

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Harvey

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Harvey, William J., 1941-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Harvey,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 14, 2010
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2010
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:15:39).
<b>Abstract:</b>	University president William Harvey (1941 - ) was a highly lauded educational administrator and served as the president of Hampton University for over three decades. Harvey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 14, 2010, in Hampton, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2010_031
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. William R. Harvey is President of Hampton University and 100% owner of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Houghton, Michigan. A native of Brewton, Alabama, he is a graduate of Southern Normal High School and Talladega College. He earned his doctorate in College Administration from Harvard University in 1972. Before coming to Hampton thirty-two years ago, he held administrative posts at Harvard, Fisk, and Tuskegee universities.

Since Dr. Harvey became President in 1978, student enrollment has increased from approximately 2,700 to approximately 6,300. Seventy-six new academic programs have been introduced including PhD's in physics, pharmacy, nursing, atmospheric and planetary science, and physical therapy. During that time, he has built 18 new buildings. Dr. Harvey initiated a university-owned commercial development consisting of a shopping center and 246 two-bedroom apartments. The Project creates jobs, provides services, has increased the number of African-American entrepreneurs, and expanded the tax base in the City of Hampton.

His achievements have been recognized through inclusion in Personalities of the South, Who's Who in the South and Southeast, Who's Who in Black America, Who's Who in Education, International Who's Who of Intellectuals, Two Thousand Notable Americans, Who's Who in Business and Finance, and Who's Who in America. Dr. Harvey is married to the former Norma Baker of Martinsville, Virginia, and they have three children—Kelly Renee, William Christopher, and Leslie Denise—and three grandchildren—Taylor, Gabrielle, and Lauren.

William R. Harvey was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 14, 2010.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Harvey was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 14, 2010, in Hampton, Virginia, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. University president William

Harvey (1941 - ) was a highly lauded educational administrator and served as the president of Hampton University for over three decades.

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# 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®.

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# 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.

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# Controlled Access Terms

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

## Persons:

Harvey, William J., 1941-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Harvey, William J., 1941- --Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Hampton University

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# Occupations:

University President

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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# 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 William Harvey, May 14, 2010. 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).

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# 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.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with William Harvey, Section A2010\_031\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:02 ? William Harvey was born on January 29, 1941 in Brewton, Alabama to Claudis Parker Harvey and W.D.C. Harvey. Harvey's maternal great-grandmother was a member of the Creek tribe. His maternal grandparents, Mamie Parker and William Parker, raised their children in Monroeville, Alabama, where Harvey's mother graduated as the salutatorian of the Bethlehem Industrial Academy. After the death of his maternal grandfather, his maternal grandmother relocated her family to Pensacola, Florida. Harvey's paternal great-grandfather was white, and his family was estranged from their white relatives. Harvey's father was the owner of the Harvey Builders firm and a prominent civil rights activist in

southeast Alabama, where he served as president of the local NAACP and SCLC chapters. He often met with civil rights leaders like John L. LeFlore and A.D. King. In Brewton, Harvey's paternal uncle, Edd Hollinger, owned a barbershop with an all-white clientele; and Harvey was educated at the private Southern Normal School.

Video Oral History Interview with William Harvey, Section A2010\_031\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:21 ?

William Harvey grew up in Brewton, Alabama, where his father, W.D.C. Harvey, worked as a construction contractor in the black community. His father was also a leader of the local civil rights movement, and encouraged Harvey and his siblings to use white-only facilities despite the strict segregation laws. After kindergarten, Harvey enrolled at Brewton's Southern Normal School, a private, all-black boarding school founded by philanthropist James Dooley during Reconstruction. There, he played football and basketball, and was influenced by the institution's strict rules. Harvey earned a high school diploma in 1957, and matriculated at the Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. With his classmate, Charles Ray, he founded a student civil rights group that became the model for SNCC. Around 1958, Harvey gave the opening remarks for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Later that night, the church was attacked by white supremacists.

Video Oral History Interview with William Harvey, Section A2010\_031\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:52 ?

William Harvey's father, W.D.C. Harvey, was a civil rights leader in Alabama. From an early age, Harvey witnessed threats of violence against his father, as well as his father's meetings with activists like A.D. King of the SCLC and John L. LeFlore, who founded the NAACP branch in Mobile, Alabama. Harvey studied history at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama, where he organized a group of student activists. He led a student march in Anniston, Alabama after an African American man was beaten there for using a white waiting room. The demonstrators were attacked by white counter protestors, and the Ku Klux Klan threatened to besiege the campus of Talladega College; but, after the community armed the students with guns, the threats subsided. During this time, Harvey's group received the tacit approval of Talladega College President Arthur D. Gray. After graduating in 1961, Harvey joined the U.S. Army, and was assigned to serve as an official historian at the Seventh Army headquarters in Germany.

Video Oral History Interview with William Harvey, Section A2010\_031\_001\_004, TRT: 0:28:31 ?

William Harvey enrolled in a master's degree program at Virginia State College in Petersburg, Virginia. There, he was influenced by Professor Edgar Toppin, a scholar of black history; and met Norma Baker Harvey, whom he later married. Harvey began a thesis on the black recipients of the Medal of Honor, but decided instead to study college administration at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he earned a degree in 1972. He was offered positions at Dartmouth College and the University of Connecticut at Storrs, but decided to devote his career to historically black schools. He served for two years as the assistant to the president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and then became the vice president of the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. In 1980, Harvey was named the president of Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, where he served for over three decades. During his tenure, he established high standards of behavior and service, and solicited input from the faculty and students.

Video Oral History Interview with William Harvey, Section A2010\_031\_001\_005, TRT: 0:20:53 ?

William Harvey served for over thirty years as the president of Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. During this time, he increased the university's

endowment from \$29 million to over \$250 million. He was a vocal supporter of Barack Obama's presidential campaign, for which he hosted a fundraising event in the spring of 2007. After the election, Harvey served on the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs, and invited President Obama to deliver the commencement address to Hampton University's class of 2010. Harvey was married to Norma Baker Harvey, with whom he had three children. He reflects upon his life, legacy and how he would like to be remembered.