

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Annette Gordon-Reed

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Gordon-Reed, Annette |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, |
| Dates: | October 21, 2019 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2019 |
| Physical Description: | 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:38:26). |
| Abstract: | Lawyer, historian, and professor, Annette Gordon-Reed (1958-) is a professor of law and history at Harvard University, and was the first African American to receive the Pulitzer Prize in History for her 2008 publication, <i>The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family</i> . Gordon-Reed was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 21, 2019, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2019_113 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer, historian, and professor, Annette Gordon-Reed was born on November 19, 1958 in Livingston, Texas to Alfred and Bettye Jean Gordon. She was the first to integrate her elementary school in Conroe, Texas, and later graduated with high distinction from Dartmouth University with her B.A. degree in history in 1981. Gordon-Reed then attended Harvard Law School where she received her J.D. degree in 1984 and was the first African American editor for the *Harvard Law Review*.

In 1984, Gordon-Reed was hired as an associate at the law firm Cahill Gordon & Reindel in New York. She subsequently became general counsel for the New York City Board of Corrections in 1987 where she wrote minimum standards for New York City's jails. Gordon-Reed served here until 1992, when she became a professor at the New York Law School. She published her first book, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* in 1997. Four years later, she published Vernon Jordan's memoir, *Vernon Can Read!*, which received the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the 2002 BCALA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. In 2003, she contributed to Howard Dodson's *Jubilee: The Emergence of African-American Culture*. Gordon-Reed was hired by Rutgers University in 2007 as a professor of history, and the following year she published *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. This book won over ten awards, including the 2008 National Book Award, the 2009 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Nonfiction, and the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History, of which she was the first African American recipient. Gordon-Reed left New York Law School and Rutgers University in 2010 upon joining Harvard University as a professor of history and American legal history. The same year she was named the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, a role she held until 2016. In 2011, Gordon-Reed released her book, *Andrew Johnson*; and, in 2017, she published *Most Blessed of the Patriarchs: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination* which was a *New York Times* Bestseller, and won numerous awards including being named a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice Selection.

Gordon-Reed has been a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Humanities Center, the American Philosophical Society, and was the 2018-2019 president of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.

In addition to her book's awards, Gordon-Reed received the 2009 National Humanities Medal, the Woman of Power & Influence Award from the National Organization for Women in New York City, as well as an honorary degree from Ramapo College and the College of William & Mary. She has also been awarded New York Public Library's Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers Fellowship, the Guggenheim Fellowship in Humanities, and the 2010 MacArthur Fellowship Genius Grant.

Gordon-Reed resides in Manhattan with her husband, New York Supreme Court Justice Robert Reed. They have two children, Susan and Gordon.

Annette Gordon-Reed was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 21, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Annette Gordon-Reed was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 21, 2019, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer, historian, and professor, Annette Gordon-Reed (1958-) is a professor of law and history at Harvard University, and was the first African American to receive the Pulitzer Prize in History for her 2008 publication, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*.

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:

Gordon-Reed, Annette

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Gordon-Reed, Annette--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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 Annette Gordon-Reed, October 21, 2019. 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 Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_001, TRT: 1:28:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_002, TRT: 2:28:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_003, TRT: 3:28:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_004, TRT: 4:27:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_005, TRT: 5:30:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_006, TRT: 6:30:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_007, TRT: 7:29:52 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, Section A2019_113_001_008, TRT: 8:14:52 ?