

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Lucille Whipper

PERSON

Whipper, Lucille, 1928-

**Alternative Names:** The Honorable Lucille Whipper; Lucille S. Whipper

**Life Dates:** June 6, 1928-August 27, 2021

**Place of Birth:** Charleston, South Carolina, USA

**Residence:** Charleston, SC

**Occupations:** Cultural Center Founder;

## Biographical Note

Academic administrator and state government administrator Lucille Simmons Whipper was born on June 6, 1928 in Charleston, South Carolina, to Sarah and Joseph Simmons. In 1944, Whipper was a student activist at her high school, Avery Institute, in Charleston, South Carolina; her graduating class sought to desegregate the College of Charleston. While a student at Talladega College, where she received her B.A. degree in economics and sociology, Whipper became involved in a movement to integrate college student organizations throughout the state. Whipper continued her graduate education in political science at the University of Chicago where she received her M.A. degree. Whipper also later earned a certificate in guidance and counseling at South Carolina State University.

In the late 1960s, Whipper served as an organizer and director of Operation Catch-Up, a tutorial program for high school students; Operation Catch-Up was a forerunner of the Upward Bound programs. In 1972, Whipper was appointed to serve as Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Human Relations at the College of Charleston. Whipper became the College's first African American administrator and developed its first affirmative action plan. With the support of members of the Charleston County delegation and the President of College of Charleston, Theodore Stern, Whipper organized the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture committee. The committee then founded the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture in 1990.

Whipper served as vice chairman of the Democratic Party Convention in 1972 and was later elected to the Charleston District 20 School Board. In 1985, Whipper became the first African American female to serve as an elected state official from the Tri-County area. Whipper served for years on South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and

sponsored two important pieces of legislation — one making marital rape a crime and the other requiring the monitoring of state agencies' hiring goals for minorities and females. In 2004, Whipper co-founded the Lowcountry Aid to Africa project, donating money to foundations and organizations helping people and families in Africa affected by AIDS.

Lucille Simmons Whipper was married to the late Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Whipper, Sr., and lives in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. She is the mother of six children and is a grandparent.

Lucille Simmons Whipper was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 1, 2007.

Whipper passed away on August 27, 2021.

## Related Entries

**Avery Normal Institute** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Talladega College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A**

**University of Chicago** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.A.**

**South Carolina State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Burke High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Buist Academy** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**College of Charleston** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to 1981]

**Charleston Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1949 to 1972]

**Teacher of Social Studies and High School Counselor**

**College of Charleston** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1972 to 1976]

**Assistant to the President and Director**

**Charleston County Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1976 to 1978]

**Director of Project Elementary and Secondary School Act**

**South Carolina. General Assembly. House of Representatives** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1986 to 1996]

**Representative**

**St. Matthew Baptist Church** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Minister of Music and Organist**

**South Carolina Women's Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Second Vice-President**

**Democratic Party** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Vice Chairman**

**Lowcountry Aid to Africa** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Links, Incorporated** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**President**

**South Carolina Voices of the Civil Rights Movement** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Director**

**Esau Jenkins-A Retrospective View of the Man and His Times** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Director**

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1945 to ?]

**Basileus**

**Charleston School District Twenty Board** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1978 to 1982]

**Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1980 to ?]

**President**

