

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Elijah Singley

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2012-055

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation
For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Elijah Singley is the retired director of the library at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois. He lived in Alabama and worked as the head librarian at Alabama State College in Montgomery, Alabama in the 1960s. He moved to Springfield in 1971 when he was hired by Lincoln Land Community College as a library faculty member. He was directly involved in the Civil Rights Movement and participated in Dr. King's Selma to Montgomery march, which he describes in great detail. Singley also discusses the history of the Civil Rights movement.

Interview date(s):	March 21, 2012
Interview Location:	Springfield, Illinois
Interview Format:	digital audio
Interviewer:	Barbara Dickerman
Transcription by:	_____
Edited by:	_____
Total Pages:	_____
Total Time:	2 hrs, 7 min, 44 sec / 2.13 hrs

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Abstract

Elijah Singley, Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

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Biographical Information and Synopsis: Elijah Singley was born in Bessemer, Alabama. Singley received his Master's of Science in Library Services from Atlanta University. While a student, one of his jobs included organizing letters written to and by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After earning his degree, Singley took a job at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia as a reference librarian. He later worked as the head librarian at Alabama State University for eight years in the 1960s. He moved to Springfield in 1971 to take a job at Lincoln Land Community College as a library faculty member.

While working at Virginia State University, Singley became involved in the Civil Rights movement by transporting students and other members of society to and from sit-in locations throughout the area. In the early 1960s, Singley took a job at Alabama State University in Montgomery. While there, he was a part of the third Selma to Montgomery March, led by Dr. King. He discusses the marches in great detail, and talks about his involvement in the third march in particular.

Topics Covered: Civil Rights movement; Virginia State University; Petersburg, Virginia; Montgomery, Alabama; Alabama State College (University); Lincoln Land Community College; sit-ins; Selma to Montgomery March; 'Bloody Sunday'; Judge Frank Johnson; Martin Luther King, Jr.; *Brown v. Board of Education*; Satyagraha; US Route 80

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