

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dorothy Burnham

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Burnham, Dorothy (Dorothy C.)
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dorothy Burnham,
Dates:	November 15, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	2 uncompressed MOV digital video files (0:54:56).
Abstract:	Professor Dorothy Burnham (1915-) worked for the Southern Negro Youth Congress in Birmingham, Alabama and was a laboratory technician in New York City area hospitals before teaching at Hostas Community College and Empire State University. Burnham was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 15, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_209
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor Dorothy Burnham was born on March 22, 1915 in Brooklyn, New York to Frederick Burnham and Aletha Dowridge. She attended P.S. #11 and graduated from Girls High School in Brooklyn in 1932. Burnham received her B.S. degree in microbiology in 1936 from Brooklyn College in New York.

Student Union; and, in 1941, she and her husband, Louis, moved to Birmingham, Alabama to the headquarters of the Southern Negro Youth Congress (SNYC). During that period, the Burnhams, along with civil rights activists Esther Jackson and James Jackson In the early 1930s, Burnham was active with the American , coordinated sit-ins, freedom rides and voter registration drives. They also worked to initiate equal pay for workers, integrate the public transportation systems and public institutions. Burnham worked in the Birmingham office until it closed in 1949. In 1949, she returned to Brooklyn and worked as a laboratory technician in New York City area hospitals. Later, Burnham joined the faculty at Hostas Community College and also taught biology, bioethics and health sciences in the adult education program at Empire State University, in the City University of New York (CUNY) system, during which time she was also active in the New York State Teachers Union.

Burnham was active in the national organization of Women for Racial and Economic Equality, as well as with the Sisters Against South African Apartheid, Genes and Gender, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She also served as president of the Louis E. Burnham Awards Fund. In 2011, Burnham was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Better World Awards by the New York Friends of *People's World*, for her role in the fight for quality public education. Burnham was named a Brooklyn Renaissance Woman, and her lifetime achievements were recognized by New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery during the reading of a Senate resolution. Burnham was the recipient of the Heritage Award from State University of New York Empire State College in 2012.

Burnham, the widow of Louis Burnham, has four adult children: Claudia, Margaret, Linda and Charles.

Burnham was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 15, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dorothy Burnham was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 15, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 2 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Professor Dorothy Burnham (1915-) worked for the Southern Negro Youth Congress in Birmingham, Alabama and was a laboratory technician in New York City area hospitals before teaching at Hostas Community College and Empire State University.

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:

Burnham, Dorothy (Dorothy C.)

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Burnham, Dorothy (Dorothy C.)--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civil Rights Activist

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 Dorothy Burnham, November 15, 2018. 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 Dorothy Burnham, Section A2018_209_001_001, TRT: 1:30:29
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Video Oral History Interview with Dorothy Burnham, Section A2018_209_001_002, TRT: 2:24:27
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