

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sandra Long Weaver

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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>	Long Weaver, Sandra Dawson, 1952-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Long Weaver,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 23, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:15:43).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Journalist Sandra Long Weaver (1952 - ) was a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists. She worked at The Philadelphia Inquirer for twenty-nine years. Weaver was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 23, 2014, in Nashville, Tennessee. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_066
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Sandra Dawson Long Weaver was born on June 25, 1952 in Annapolis, Maryland. She attended the University of Maryland, where she worked for the *Black Explosion* college newspaper and received her B.S. degree in journalism in 1974. She also worked as an intern for *Newsweek*, and went on to attend the Advanced Executive Program at the Northwestern Media Management Center.

Upon graduation from the University of Maryland in 1974, Long Weaver was hired as a staff reporter for the *News Journal* in Wilmington, Delaware. She then went on to work for Philadelphia's *Evening Bulletin* as a reporter, copy editor and

editorial writer before joining the staff of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as a correspondent in 1984, where she went on to become the first African American female managing editor. There she held several executive positions, including deputy managing editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* from 2005 to 2007, and managing editor for Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* from 2007 to 2008. Then, in 2008, Long Weaver was named vice president of newsroom operations for Philadelphia Media Holdings, and worked in both *The Inquirer* and *The Philadelphia Daily News* newsrooms.

In 2010, she established and became president and chief executive officer of the Dawson Media Group, a multi-media communications and consulting practice. Long Weaver left her position with Philadelphia Media Network in 2011, and went on to work as communications coordinator for United Methodist Communications and editorial director for the *Tennessee Tribune*. She created “Take 10 on Tuesdays” with the *Tennessee Tribune*, a weekly video series featuring African Americans in the Nashville area; and, in 2014, she launched Tea and Conversations with African American women, a networking and communications event.

Long Weaver is a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), and has served for many years as chairperson and publisher for the Acel Moore Minority Career Development Workshop at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. In 2011, she organized the first Founders Reception and the first “Divine Nine” breakfast for NABJ members. Long Weaver has served on the boards of African Women’s Development Fund USA and the Phillip Merrill School of Journalism at the University of Maryland. She also acted as the secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors. Long Weaver has received multiple awards, including the 2008 Woman of The Year Award given by the Philadelphia Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the 2007 Trailblazer Award from the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, and the 2007 Courage Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Cancer Society. In addition, she was a juror for the Pulitzer Prizes in arts and journalism.

Sandra Long Weaver was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 23, 2014.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sandra Long Weaver was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 23, 2014, in Nashville, Tennessee, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist Sandra Long Weaver (1952 - )

was a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists. She worked at The Philadelphia Inquirer for twenty-nine years.

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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:

Long Weaver, Sandra Dawson, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews  
Long Weaver, Sandra Dawson, 1952---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:**

Journalist

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MediaMakers

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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 Sandra Long Weaver, April 23, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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 Sandra Long Weaver, Section A2014\_066\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:14 2014/04/23

Sandra Long Weaver was born on June 25, 1952 in Annapolis, Maryland to Florine Davis Maclin and Herbert Dawson. Her father was born in 1919 in North Carolina, and went on to serve in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force. Around this time, he separated from his wife, and met Weaver's mother at the segregated Dixie Club in Annapolis. Weaver's mother was raised in a rural farming community in Edgewater, Maryland. After graduating from Wiley H. Bates High School in Annapolis, she worked in the city as a short order cook. She also raised Weaver and her four siblings in Annapolis, where they attended the Mount Moriah A.M.E Church. As a child, Weaver was close with her maternal grandmother, Maude Gray Queen, who worked as a domestic and was a member of the Christian Science church. Weaver met her father for the first time when she was a teenager. Her older half-sister, Gayle Dawson Symonette, attended Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma, and her paternal family hosted reunions in New Bern, North Carolina.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Long Weaver, Section A2014\_066\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:30 2014/04/23

Sandra Long Weaver was raised by her mother, Florine

Davis Maclin, on College Avenue in Annapolis, Maryland. She also lived with her maternal grandmother, Maude Gray Queen, with whom she read the Bible and The Christian Science Monitor. As a child, Weaver often played with her friends on the campuses of the nearby United States Naval Academy and St. John's College. Weaver began her education at the majority-white Green Street School in Annapolis. After her family moved to the suburb of Parole, Maryland, she transferred to Parole Elementary School, where she excelled in reading. She was also ostracized by both her white and black classmates. Weaver went on to attend Annapolis Junior High School, and attained the rank of Cadette in the Girl Scouts of America. She graduated from Annapolis High School. Weaver had two younger brothers, Charles Carter and Jerry Maclin, and two younger sisters, Sharon Maclin Brown and Anita Maclin Wyatt.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Long Weaver, Section A2014\_066\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:58 2014/04/23

Sandra Long Weaver wrote for the Tally-Ho student newspaper at Annapolis High School in Annapolis, Maryland. During this period, she attended a talk by Alex Haley, and wrote a front page story about his travels in Africa. She also worked at the United States Naval Academy library in Annapolis, and helped care for her four younger siblings. Although she received limited support from her high school guidance counselor, Weaver was successfully admitted to attend the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. There, she joined the staff of the black student newspaper, the Black Explosion, where she became the editor during her junior year. In 1973, she interned at Newsweek in New York City, where she was mentored by communications executive Veronica Pollard. Around this time, Weaver decided to focus on reporting stories that were relevant to the African American community. Upon graduating in 1974, she was hired as a reporter at The News Journal in Wilmington, Delaware.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Long Weaver, Section A2014\_066\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:54 2014/04/23

Sandra Long Weaver was hired as a reporter at The News

Journal in Wilmington, Delaware in 1974. There, she covered the activities of the local school districts, including desegregation. As she was the only African American on the staff of the paper, she sought advice from well-known black journalists in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area, including Acel Moore and Chuck Stone. Under the mentorship of Claude Lewis, Weaver joined the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, and became a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists in 1975. Two years later, she joined the staff of the Evening Bulletin. She started at the paper's Wilmington bureau, and then worked as a reporter in the Philadelphia suburbs of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. During this time, Weaver covered the resignation of Mayor John H. Nacrelli in Chester, Pennsylvania. She then became a copy editor in the features department, where she also learned about newspaper layout and production.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Long Weaver, Section A2014\_066\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:27 2014/04/23

Sandra Long Weaver became a local news reporter at the conservative Philadelphia Bulletin newspaper in 1977. During this time, she was mentored by well-established African American journalists like Acel Moore, Chuck Stone and Claude Lewis, with whom she served as a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists. After the Philadelphia Bulletin folded in 1982, Weaver was hired as a correspondent at The Philadelphia Inquirer. She initially wrote for the newspaper's Neighbors section, where she reported on issues facing suburban communities like Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She also covered the bombing of the MOVE headquarters on Osage Avenue in Philadelphia in 1985. Weaver was then promoted to editor of the Main Line Neighbors feature, where she reported on the plane crash that killed U.S. Senator John Heinz in 1991. At this point in the interview, Weaver talks about The Washington Post journalist Janet Cooke and the credibility of news media.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Long Weaver, Section A2014\_066\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:52 2014/04/23

Sandra Long Weaver began her career at The Philadelphia Inquirer as a correspondent in 1982. She went on to edit the newspaper's Main Line Neighbors section, and then became the assigning editor for stories in Pennsylvania. In 1999, Weaver attended Northwestern University's executive training program. Then, she became The Philadelphia Inquirer's assistant managing editor for finance and administration. In this role, she oversaw the production aspects of the newsroom, including photography, graphics and the copy and news desks. In 2008, she was promoted to vice president of newsroom operations for Philadelphia Media Holdings, which owned both The Philadelphia Inquirer and the Philadelphia Daily News. As a result of downsizing, Weaver was terminated from the company in 2011. After moving to Nashville, Tennessee, she created the Take Ten on Tuesdays video series at The Tennessee Tribune. She also started the Tea and Conversations networking event. At this point, Weaver talks about her plans for the future.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Long Weaver, Section A2014\_066\_001\_007, TRT: 7:22:48 2014/04/23

Sandra Long Weaver and her first husband had two children, Sean Long and Shari Long. In 2011, she married her second husband, Lance Weaver. At the time of the interview, they lived in Nashville, Tennessee, where Weaver was active in the local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She also collected stamps, and belonged to the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections. At this point in the interview, Weaver talks about her admiration of activist Ida B. Wells and television broadcast journalist Robin Roberts. She also describes her journalistic philosophy, and her hopes and concerns for the African American community and African American journalists. She reflects upon her career, legacy and how she would like to be remembered. Weaver concludes the interview by narrating her photographs.