

Sherry Williams Papers
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Finding aid prepared by Angelique Schuler

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Bronzeville Historical Society

May 22, 2013

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Summary Information

Repository Bronzeville Historical Society

Title Sherry Williams Papers

Date [inclusive] 1935-2010

Extent 4.5 Linear feet

Language English

Abstract Sherry Williams is the founder and President of the Bronzeville Historical Society. This collection focuses on Ms. Williams' personal life and family history. The Sherry Williams Collection spans from 1935 through 2010 and is comprised of five series: "Correspondence and Family Documents," "Certificates," "Genealogical Records/ Extended Family," "Photographs," and "Realia." Sherry Williams is the founder and President of the Bronzeville Historical Society. This collection focuses on Ms. Williams' personal life and family history. The Sherry Williams Collection spans from 1935 through 2010 and is comprised of five series: "Correspondence and Family Documents," "Certificates," "Genealogical Records/ Extended Family," "Photographs," and "Realia."

Biographical/Historical note

Sherry is the first generation of her family lineage born in Chicago. Sherry was born and raised on the south side of Chicago in the Englewood community. Both her parents picked cotton and were born in the Mississippi Delta. Williams is a member of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Audubon Fellow (2012) bird conservationist, author, and activist in the Bronzeville community. She is Founder and President of the Bronzeville Black Chicagoan Historical Society.

Williams is an active member of the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society, Chicago Chapter, a Steering Committee member of the Southside Arts and Humanities Network, a board member of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, a member of the Amistad Commission of the State of Illinois, an institutional member of the Chicago Cultural Alliance, and member of the Historic Pullman Garden Club.

In 2010, Williams developed the Chicago Freedom Tours with the guidance of Dr. Christopher Reed and well noted historian and educator Mrs. Glennette Tilley Turner. Funding support for the project came from the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Williams trained volunteers to provide portrayals at historic sites in Chicago where Civil war era statesmen, ministry leaders, and abolitionists supported freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad.

In 2009, Williams developed the Earl and Beverly Johnson Bird Oasis at the Pullman State Historic Site. In 2012, Williams developed an African Heritage Garden and Migratory Bird Oasis at Stephen Douglas Tomb Site. Williams received her appointment to the Amistad Commission of the State of Illinois in 2012. Williams was awarded an Audubon TogetherGreen Toyota Fellowship in May 2012; became a Timuel D. Black Fellow in 2010 and also was selected as honoree of the Chicago Chapter Friends of the Amistad Award in 2002.

Williams offers significant oral and written documentation of African and African American contributions to this great City of Chicago. Williams is the author of "100 Notable People and Places in Bronzeville (Black Chicago)." Along with her numerous educational undertakings, Williams has established memberships and associations with more than 26 other institutions and organizations.

Scope and Contents note

The Sherry Williams Collection dates from 1935-2010 and consists of five series. The first series is "Correspondence and Family Documents" to Sherry Williams. The second series is "Certificates" by Sherry Williams or family members. The third series is "Genealogical Records/ Extended Family" and contains materials related to a genealogical project that Williams compiled over the last twenty years to trace her family back to the antebellum period. The fourth series is "Photographs" and are Williams' personal collection of family photographs. The majority of the photographs added to the collection were

found loose without dates or original grouping. The final series is “Realia,” within this grouping are several physical objects that belonged to the Williams Family.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Bronzeville Historical Society May 22, 2013

Restrictions

None.

Processing Information note

Processed by CLIR funded Black Metropolis Research Consortium “Color Curtain Processing Project.”
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Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Bronzeville (Chicago, Ill.)

Subject(s)

- African American women – Chicago (Ill.) – Social conditions
- African American--History.
- Bronzeville (Chicago, Ill.)--Social life and customs.
- Photograph collections.

Provenance

Collected by Sherry Williams

Cited Sources

Yandell, Kate. "Connecting Chicagoans with Birds." Audubon Magazine. Audubon Magazine, 12 Dec. 2012. Web. 01 Oct. 2013.

Series I: Correspondence and Family Documents,

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence and Family Documents, 1980-2010		
	Box	Folder
Correspondences, flyers from family members, 2000, undated	1	1
Correspondence, CPS confirmation of Sherry Williams' graduation date, 1980 February 4	1	2
Correspondence, to Sherry Williams, Re: Termination of Employment, 1981 September 15	1	3
Correspondence, from Abraham Lincoln Centre to Sherry Williams, 1982 October 23, 1983 June 10	1	4
Correspondence from Sherry Williams, Re: Letter of resignation, 1984 December 12	1	5
Documents from Chicago Police Department, undated	1	6
Job Application, Illinois Masonic Medical Center, undated	1	7
Job Application, Secretary Position, undated	1	8
Work Documents, 1981, undated	1	9

Series II: Certificates,

Cards to Sherry Williams (1 of 3), circa 1980-2010	1	10
Cards to Sherry Williams (2 of 3), circa 1980-2010	1	11
Cards to Sherry Williams (3 of 3), circa 1980-2010	1	12

Series II: Certificates, 1935-2007

	Box	Folder
Marriage License, John Williams and Doris Sanders, 1935 July 6	1	13
Elementary School Certificate 'Marlon Williams,' [1970] June 25	1	14
Certificate of Baptism for Sherry Williams, 1961 February 19	1	15
Middle School Diploma and Final Report Card, 1974	1	16
Positive Pregnancy Test from Planned Parenthood for Sherry Williams (Aja Hall), 1977 July 7	1	17
Baby foot-prints for Shaina Ray Tucker, 1988 February 7	1	18
Birth Certificate for Joi Lorraine Tucker, 1991 April 27	1	19
Homework Award for Shaina Tucker, 1994 May 25	1	20
2 Certificates of Merit for Shaina Tucker, 1994 June 15	1	21

Series II: Certificates,

Computer Achievement Certificate for Sherry Williams, 1995 March	1	22
Certificate of Scholastic Achievement for Shaina Tucker, 1997 June 11	1	23
Student Achievement Award for Joi Tucker, 1998 June 10	1	24
2 Science Fair Certificates of Participation for Shaina Tucker, 1996 December 6	1	25
Center for New Horizon's, Certificate of Course Completion, 1998 September 10	1	26
Baptism invitation for Shaina and Joi Tucker, 1999 February 7	1	27
Certificate of Registration for Bronzeville, Black Chicago 100 Notable People and Places, 1999	1	28
Art Award - Shaina Tucker, 1999 June 8	1	29
Certificate of Completion for the study of 'The Ultimate Adventure with Jesus', Aja Hall, 1999 August 20	1	30
Academic Excellence Award - Shaina Tucker, 2000 July 10-20	1	31
Certificate of Appreciation for Sherry Williams, 2007 March 28	1	32
Newspaper article that mentions Steven Williams, undated	1	33

Series III: Genealogical Records/ Extended Family,

Illinois H4 Program Award of Participation, Shaina Tucker, undated	1	34
Report cards from Aja Hall, Shaina and Joi Tucker, circa 1990-1999	1	35
Graduation brochures, circa 1990-1999	1	36
Family obituaries, circa 1980-2010	1	37
Family recipes, undated	1	38

Series III: Genealogical Records/ Extended Family, 1981-2010

	Box	Folder
How to trace your family lineage, handouts, undated	2	1
Family tree diagrams, handouts, undated	2	2
Williams family census records, 1981-2010	2	3
Cooper family papers, 2010	2	4
Washington Cooper, 2010	2	5
John Cooper, 2010	2	6
Alexander Cooper, 2010	2	7

Series IV: Photographs,

Nero Cooper, 2010	2	8
Edward Cooper, 2010	2	9
Booker Cooper, 2010	2	10
Hale family papers, 2004	2	11
Canterberry/ Lampley research notes, 2004	2	12
Sherry Williams' research notes, circa 1990-2010	2	13
Sherry Williams, African heritage report, 2010 February 10	2	14
Printed photocopies of original documents, undated	2	15
Series IV: Photographs, circa 1970-2010		
	Box	Folder
Photographs of Sherry Williams, circa 1970-2010	3	1
Photographs of Aja Hall, 1 of 2, circa 1980-2010	3	2
Photographs of Aja Hall, 2 of 2, circa 1980-2010	3	3
Photographs of Shaina Tucker, circa 1986-2010	3	4

Series IV: Photographs,

Photographs of Joi Tucker, circa 1988-2010	3	5
Photographs of Bobby Tucker, circa 1980-2010	3	6
Photographs of Steve and Marlon Williams, circa 1970-2010	3	7
Photographs of Sherry Williams' Family, 1 of 2, circa 1980-2010	3	8
Photographs of Sherry Williams' Family, 2 of 2, circa 1980-2010	3	9
Photographs of Lampley Family, circa 1920-1970	3	10
Photographs of Hale Family, circa 1920-1970	3	11
Photographs on vacations or at events, circa 1980-2010	4	1
Sherry Williams at the King Library with Gerri Gibson, 1999	4	2
Photographs of Sherry Williams' friends, circa 1980-2010	4	3
Photographs of Sherry Williams' co-workers, circa 1980-2010	4	4
Photographs of the 4538 S. Forrestville Home, 1991-1993	4	5
Various Family photographs bound by tape or glue, circa 1980-2010	4	6
Digital scans of family photographs, circa 1980-2010	4	7

Series V: Realia,

Loose negatives, undated	4	8
Oversized family photographs, circa 1980-2010	5	N/A
Series V: Realia, 1988-2009		
	Box	Folder
Hospital bracelets, 1988, 1991	5	N/A
2 D.A.R.E metals, undated	5	N/A
Graduation cap, undated	5	N/A
Graduation tassels, 2009	5	N/A
Graduation tassels, 1992	5	N/A
Bride and Groom glasses and cake topper (from Williams and Tucker wedding), 1987 September 12	5	N/A
Shaina Tucker Diploma, 2002	5	N/A
Certificate of Appreciation for Sherry Williams, 1996	5	N/A
Certificate of Appreciation for Sherry Williams, 1995	5	N/A
Methodist Membership and Church Records, undated	5	N/A