

# **Black Archives of Mid-America / Kansas City Public Library Oral History Collection (AC12)**

## ***Introduction***

The Black Archives of Mid-America / Kansas City Public Library Oral History Collection consists of 59 interviews with individuals prominent in the African American community and provides insight into the history of the African American community in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

## ***Descriptive Summary***

Creator: Black Archives of Mid-America and the Kansas City Public Library  
Title: Black Archive of Mid-America / Kansas City Public Library Oral History Collection  
Dates: 1975-1976  
Size: 6.4 linear feet, 92 cassettes, 77 CDs, 82 WAV files, 4 boxes  
Collection Number: AC12

## ***Donor Information***

The project was a grant-funded collaboration between the Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. and the Kansas City Public Library. Results were shared between institutions.

## ***Citation Note***

Black Archives of Mid-America / Kansas City Public Library Oral History Collection (AC12), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

## ***Administrative Information***

Reproduction Restrictions: Donor imposed restrictions may apply to reproduction and use of interviews. Restrictions are noted in the finding aid.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

## ***Historical Sketch***

The oral history project was a grant-funded collaboration between the Black Archives of Mid-America and the Kansas City Public Library. The Kansas City Public Library served primarily in a consulting role, providing training to prospective interviewers. The Black Archives directed most other aspects of the project, including identifying interviewees, performing the interviews, and creating summaries of the interviews. Interviews were conducted by Horace M. Peterson III, Ella Pruitt, Edward Scott, Milton Smith, and

Ophelia Webber. Rose Bell served as the library's consultant on the project and conducted one of the interviews.

### *Scope and Content Note*

The Black Archives of Mid-America / Kanas City Public Library Oral History Collection originally consisted of 97 audio cassette tapes containing interviews with 59 individuals conducted between mid-1975 and late 1976. A number of cassette tapes are currently missing.

The Black Archives of Mid-America houses an original set of the cassette tapes, CD copies, interview summaries created by the project team, copies of the use agreements, and a growing collection of detailed summaries of the interviews. Audio does not exist for Interview #31, Gerald Hall, and Interview #56, Luther White. Original audio for Interview #34, Thelma L. Hollowell, is found on Interview #1, Ahmad Ala-adeen, Side B of Tape 2. Brief summaries, prepared by the project team, are available for all interviews with the exception of Interview #45, James McKinley Neal.

Original project contracts, correspondence, use agreements, and related documents are available for viewing in the Missouri Valley Room at the Kansas City Public Library as part of SC52, Black Archives of Mid-America / Kansas City Public Library Oral History Collection.

Interviews are listed numerically by interview number and include the name of the interviewee, the number of items and audio formats available for the interview, the name of the interviewer, the date of the interview, the total length of the interview, and the subject assigned by the project team.

### *Collection Inventory*

Interview #1: **Ala-adeen, Ahmad** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Edward Scott

Date: 07/27/1976

Length: 49:01

Subject: Music

Interview #2: **Anderson, James** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III

Date: 10/05/1976

Length: 46:12

Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #3: **Bacchus, Rev. Clemmie** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 2 WAV files)

Interviewer: Ella Pruitt

Date: 04/13/1976

Length: Part 1, 58:01; Part 2, 19:02

Subject: Religion

Interview #4: **Blankenship, G. Lawrence** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 06/21/1976  
Length: 63:22  
Subject: Business

Interview #5: **Bly, Lt. Albert O.** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 12/12/1975  
Length: Part 1, 60:33; Part 2, 57:45  
Subject: Military

Interview #6: **Bolling, Richard** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 10/01/1976  
Length: 71:33  
Subject: Politics

Interview #7: **Brisco, Rev. Charles** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 11/19/1975  
Length: Part 1, 58:56; Part 2, 28:22  
Subject: Religion

Interview #8: **Bronson, Arthur Jr.** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 10/07/1976  
Length: 69:49  
Subject: Politics

Interview #9: **Brooks, Alvin L.** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 06/02/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:51; Part 2, 35:34  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #10: **Bryant, Dr. Girard T.** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 04/20/1976  
Length: 60:06  
Subject: Education

Interview #11: **Cameron, Dr. Jeremiah** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Milton Smith  
Date: 04/11/1976  
Length: 73:03  
Subject: Education

Interview #12: **Cleaver, Rev. Emmanuel** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott

Date: 11/18/1975  
Length: 43:28  
Subject: Religion  
Restriction: Interviewee retains right and license to publish the interview until 2075.

Interview #13: **Clymer, Judge Lewis** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Milton Smith  
Date: 08/24/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:20; Part 2, 28:24  
Subject: Law, Politics

Interview #14: **Collins, Joanne** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Milton Smith  
Date: 08/21/1976  
Length: Part 1, 64:28, Part 2, 48:28  
Subject: Politics

Interview #15: **Curls, Fred** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 03/11/1976  
Length: Part 1, 51:17; Part 2, 25:32  
Subject: Business

Interview #16: **Curls, Phillip** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 08/31/1976  
Length: 70:35  
Subject: Politics

Interview #17: **Daniels, Fletcher** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 05/05/1976  
Length: 65:23  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #18: **Davis, Ius** (3 cassettes; 3 CDs; 3 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 05/15/1976; 05/22/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:21; Part 2, 30:09; Part 3, 59:57  
Subject: Politics

Interview #19: **Dumas, Thelma M. and Gentry, Johnnie Mae** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 11/20/1975  
Length: 60:27  
Subject: Religion  
Restriction: Interviewees retain right and license to publish the interview during lifetime and lifetime of children.

Interview #20: **Dwight, Charles** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Ella Pruitt

Date: 02/09/1976

Length: 30:50

Subject: Education

Interview #21: **Farnsworth, Dr. Robert** (1 cassette; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)

Interviewer: Milton Smith

Date: 02/06/1976

Length: Part 1, 60:29; Part 2, 57:00

Subjects: Community Affairs, Education

Interview #22: **Fennel, Sgt. Major Herbert** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Edward Scott

Date: 01/13/1976

Length: 49:14

Subject: Military

Restriction: Interviewee retains right and license to publish the interview until 2076.

Interview #23: **Fields, Dr. Edward** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)

Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III

Date: 06/01/1976

Length: Part 1, 60:23; Part 2, 40:13

Subject: Education

Interview #24: **Forester, Dr. Norman** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Ella Pruitt

Date: 05/11/1976

Length: Part 2, 13:26

Subject: Medicine

Interview #25: **Franklin, John** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III

Date: 09/27/1976

Length: 50:26

Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #26: **Gardner, Isaac, Jr.** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Ella Pruitt

Date: 02/16/1976

Length: 52:24

Subject: Education

Interview #27: **Gates, Ollie** (no cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Edward Scott

Date: 04/20/1976

Length: 28:44

Subject: Business

Interview #28: **Gates, Samuella** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 04/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:31; Part 2, 63:54  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #29: **Gibson, Elvis** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 02/20/1976  
Length: 31:50  
Subject: Business

Interview #30: **Goodseal, Wilbur** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 09/30/1976  
Length: 44:48  
Subject: Theater

Interview #31: **Hall, Gerald** (no cassette; no CD; no WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 05/14/1976  
Length: N/A  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #32: **Harris, Alexander** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 09/01/1976  
Length: 62:04  
Subject: Business

Interview #33: **Holliday, Harold Lee** (4 cassettes; 4 CDs; 4 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 09/27/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:35; Part 2, 60:42; Part 3, 59:16; Part 4, 46:35  
Subject: Politics

Interview #34: **Hollowell, Thelma L.** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 02/04/1976  
Length: 33:44  
Subject: Military

Interview #35: **Hughes, Mamie** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 05/05/1976  
Length: Part 1, 61:30; Part 2, 48:20  
Subject: Politics

Interview #36: **Hughes, Michael** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 06/20/1976  
Length: 75:41  
Subject: Politics

Interview #37: **Jackson, Ruby** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 03/17/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:32; Part 2, 49:24  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #38: **Jenkins, Carroll** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Milton Smith  
Date: 09/14/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:22; Part 2, 34:18  
Subject: Music

Interview #39: **Karriem, Malik** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 10/23/1976  
Length: 28:24  
Subject: Music

Interview #40: **Klice, Arrington** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 03/19/1976  
Length: 60:27  
Subject: Sports

Interview #41: **Knuti, David** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 10/08/1976  
Length: Part 1, 62:20; Part 2, 47:05  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #42: **McKamey, Leo** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ophelia Webber  
Date: 02/01/1976  
Length: 62:32  
Subject: Politics

Interview #43: **Moore, Augustus** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 06/23/1976  
Length: 19:32  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #44: **Moore, Chuck** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)

Interviewer: Milton Smith  
Date: 03/29/1976  
Length: 77:40  
Subject: Journalism

Interview #45: **Neal, James McKinley** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Rose Bell  
Date: 03/11/1975  
Length: Part 1, 59:55; Part 2, 13:09  
Subject: None assigned.

Interview #46: **Newby, W. N.** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 10/14/1976  
Length: 60:22  
Subject: Business

Interview #47: **Pemberton, Lounner** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 05/20/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:54; Part 2, 41:41  
Subjects: Community Affairs, Labor

Interview #48: **Reese, Eddie** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 10/07/1976  
Length: 60:54  
Subject: Journalism

Interview #49: **Ridgeway, Adolf** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 04/1976  
Length: 60:14  
Subject: Community Affairs

Interview #50: **Ross, Henry** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 05/25/1976  
Length: 78:29  
Subject: Politics

Interview #51: **Sewing, Henry Warren** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 04/14/1976  
Length: Part 1, 62:59; Part 2, 23:32  
Subject: Business

Interview #52: **Sweeney, Robert** (3 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III



Date: 07/26/1976  
Length: Part 1, 60:20; Part 2, 79:20  
Subject: Community Affairs, Labor, Politics

Interview #53: **Taylor, Dr. Billy James** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 02/21/1976  
Length: Part 1, 58:02; Part 2, 54:51  
Subject: Medicine

Interview #54: **Thompson, Rev. Nelson** (2 cassettes; 2 CDs; 2 WAV files)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 10/09/1975  
Length: Part 1, 58:29; Part 2, 44:05  
Subject: Religion  
Restriction: Interviewee retains right and license to publish the interview until 2075.

Interview #55: **Thurman, A. Odell** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Horace M. Peterson III  
Date: 09/28/1976  
Length: 75:58  
Subject: Education

Interview #56: **White, Luther** (no cassette; no CD; no WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 04/29/1976  
Length: N/A  
Subjects: Business, Education

Interview #57: **Williams, Chee Chee** (no cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Milton Smith  
Date: 02/29/1976  
Length: 64:52  
Subject: Journalism

Interview #58: **Williams, Rev. John W.** (2 cassettes; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Edward Scott  
Date: 11/20/1975  
Length: 75:54  
Subject: Religion  
Restriction: Interviewee retains the right and license to publish the interview during lifetime of children.

Interview #59: **Wilson, Adolph** (1 cassette; 1 CD; 1 WAV file)  
Interviewer: Ella Pruitt  
Date: 06/22/1976  
Length: 37:18  
Subject: Community Affairs

- f. 1 Brief interview summaries, Ala-adeen to Wilson, 1975-1976
- f. 2 Brief interview summaries, Ala-adeen to Wilson, 1975-1976 (photocopies)
- f. 3 Lists of interviewees and subjects, 1975-1976
- f. 4 Interview agreements, 1975-1976
- f. 5 Detailed interview summaries
  - Summaries in progress. Ask the collection librarian for a complete list of summaries available.

**Processed by Michael Sweeney, Collection Librarian, March 2014.**