the accomplishments of contemporary African American women. Hale-Wilson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 17, 2008, in Logan, Utah. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_056
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Accountant and association chief executive Larzette Golden Hale-Wilson was born in Idabel, Oklahoma, to Thomas and Mary Golden. In 1966, Hale-Wilson was elected the 17th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. Under Hale-Wilson's leadership, the AKA Sorority underlined the accomplishments of contemporary African American women through the founding of its Heritage Series. She is also the first black female Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in the United States to also hold a Ph.D. in accounting.

Hale-Wilson was initiated into the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at Langston University in 1937. She went on to graduate summa cum laude with her B.S. degree in business administration and secondary education in 1937. Hale-Wilson then married her college sweetheart, Dr. Henry William Hale in 1940. After completing her undergraduate studies, Hale-Wilson worked as a secretary to the business manager at her alma mater. She later enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she earned her M.A. degree in accounting and finance in 1943. In 1951, Hale-Wilson passed the Certified Public Accountant Examination, and in 1955, she earned her Ph.D. in accounting. She established her own CPA office in Atlanta that same year .

In 1958, Hale-Wilson was elected to the office of International Treasurer at the Golden Anniversary Boulé and used her professional skills to initiate the AKA Sorority's coordinated central accounting system. She went on to serve as the Basileus-Elect in 1964, and in 1966, she was elected as the 17th International President of the Sorority. In 1968, Hale-Wilson began the Heritage Series and produced more than five thousand copies of booklets on the accomplishments of contemporary African American women.

In 1971, Hale-Wilson and her family moved to Utah, and she was hired as a professor of accounting at Utah State University. She went on to write several articles in various business education journals including *The Balance*

Sheet and the Journal of Business. In 1974, Hale-Wilson was appointed by the governor of Utah to the State's Committee on Cultural Awareness and later she served as chair of the supervisory committee of the Utah State University Credit Union.

Larzette Hale-Wilson passed away on February 5, 2015.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Larzette Hale-Wilson was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 17, 2008, in Logan, Utah, and was recorded on 2 Betacame SP videocassettes. Accountant and association chief executive Larzette Hale-Wilson (1920 - 2015) was the first black female CPA in the United States to also hold a Ph. D. in accounting. As president of the AKA sorority, she initiated the sorority's coordinated central accounting system and began the Heritage Series, which produced more than five thousand copies of booklets on the accomplishments of contemporary African American women.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Hale, Larzette Golden, 1920-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hale, Larzette Golden, 1920---Interviews

Women accountants--Interviews

African American accountants--Interviews

Accounting teachers--Interviews

African American Greek letter societies--Interviews

African American women executives--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Occupations:

Association Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larzette Hale-Wilson, March 17, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual

(Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Larzette Hale-Wilson, Section A2008_056_001_001, TRT: 0:30:05 ?

Larzette Hale-Wilson was born on June 8, 1920 in Idabel, Oklahoma to Mary Henderson Golden and Thomas Golden. Hale-Wilson's mother was raised by her uncle when her mother passed away. She valued education despite only reaching the eighth grade. When Hale-Wilson was ten years old, her father died, and her mother could not care for her and her sister so they were placed in an orphanage; but they all stayed in contact. Hale-Wilson worked her way through Langston University, where she met her first husband, William H. Hale, who later became the university's president. In 1939, Hale-Wilson helped found the campus' Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority chapter. She was later selected as treasurer of the sorority; and inspired by supreme basileus Edna Over Grey Campbell, she decided to run for higher office. She was elected supreme basileus in 1966, and established an investment fund, a travel scholarship and the Negro Heritage Brochure. She describes her leadership style; and talks about the problem of hazing in sororities.

Women accountants--Interviews.

African American accountants--Interviews.

Accounting teachers--Interviews.

African American women executives--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Larzette Hale-Wilson, Section A2008_056_001_002, TRT: 0:21:01 ?

Larzette Hale-Wilson gained leadership training and teamwork skills through her work as supreme basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She worked with other sorors like Bernice Irene Sumlin during her tenure. Hale-Wilson describes what sisterhood means to her; reflects upon her time as supreme basileus; and offers advice for future leaders of the sorority. She regards her financial work with the sorority as one of her greatest accomplishments, and talks about the success of the undergraduate members of the sorority. Hale-Wilson describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community, which includes her hope for an African American president. She talks about the value of an organization like The HistoryMakers, and the importance of making African American history widely available. Hale-Wilson reflects upon her life, legacy, and how she would like to be remembered.