

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Paul Hill

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hill, Paul, Jr.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Paul Hill,
Dates:	March 17, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:00:01).
Abstract:	Nonprofit executive Paul Hill (1945 -) was president and CEO of East End Neighborhood House, a neighborhood-based nonprofit organization that serves youth and families. In 1993, he established The National Rites of Passage Institute to provide training to adults to mentor and support youth. Hill was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 17, 2004, in Cleveland, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_025
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nonprofit executive Paul Hill, Jr. was born on November 6, 1945 to Mabel Craig Hill and Paul Hill, Sr. in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating from Cleveland's John Adams High School in 1964, Hill earned his B.S. degree in business education from Ohio University and master's degrees in educational policy studies and social work from the University of Kentucky and the University of Wisconsin. He also completed training with the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland in organizational and systems development.

Hill served for thirty three years as CEO and President of one of the oldest and largest children, youth and family community based services organizations in Cleveland, Ohio. He retired in 2011. Hill is a former W. K. Kellogg Foundation Leadership Fellow (1989 – 1992), and conducted field studies on the socialization of males. In 1992, he authored *Coming of Age*, a book based on his research on African American boys and men. In 1993, he established The National Rites of Passage Institute, which is designed “to create a critical mass and community of adults to serve and develop youth.” Since 1993, the Institute has provided training to more than 700 men and women in twenty cities. In turn, these individuals have been responsible for mentoring and supporting more than 10,000 children and youth in neighborhood and community-based programs. He has also published several journal articles on rites of passage and human development, including “African Presence in the Americas: Rituals and Rites of Passage.”

A much sought-after speaker, Hill is also active in many community activities, including Kwanzaa cultural programs. Hill and his wife, Marquita McAllister Hill, are the parents of seven children and seven grandchildren.

Paul Hill, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 17, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Paul Hill was conducted by Regennia Williams on March 17, 2004, in Cleveland, Ohio, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Nonprofit executive Paul Hill (1945 -) was president and CEO of East End Neighborhood House, a neighborhood-based nonprofit organization that serves youth and families. In 1993, he established The National Rites of Passage Institute to provide training to adults to mentor and support youth.

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:

Hill, Paul, Jr.

Williams, Regennia (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Hill, Paul, Jr.--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Ohio--Interviews

African American social workers--Ohio--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

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 Paul Hill, March 17, 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).

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 Paul Hill, Section A2004_025_001_001, TRT: 0:29:08 ?

Paul Hill was born on November 6, 1945 in Cleveland, Ohio to Mabel Craig Hill and Paul Hill, Sr. His mother's maternal ancestors, the Rayfords, were from Orrville, Alabama; her paternal ancestors, the Craigs, were well-educated

landowners in Selma, Alabama. Hill's great great-grandfather Craig was an European American whose land was taken away from his African American descendants after his death. Sharecropping allowed the family to pay for education at the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. Racism and limited opportunities led Hill's maternal and paternal ancestors to migrate from Alabama to Cleveland, Ohio in the 1930s and 1940s. Hill's mother attended John Hay High School in Cleveland. His father became a metalworker and union steward after graduating from Cleveland's Central High School. He was also active in John O. Holly's Future Outlook League, a labor organization for African Americans in Cleveland. Hill's parents had four children. Hill narrates his photographs.

African American civic leaders--Ohio--Interviews.

African American social workers--Ohio--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Hill, Section A2004_025_001_002, TRT: 0:28:54 ?

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Video Oral History Interview with Paul Hill, Section A2004_025_001_003, TRT: 0:29:46 ?

Paul Hill majored in education at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio from 1964 to 1969. During his senior year, he married his wife, Marquita McAllister Hill and moved to Cleveland, Ohio to student teach at John Hay High School. In 1969, he joined the Teacher Corps, and worked at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. He describes his first encounter with overt racism in Lexington and other formative experiences that shaped him as a social activist. He became a Ford Fellow in the urban educational policy study program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In Madison, Hill obtained a medical deferment from the Vietnam War, worked closely with Kwame Salter in the Black Student Union, and mourned the death of a younger brother. Returning to Cleveland, Hill interned for the Cleveland Board of Education under Arnold Pinkney; he also worked on Carl Stokes reelection campaign. Hill describes desegregation in Cleveland Public Schools in the 1970s and a disagreement with the School Board.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Hill, Section A2004_025_001_004, TRT: 0:30:52 ?

Paul Hill was a regional educational specialist for the U.S. Justice Department Community Relations Services in the 1970s, serving as a mediator between schools systems and the federal government during desegregation efforts in eight Southeastern states. While there, Hill witnessed the consequences of desegregation on African American administrators and teachers who were displaced, demoted, or stripped of their jobs. Hill went on to work for the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Based in Cleveland, Ohio, he worked with school systems in the Midwest to ensure the proper application of

federal dollars to desegregation efforts. Hill talks about the cultural, racial, and economic biases that disproportionately placed the poor and minorities in special education classes. He also recognizes positive social and cognitive consequences for black students prior to segregation. Hill talks about the African American community in East Cleveland, African American families in general, and his own family.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Hill, Section A2004_025_001_005, TRT: 0:30:05 ?

Paul Hill talks about the black community's self-perception over time. In 1981, his family settled in East Cleveland, Ohio because of its strong sense of African American community. He describes the systemic issues of inequity in East Cleveland, some of which are addressed by the East End Neighborhood House in Cleveland. As president and CEO of the organization for over three decades, Hill oversaw the provision of child, youth, and senior services along with recreational, social, medical, and legal services. Hill talks about the organization's history and its partnership with Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. He also reflects on the landscape of social services in the City of Cleveland and the Ford Foundation's assessment of class divisions in the African American community. Hill describes the social pacification of the black community and emphasizes the importance of understanding the African American experience. He begins to talk about the National Rites of Passage Program.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Hill, Section A2004_025_001_006, TRT: 0:31:16 ?

Paul Hill talks about the establishment of the National Rites of Passage Institute at the East End Neighborhood House in Cleveland, Ohio in 1993, and how the Institute's efforts function as an extension of the principals of Kwanzaa developed by HistoryMaker Maulana Karenga. Hill describes the Institute as a cultural-spiritual program based upon eight tenets: Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba, Imani, and Heshima. He talks about published works on rites of passage, his concern for maintaining the integrity and longevity of rites of passage as a ritual, and the significance of his own contributions to the National Rites of Passage Institute. His own work, "Coming of Age: African American Male Rites-of-Passage," was published in 1992. Hill concludes by narrating his personal photographs.