

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Howard Adams

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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>	Adams, Howard G. (Howard Glen)
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Howard Adams,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 8, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:33:43).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Educator, consultant, author, and science educator Howard Adams (1940 - ) is the founder and president of the consulting company, H.G. Adams & Associates Inc. and has written three books and over fifteen self-help guides and handbooks. Adams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 8, 2012, in Norfolk, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_034
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator, consultant, and author, Howard G. Adams was born on March 28, 1940 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia to Delsia Mae Waller Adams and Daniel Boone Adams. As a child, he helped his father on the family farm and enjoyed exploring nature. Adams attended Southside High School, Blairs, Virginia. During high school, he worked after-school as a kitchen helper at the Greyhound bus station in Danville, Virginia. In 1958, Adams graduated from high school, and then moved Paterson, New Jersey to escape from the segregated south. In 1959, Adams enrolled at the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College (now Norfolk State University) where he majored in biology. In order to finance his education, Adams worked at a supermarket and, during his senior year, at a fast food restaurant. Adams was active on campus, serving as Cadet Captain in the ROTC Military Science Program, president of the sophomore and senior classes, president of the biology club, and vice president of the student government association. He received his B.S. degree in biology from Norfolk State College in 1964.

That same year, Adams began his professional career as a general science teacher at Jacox Junior High School in the Norfolk City Schools System. He also received his M.S. degree in biology from Virginia State College (now Virginia State University) in 1968 as a National Science Foundation In-Service Fellow. In 1970, Norfolk State University President Lyman Beecher Brooks recruited Adams to serve as the school's first director of alumni affairs. After three years in that position, he was promoted to vice president for student affairs at Norfolk State University. Adams also enrolled in Syracuse University's higher education administration program, receiving his Ph.D. degree in 1978. Adams then accepted the position of executive director of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. In 1989, President Ronald Regan appointed Adams to a U.S. congressional task force on women, minorities and the handicapped in science and technology. Adams founded his consulting company, H.G. Adams & Associates, Inc. in 1995.

Adams has received numerous awards including the Centennial Medallion from the American Society of Engineering Education. He was named a 20th Century Outstanding Educator by Black Issues in Higher Education

and he also received the Golden Torch Award Lifetime Achievement in Academia from The National Society of Black Engineers. Adams was named by President Clinton as one of the first recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Mentoring. In addition, Adams is a board member of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education and was a former faculty member of AABHE's Leadership and Mentoring Institute. He has written three books including his 2002 book "Get Up with Something on your Mind! Lessons for Navigating Life" and over fifteen self-help guides and handbooks. Adams is married to the Eloise Adams, Ph.D. and they have one daughter, Stephanie Glenn Adams, Ph.D.

Howard Adams was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 8, 2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Howard Adams was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 8, 2012, in Norfolk, Virginia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Educator, consultant, author, and science educator Howard Adams (1940 - ) is the founder and president of the consulting company, H.G. Adams & Associates Inc. and has written three books and over fifteen self-help guides and handbooks.

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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:

Adams, Howard G. (Howard Glen)

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

Adams, Howard G. (Howard Glen)--Interviews  
African Americans--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:

Science Educator

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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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 Howard Adams, February 8, 2012. 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 Howard Adams, Section A2012\_034\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:12 ?

Howard Adams talks about his family background. He recalls his maternal ancestry back to his great, great grandparents, who were slaves born on the Hairston Plantation in Henry County, Virginia in the nineteenth century. His mother, Delsia Mae Waller Adams, was born in May of 1909 in Pennsylvania County, Virginia. While she completed the seventh grade and was eligible to attend high school or college, her allergies prevented her from doing so. She later worked as a head cook in a high school kitchen for over forty years. Adams also traces his paternal ancestors back to his great, great grandparents, who were also born slaves in Virginia. His father, Daniel Boone Adams, was born in August of 1905 in Virginia. Adams' paternal family is very large, consisting of over sixty first cousins. He talks about how his parents met and the Primitive Baptist Church.

African American families--Virginia.

Slaves--Virginia--Henry County.

Large family.

Primitive Baptists--Virginia.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Adams, Section A2012\_034\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:38 ?

Howard Adams grew up on a 200-acre farm in Pittsville County, Virginia, where his family grew tobacco, corn, and other crops, as well as raised their own animals. Although his family was poor, Adams does not relate to the typical associations of poverty. Adams attended both of his parents' churches, the Primitive Baptist Church in Piney Grove, Virginia and Silver Creek Missionary Baptist Church. He talks about growing up in Virginia, his father's business relationships, and the Martinsville Seven execution case. Adams attended Stony Mill Elementary School and South Side High School, which was established in 1949 as the first public high school in his county.

African American farmers--Virginia--Pittsville County.

Farms, Large--Virginia--Pittsville County.

Childhood and youth--Virginia.

Martinsville Seven Trial, Martinsville, Va., 1949.

Public schools--Virginia--History.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Adams, Section A2012\_034\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:49 ?

Howard Adams talks about the racial tensions, segregation and violence in Virginia during the Civil Rights era. In 1955, he witnessed the murder of one of his classmates, Melvin Ferguson, because of the intense social climate. Adams attended South Side High School in Pittsville County, Virginia, where his favorite subjects were history and English. He also played baseball and ran track. Due to his contempt for working on the farm, Adams worked as a kitchen helper at the Greyhound Bus station in Danville, Virginia during high school. While working there, he envisioned greater possibilities for his future and longed for the day that he could leave the South. After graduating high school in 1958, Adams left Virginia the next day to head to Patterson, New Jersey.

Civil rights movements--United States--States--History.

Youth and death.

Race relations--Virginia.

African American high school students--Virginia.

New Jersey--Patterson.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Adams, Section A2012\_034\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:35 ?

Howard Adams moved to Patterson, New Jersey immediately after graduating from South Side High School in Pittsville County, Virginia in 1958. After securing a job at a restaurant in the city, Adams searched for a new church to attend. He decided upon Calvary Baptist Church. After a year of living in New Jersey, Adams decided to continue his education and enrolled at Norfolk State University, where he majored in biology. He continued to travel to New Jersey during his summer breaks to work at Revlon in the manufacturing department. Adams describes his experience at Norfolk State, talks about his involvement in Civil Rights demonstrations, and talks about his mentors and colleagues. After earning his B.S. degree in 1964, Adams went on to teach life and physical science at Jacox Junior High School.

Norfolk State University (Va.).

Revlon, inc.

Biology--Study and teaching (Higher)--Virginia.

Civil rights demonstrations--United States--1960-1970.

Biology--Vocational guidance.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Adams, Section A2012\_034\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:03 ?

Howard Adams graduated from Norfolk State University with his B.S. degree in biology in 1964. He then began teaching general life and physical science in the Norfolk Public School System. He describes his experiences teaching at Jacox Junior High School and Norview Senior High School. While teaching full time and working at his hamburger stand in the evenings, Adams also worked on his M.S. degree in biology from Virginia State University. In 1970, Adams returned to Norfolk State University and initially served as an alumni volunteer. The then president, Lyman Beecher Brooks, later appointed him as director of alumni affairs. During his time there, Adams pursued his Ph.D. degree in higher education administration at Syracuse University. After completing his doctoral studies in 1978, Adams joined the University of Notre Dame as executive director of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science.

African American educators--Virginia.

Biology teachers--Interviews.

Virginia State University--Alumni and alumnae--Biography.

Education--Administration.

National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (U.S.).

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Adams, Section A2012\_034\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:54 ?

Howard Adams joined the administration of the University of Notre Dame in 1978, where he was appointed as executive director of the National GEM Consortium. Adams describes his philosophy for success and talks about his peripheral professional activities, including his motivational speaking engagements and authoring short self-help booklets such as "Get Up With Something On Your Mind" and "How to Have a Successful Internship Experience." Adams reflects on his career and legacy, talks about his hopes and concerns for the African American community, and talks about the problems with education, and particularly STEM preparation, in the United States.

University of Notre Dame.

National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (U.S.).

Management & leadership skills.

Self-help handbook.

African Americans--Education.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Adams, Section A2012\_034\_001\_007, TRT: 7:35:32 ?

Howard Adams talks about the politics of graduate school internships, his family, and how he would like to be remembered. Finally, Adams describes his photos.

Internship programs.

African American families.

Photographs.