

## **Title Page & Abstract**

An Interview with Veronica Robison

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2004-025

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

Veronica Robison was born and raised in Springfield, Illinois. She talks about growing up in Springfield, her family life, what she did for fun, her job at the FBI, race relations and affirmative action, the African-American Chamber of Commerce, and several small business ventures that she funded and operated herself. She also discusses racism in Springfield, especially in terms of financial institutions and the police and fire departments, and the NAACP and Urban League.

Interview date(s):	February 17, 2004
Interview Location:	Springfield, Illinois
Interview Format:	audio cassette
Interviewer:	Cullom Davis
Transcription by:	Susan Crapo
Edited by:	Jackie Wilkes
Total Pages:	111
Total Time:	2 hrs, 48 min, 5 sec / 2.8 hrs.

Interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential  
Library in Springfield, Illinois.

## Abstract

### Veronica Robison, Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

**Biographical Information and Synopsis:** Veronica Robison was born in 1950 in Springfield, Illinois. She has an older sister and an older brother. She notes that she never noticed any segregation growing up. She attended St. Peter and Paul School, which was a German Catholic school near her house. She followed in her sister's footsteps and elected to enroll in Ursuline Academy rather than go to Lanphier High School. Within a month of graduating from high school in 1969, Robison took a job with the FBI in Springfield, where she was still working at the time of this interview. When she was twenty-seven years old, Robison married Norman Cook, an administrator for District 186.

Shortly after getting married, Robison also became involved with St. Paul AME Church, which led to a great deal of community involvement on her part. She worked on various committees in Springfield, which led to her helping develop the African-American Chamber of Commerce. She was voted the first president of the organization. After the organization disbanded, Robison began to try her hand at developing her own small businesses, all of which were very successful. She talks about her successful limo service, a party planning service that she still operated at the time of the interview, and a publishing company she used to publish some of her works. Robison wrote *Springfield's Black Pages* to make members of the black community aware of some of the notable African-Americans in Springfield, as well as some black-owned businesses in the city.

**Topics Covered:** Springfield – 1950s to present; Federal Bureau of Investigation; affirmative action; African-American Chamber of Commerce; small businesses; *Springfield's Black Pages*; racism in Springfield; NAACP; Springfield Police Department

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

## COPYRIGHT

**This material may be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**