

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nell Irvin Painter

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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>	Painter, Nell Irvin
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 20, 2014 and March 18, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12 uncompressed MOV digital video files (6:12:10).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Historian and educator Nell Irvin Painter (1942 - ) , former president of the Southern Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians, was a leading historian of American history. Her books include <i>Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas After Reconstruction</i> ; <i>The Narrative of Hosea Hudson: His Life as a Negro Communist in the South</i> ; <i>Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877-1919</i> ; <i>Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol</i> ; and <i>The History of White People</i> . Painter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 20, 2014 and March 18, 2014, in Newark, New Jersey and Princeton, New Jersey. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_095
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Historian and educator Nell Irvin Painter was born on August 2, 1942 in Houston, Texas to Frank Edward Irvin, a chemist, and Dona Lolita McGruder, a writer and personnel officer. As an infant, Painter's family moved to Oakland, California, where she attended public schools. In 1964, Painter received her B.S. honors degree in anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley. As an undergraduate, she studied French medieval history at the University of Bordeaux, France, in 1962 and 1963. She also studied abroad at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana from 1965 to 1966. Painter went on to receive her M.A. degree in African history from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1967, and her Ph.D. degree in American history from Harvard University in 1974.

Upon graduation from Harvard University, Painter was hired as an assistant professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania; and in 1977, was promoted to associate professor. From 1980 to 1988, she worked as a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Then, in 1988, Painter was hired as a professor of history at Princeton University, and was named acting director of the university's program in Afro-American Studies in 1990 and 1991. She served as Princeton University's Edwards Professor of American History from 1991 to 2005, and as director of the Program in African American Studies from 1997 to 2000. Painter retired in 2005 and was named the Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita. In addition to her work as a scholar, Painter received her B.F.A. degree in painting from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2009; her M.F.A. degree in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2011; and has exhibited her artwork in solo and group shows.

Painter has published numerous articles and reviews, and has written seven books, including *Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas After Reconstruction* (1976); *The Narrative of Hosea Hudson: His Life as a Negro Communist in the South* (1979); *Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877-1919* (1989); *Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol* (1996); *Southern History Across the Color Line* (2002); *Creating Black Americans: African American History and Its Meanings, 1619 to the Present* (2005); and *The History of White People* (2010). She is the editor of *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* (1998) and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (2000).

Painter has held numerous fellowships, been awarded five honorary doctorate degrees, and was named a Fulbright Scholar in 2011. She has served on a number of editorial boards, and as an officer of many professional organizations, including the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Antiquarian Society, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, the Society of American Historians, and the Association of Black Women Historians. In addition, she served as president of the Southern Historical Association in 2007 and of the Organization of American Historians from 2007 to 2008.

Painter lives in Newark, New Jersey with her husband, Glenn Shafer.

Nell Irvin Painter was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 18, 2014.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Nell Irvin Painter was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on June 20, 2014 and March 18, 2014, in Newark, New Jersey and Princeton, New Jersey, and was recorded on 12 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Historian and educator Nell Irvin Painter (1942 - ), former president of the Southern Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians, was a leading historian of American history. Her books include *Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas After Reconstruction*; *The Narrative of Hosea Hudson: His Life as a Negro Communist in the South*; *Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877-1919*; *Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol*; and *The History of White People*.

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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:**

Painter, Nell Irvin

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Painter, Nell Irvin--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:**

History Professor

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Educator

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

EducationMakers

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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 Nell Irvin Painter, June 20, 2014 and March 18, 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 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 Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:13  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:03  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_001\_003, TRT: 3:33:44  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:00  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:19  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_001\_006, TRT: 6:33:36  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_002\_007, TRT: 7:31:22  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_002\_008, TRT: 8:27:28  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_002\_009, TRT: 9:31:31  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_002\_010, TRT: 10:29:03  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_002\_011, TRT: 11:36:28  
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Video Oral History Interview with Nell Irvin Painter, Section A2014\_095\_002\_012, TRT: 12:31:23  
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