

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Billie Wright Adams

PERSON

Adams, Billie W., -

Alternative Names: Adams, Billie Wright, -;

Life Dates: , -

Place of Birth: Bluefield, West Virginia

Residence: Chicago, IL (from ? to ?)

Occupations: Medical Professor; Pediatrician

Biographical Note

The daughter of a country doctor who accepted chickens and potatoes in lieu of cash for his services, Billie Adams followed in her father's footsteps, becoming one of Chicago's most beloved pediatricians.

Born in Bluefield, West Virginia, Adams received her bachelor's degree from Fisk University in 1950. The following year, she completed her graduate studies and received a Master's of Arts in Zoology from the University of Indiana in Bloomington. Intending to begin a career in research, Adams soon had a change of heart after realizing how isolating the work in a laboratory could be. She enrolled in medical school at Howard University and, following graduation in 1960, focused her efforts on pediatric medicine and completed her residency at Cook County Children's Hospital. Her professional responsibilities over the years have include Acting Program Director in the Department of Pediatrics at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, Project Director of a Primary Care Pediatrics Training Grant funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Acting Bureau Chief of the Chicago Department of Health, Bureau of Community and Comprehensive Personal Health, former president of the Chicago Pediatrics Society and coordinator of a medical student training program at Cook County Hospital.

For the past twenty years, Adams has been an associate clinical professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and has maintained a private practice. In 1997, the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics named her Pediatrician of the Year. In 1999, she received the Chicago Medical Society Public Service Award. She is a member of the board

of the Ounce of Prevention Fund. Adams is the widow of Frank Adams and the mother of Chicago attorney Frank Adams Jr.

Related Entries

Adams, Frank [SPOUSEOF]
Husband

Adams, Jr., Frank [PARENTOF]
Son

Sanders, Francis [SIBLINGOF]
Sister

Wright, Mamie [CHILDOF]
Mother

Wright, William [CHILDOF]
Father

Johnson, Joseph []
Uncle

Johnson, Preston []
Uncle

The Toya School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

The Young Street School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Genoa Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Genoa High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fisk University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1950]

A.B.

Indiana University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1951]

M.A.

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1960]

M.D.

Chicago Department of Health [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Acting Bureau Chief

Cook County Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Training Program Coordinator

[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Cook County Children's Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1960 to 1964]

Resident

Mercy Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to ?]

Acting Program Director

University of Illinois College of Medicine [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to ?]

Associate Clinical Professor

NAACP [MEMBEROF]

Alpha Gamma Pi Organization [MEMBEROF]

National Urban League [MEMBEROF]

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority [MEMBEROF]

South Side Community Art Center, Chicago [MEMBEROF]

American Academy of Pediatrics [MEMBEROF]