

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with E. Faye Williams

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Williams, E. Faye
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with E. Faye Williams,
Dates:	June 1, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:51:37).
Abstract:	Civic leader E. Faye Williams (1941 -) was the CEO of Carver/Curtis Products and Natural Health Options. Williams was also known for her civil service in helping organize the Million Man March. Williams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 1, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_113
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entrepreneur and civic leader E. Faye Williams is an accomplished attorney, businesswoman and teacher. Born in 1941, Williams has studied at several universities, and holds several advanced degrees. She earned her law degree from Howard University, and has worked as a counsel to Congress and a professor of international law at the Southern University Law Center. Additionally, she holds both a master's degree and a doctorate in public administration. She became the first African American to run a competitive congressional campaign in Louisiana, losing by about 5,000 votes. An active church parishioner and minister, Williams completed a candidacy for a doctorate of ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C.

Williams has made her biggest mark as an activist for peace and human rights. Williams published three books, most notably, *The Peace Terrorists*, which is a day by day account of her forty-day peace mission prior to the First Gulf War. Williams was one of 200 women held at gunpoint for twenty days in the Arabian Sea. In 1995, she helped organize the Million Man March, serving as host committee co-chair and international spokesperson. At the march, Williams was one of the few women to address the large crowd assembled on the Mall.

Inspired by the Million Man March, Williams started Natural Health Options and Carver/Curtis Products, where she serves as president and CEO. Her companies hold exclusive rights to produce the natural health remedies pioneered by George Washington Carver and his assistant, Austin W. Curtis. Williams also helped organize the Million Family March in 2000. She remains active in several civic organizations. She sits on the board of Partners for Peace, is an adviser to the Woman's Health Network and Council on Nutrition, and works on the steering committee for Change the Name. Williams is the recipient of numerous awards for her activism and service to community.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with E. Faye Williams was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on June 1, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civic leader E. Faye Williams (1941 -) was the CEO of Carver/Curtis Products and Natural Health Options. Williams was also known for her civil service in helping organize the Million Man March.

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:

Williams, E. Faye

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Williams, E. Faye--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Interviews

African American authors--Interviews

African American executives--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

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 E. Faye Williams, June 1, 2003. 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 E. Faye Williams, Section A2003_113_001_001, TRT: 0:30:24
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E. Faye Williams was born on December 20, 1941 in Melrose, Louisiana. Her

mother, Frances LaCour Williams, worked three jobs to support Williams and her eight brothers and sisters. Her mother, Orelia LaCour, also lived in the area and, with Williams' Aunt Erna, impressed upon Williams to always look clean and organized. Williams' father, Vernon Williams, was a farmer, mechanic, and electrician. Williams was raised on a farm until her parents divorced when she was eleven. She attended St. Matthew High School, where she was two grades ahead of others her age and was asked by her principal to substitute teach for the third grade class in sixth grade. When she was fourteen, her mother and family moved to Alexandria, Louisiana. Williams was a quiet and studious child who worked on her family's farm and read or studied instead of attending parties. Though Williams' parents divorced, her mother remained friends with her father and his siblings.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

African American authors--Interviews.

African American executives--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with E. Faye Williams, Section A2003_113_001_002, TRT: 0:30:28
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E. Faye Williams graduated from Peabody High School in Alexandria, Louisiana in 1958. She attended Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana. Here, she was mentored by Coach Eddie Robinson and Dr. Helen Richards-Smith, and received her B.A. degree in english and dramatic arts in 1962. She was also a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and had the opportunity to meet Dr. Kara Vaughn Jackson, Dr. Floyd Sandle, Wilma Rudolph, and Carla Thomas. After college, Williams moved to Los Angeles, California and worked as a teacher and in theater while attending the University of California, Los Angeles. She received her Master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California and campaigned for HistoryMakers Maxine Waters and Diane Watson. Williams worked with the teachers union in Los Angeles until 1971, when she moved to Atlanta, Georgia and worked with Dr. Benjamin Mays and was the first staff member of the teachers association following its integration.

Video Oral History Interview with E. Faye Williams, Section A2003_113_001_003, TRT: 0:31:14
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E. Faye Williams worked as a UniServ Director for the National Education Association in Atlanta, Georgia from 1971 until 1973, where she had the opportunity to meet Jesse Hill, Jr., Maynard Jackson, Dr. Benjamin Mays, and HistoryMaker Julian Bond. In 1973, Williams became UniServ Director for teachers on U.S. military bases in Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan, the Philippines, and the Midway Islands. In 1975, she became part of the management of the Michigan Education Association in Flint, Michigan and Southfield, Michigan, where she served as director of professional development and human rights and an assistant director for the negotiations department in the metro Detroit area. Then, in 1982, Williams enrolled at Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where she received her J.D. degree in 1985. After graduating from law school, Williams was approached by HistoryMaker and Congressman Mervyn Dymally to campaign for one of Louisiana's seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Video Oral History Interview with E. Faye Williams, Section A2003_113_001_004, TRT: 0:29:39
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E. Faye Williams campaigned for one of Louisiana's seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986. She won the Democratic primary, making her the first African American to run a viable congressional campaign in Louisiana. On

election day, Williams was winning when the voting machines shut down in the final minutes of counting votes and the votes were counted by hand instead. Williams' opponent, Clyde Holloway, was elected instead by six-tenths of a percent of the vote. Williams reflects on how she felt after the election and how she used her anger and disappointment productively as a writer and speaker. She describes her friend and mentor, HistoryMaker U.S. Congressman Mervyn Dymally, who she worked for following her campaign. In 1992, Williams briefly became White House liaison to the Department of Energy under President Bill Clinton and received her Ph.D. in public administration. She also attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where she received her Doctorate of Ministry degree.

Video Oral History Interview with E. Faye Williams, Section A2003_113_001_005, TRT: 0:29:49
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E. Faye Williams served as Washington, D.C.'s host city co-chair for the Million Man March in 1995. She reflects on HistoryMaker Minister Louis Farrakhan's organization of the march and the negative press response and how that response dampened the momentum that the march was supposed to create and also led to less effective, independently-organized marches such as the Million Woman March and 2000's Million Family March. Williams reflects on leaders in the African American community like Minister Louis Farrakhan and how the Million Man March inspired her to start her own business, Natural Health Options. Williams also reflects on her concerns for the African American community, her legacy, and how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with E. Faye Williams, Section A2003_113_001_006, TRT: 0:20:03
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E. Faye Williams narrates her photographs.