

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lillian S. Williams

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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>	Williams, Lillian Serece
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 22, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:38:49).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Professor Lillian S. Williams was an associate professor at State University of New York at Buffalo. She also authored several articles and books, including <i>Strangers in the Land of Paradise</i> , published in 1999. Williams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 22, 2018, in Niagara Falls, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_074
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor Lillian S. Williams was born on February 19, 1944 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to Ada L. Williams and James L. Williams, Sr. Williams graduated from Niagara Falls High School in Niagara Falls, New York in 1962, and earned her B.A. degree in history from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1966. After working as a high school history teacher for several years, Williams went to earn her M.A. degree in history in 1973 and her Ph.D. degree in urban history in 1979, both from the State University of New York at Buffalo. While there, Williams founded the African American Historical Society of the Niagara Frontier in 1974, and served as associate editor of the *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History Journal* starting in 1977.

Williams worked as an assistant professor in the department of history at Howard University from 1979 until 1986, when she became a visiting professor in the department of American Studies at the University of Buffalo. She also taught as an assistant professor of women's studies and Africana Studies at the State University of New York at Albany, where she also served as the director for the Institute for Research on Women. In 1990, Williams wrote an article called "And Still I Rise: Black Women and Reform, Buffalo, New York, 1900-1940," which was published in the *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History Journal*. Then, in 1996, she published a monograph entitled *A Bridge to the Future: the History of Diversity in Girl Scouting*. Williams was promoted to associate professor at the University of Albany in 1996. She released her first book, *Strangers in the Land of Paradise: The Creation of an African American Community, Buffalo, New York, 1900-1940* in 1999. In 2002, Williams became an associate professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

In addition to becoming a Rockefeller Foundation Minority Scholars Fellow, Williams has received numerous awards, including the Nuala McCann Dresher Award, and the University at Albany "Bread and Roses" Award for Distinguished University Service. In 2000, Williams was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Niagara County Black Achievers. She was selected as a fellow for the National African American Women's Leadership Group in 2001. Williams was also a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in

Teaching. She served on the board of directors for Albany's NAACP, and was a member of the New York State Historic Records Advisory Board. Williams also served on the education committee of the Buffalo Urban League and the editorial board of the Journal of African American History.

Lillian S. Williams was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 22, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lillian S. Williams was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 22, 2018, in Niagara Falls, New York, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Professor Lillian S. Williams was an associate professor at State University of New York at Buffalo. She also authored several articles and books, including *Strangers in the Land of Paradise*, published in 1999.

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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:

Williams, Lillian Serece

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Williams, Lillian Serece--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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# Occupations:

African American Studies Professor

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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 Lillian S. Williams, April 22, 2018. 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 Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:34  
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Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:13  
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Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:18  
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Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:39  
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Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:12  
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Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:20  
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Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_007, TRT: 7:36:05  
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Video Oral History Interview with Lillian S. Williams, Section A2018\_074\_001\_008, TRT: 8:03:28  
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