

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Regina 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, Regina
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Regina Williams,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 20, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:29:51).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator and nursing professor Regina Williams (1931 - 2021) taught at several nursing schools, and was an assistant administrator in the Department of Health Careers at Schoolcraft College. She also held teaching and administrative posts at Wayne State University and was head of the department of nursing at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Williams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 20, 2004, in Shaker Heights, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_031
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Healthcare provider and educator Regina Sallee Williams was born in Sandusky, Ohio on April 20, 1931, to Cora Nell Collier Sallee and Charles Louis Sallee. She attended the public schools of Sandusky and graduated from Sandusky High School in 1949. Williams graduated from Ohio's Mount Carmel School of Nursing in 1952, and received a bachelor's of science degree in nursing from The Ohio State University in 1955. She later earned a master's of science in nursing from Wayne State University and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Michigan.

Williams served as a first lieutenant in the United States Army Nurse Corps (ANC) stationed at El Paso, Texas. After returning to Columbus from the ANC, she taught at The Grant Hospital School of Nursing. She moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1966, and taught at Mercy School of Nursing from 1966 until 1973. In 1974, she became an assistant administrator in the Department of Health Careers at Schoolcraft College of Livonia, Michigan. In 1977, Williams was recruited to Wayne State University, College of Nursing, where she held teaching and administration posts and developed an innovative program (Outreach BSN) for employed associate degree registered nurses interested in baccalaureate education. She was serving as interim assistant dean when she left Wayne State University in August 1990 to accept an appointment as the head of the department of nursing at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan, where she served until her retirement in 2001.

Williams has worked with and held numerous leadership positions in professional organizations, including Michigan Nurses Association. She served as President of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing (MACN) Dean's group, as a member and eventually chair of the Michigan Board of Nursing. Williams has done research and has published on the subject of mentoring and on nursing education.

Williams lived in Detroit, Michigan remaining active in nursing as a consultant through writing, attendance at conferences and by sitting on several community advisory boards.

Williams passed away on April 12, 2021.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Regina Williams was conducted by Regennia Williams on March 20, 2004, in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and nursing professor Regina Williams (1931 - 2021) taught at several nursing schools, and was an assistant administrator in the Department of Health Careers at Schoolcraft College. She also held teaching and administrative posts at Wayne State University and was head of the department of nursing at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

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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, Regina

Williams, Regennia (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Williams, Regina--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:

Nurse

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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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 Regina Williams, March 20, 2004. 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 Regina Williams, Section A2004\_031\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:53 ?  
Regina Williams was born on April 20, 1931 in Sandusky, Ohio. Her mother,

Coranell Collier Sallee, born in Frankfurt, Kentucky, was a homemaker and had twelve children, including Charles Sallee, Jr., a notable artist, and educator, and HistoryMaker June Sallee Antonie. Her father, Charles Sallee, born in Louisville, Kentucky, earned a living as the primary plastering contractor in Sandusky, built the family home, and shielded his children from discrimination in the primarily white town. Williams played violin, sang, and was interested in nursing from an early age. She was encouraged by her parents to be a high-achieving student at Campbell Elementary School. Williams attended Second Baptist Church in Sandusky, a former station on the Underground Railroad where her father and older brothers did the decorative plasterwork. Williams's family went on summer trips to the nearby amusement park Cedar Point, made snow angels at Thanksgiving, and skated on the Sandusky Bay in winter.

Video Oral History Interview with Regina Williams, Section A2004\_031\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:22 ?

Regina Williams grew up among a small black community in Sandusky, Ohio until World War II-era industry attracted an influx of African American workers from the South. Williams's brother was drafted into the U.S. Army and participated in D-Day at Normandy, France. Her cousins Samuel and Margaret Barnes were one of the first African American commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy and a Women's U.S. Army Corps major, respectively. Williams's parents discussed war events with their children, including the 1945 Japanese surrender, which was celebrated in Sandusky with a parade. Williams graduated from Sandusky High School in 1949. In 1952 she earned a nursing diploma, funded partly by a scholarship, from Mount Carmel School of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio and began her career as a surgical nurse at Hawkes Hospital of Mount Carmel. She later worked at the Ohio State University Medical Center and, as part of a U.S. military program, obtained a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1955 from the Ohio State University.

Video Oral History Interview with Regina Williams, Section A2004\_031\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:09 ?

Regina Williams was given a scholarship to attend Mount Carmel School of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio by her white fifth grade teacher, Betty Rinderle, after being rejected by a scholarship committee because of her race. Williams obtained her baccalaureate degree from the Ohio State University in Columbus, where she met her husband, Robert Williams. Williams funded her education at Ohio State by participating in the Nurse Corps Scholarship program, which entailed her serving one tour of duty in the United States Army Nurse Corps at William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso, Texas. She returned to Columbus, Ohio in 1957 and obtained a teaching post at Grant Hospital School of Nursing, where she experienced racial discrimination from faculty, staff and patients. She left Grant in 1964. Williams talks about changes in the nursing profession since the 1940s and the evolving academic discipline of nursing. She also narrates her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Regina Williams, Section A2004\_031\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Regina Williams aspired to become a nurse due to the influence of her paternal grandmother, a midwife in Kentucky. Williams earned an M.S. in nursing at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and a higher education administration doctoral degree at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She was interim assistant dean at Wayne State University College of Nursing and then department head and professor at Eastern Michigan University School of Nursing in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Williams has written for academic publications, including the Journal of Nursing Education. She belonged to district nurses' associations in Ohio and Michigan and served as president of the Michigan Nurses Association, where she developed a program to help nurses

seek substance abuse treatment without permanent loss of licensure. She was later appointed to serve on Michigan's nurse licensing board. Williams talks about raising her children and their academic and career achievements as well as her conversion to Catholicism.

Video Oral History Interview with Regina Williams, Section A2004\_031\_001\_005, TRT: 0:31:17 ?

Regina Williams was initially discouraged from pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the Ohio State University by an advisor; Williams later encountered this advisor while a faculty member at Grant Hospital School of Nursing. Despite this advisor's discrimination, Williams attributes her success to the support she received from many other teachers, including her doctoral advisor at University of Michigan, Dr. Robert T. Blackburn. Williams is a fellow of the Nightingale Society and the American Academy of Nursing and was the president of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing dean's group. Williams participates in Delta Sigma Theta, Coalition on Temporary Shelter, EMILY's List, the Sojourners, and is a Democrat. She is actively involved at Catholic parishes in Columbus, Ohio and Detroit, Michigan. Williams recalls her husband's military service in the U.S. Marines during the Korean War and his approach to fatherhood. She concludes her interview by narrating her photographs.