

**Record Series #: 1121-125****Name: James J. Williams, III papers****Dates: 1938, 1946-1992, no date****Extent/Size: 4.0 records cartons, 1.0 oversized box (4.5 cubic feet)****Language: English****Name of Creator(s):**

James Joseph Williams, III

**Biographical History:**

James Joseph Williams, III (1931-1990) was a Black journalist, professor, and musician who lived all over the United States producing television, music, and radio.

James Joseph Williams, III was born on December 23, 1931 to James Lloyd Williams, Sr. (1906-unknown) and Mary Louisa Williams Middleton (1918-2004) in Savannah, Georgia. He attended Alfred E. Beach High School, graduating in 1950. After graduation, he served in the United States Army, playing the bugle and serving combat duty in the Korean War.

After his military service, Williams moved to Detroit, Michigan, to attend the University of Michigan. He obtained a music degree in 1957. He had his first child, Miriam Michelle around 1956 in Michigan. From 1957-1963 Williams was pre-med at Wayne State University while also working as a teacher in the Detroit Public Schools. He married Gloria Marie Hatcher-Williams (1938-2002) on March 25, 1961. They had two children together, James Williams, IV (1962-) and John Mark Williams (1966-1982).

James J. Williams, III went on to graduate from the University of Michigan in 1967 with a Masters in Speech, Radio, Television, and Film Journalism. He then worked at local television news affiliates in Detroit and Chicago. Williams divorced Gloria sometime in the 1970s. His youngest son, John Mark, was shot during a robbery where he worked as a dishwasher, and he succumbed to his gunshot wounds on August 26, 1982.

Williams moved back to Savannah, Georgia, to work as Assistant Professor of Mass Communications and Director of Communications at Savannah State University from 1973-1978. He set up and managed WHCJ-FM, the local radio station run by Savannah State. From 1978-1982 he lived in Atlanta, where he was the Station Manager and Assistant Professor at Clark College. He also taught a television production program for the Magnet Schools Project at the Atlanta Public Schools. In 1983 he researched and developed an aquafarm business to harvest shrimp in Jamaica. In 1983, he moved to Maryland and played as the bassist in the Prince George Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra until 1985. In the last years of his life, Williams lived in New Jersey from 1988-1990, working as a teacher in the Orange, New Jersey, public schools and as a media consultant for Essex County College.

Williams was involved with several different organizations throughout his life, including the Writers Guild of America, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, James Europe American Legion Post where he helped revive their famous marching band, and the Association for Education in Journalism. He was especially dedicated to his work in communications and educating America's youth.

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

James J. Williams, III died in New Jersey on August 14, 1990, and is buried in Laurel Grove South Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia.

***Scope & Content:***

The James J. Williams, III papers contain professional and personal items created and collected by James J. Williams, III. The collection includes correspondence, subject files, teaching course material, financial papers, and property records. The content ranges from technical essays on mass media, supplemental educational items for teaching children, reference work on Black history, and consultant reports on various topics that Williams was hired for. Williams also kept several personal items, including hand drawn sketches from his son James Williams, IV during time spent in United States Prison Barracks while in the Marine Corps. Other significant items in the collection include polaroid photographs and renovation plans for his house located at 830 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Savannah, Georgia, 31401.

***System of Arrangement & Ordering:***

The James J. Williams, III papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, including career and school papers, correspondence, financials, personal papers, property papers, and subject files. Oversized and restricted materials have been separated at the end.

***Conditions Governing Access:***

Certain records have been restricted due to legal restrictions on releasing Social Security numbers, and confidential tax information [O.C.G.A. 50-18-72(a)(20)(A)]. These records have been closed for 75 years to protect the privacy of living individuals.

The collection is stored offsite and researchers must request desired records at least one (1) full business day before scheduled research appointment for access.

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This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve a violation of copyright law.

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

*Access Points:*

African American journalists  
African American teachers  
African American universities and colleges  
Alfred E. Beach High School (Savannah, Ga.)  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity  
Atlanta Junior College  
Bowie State College  
Clark Atlanta University  
East Orange (N. J.). Board of Education  
Essex County College  
George Washington University  
Georgia Southern University  
Howard University  
Hilton Head Island (S. C.)  
International Business Machines Corporation  
Journalism teachers  
Malcolm X College (Chicago, Ill.)  
Montreux Jazz Festival  
National Association of Black Journalists  
Newark Public Library  
Rutgers University  
Savannah State University (Ga.)  
Seton Hall University  
Shrimp culture  
Television journalists  
Tuskegee Institute  
United States. Federal Communications Commission  
University of Michigan

*Sponsors/Funding:*

Chatham County, Georgia, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding.

*Preferred Citation:*

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*Processed by:*

M. Kerkhoff, September 2021.

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

*Inventory:*

**Box**

*Folder Number Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]*

**Box 1121-125-0001**

***Career and School papers***

- Folder 1 American History course material, no date
- Folder 2 American Literature course material, no date
- Folder 3 Atlanta Junior College, Georgia, Introduction to Journalism binder, 1981 [James Williams, instructor]
- Folder 4 Atlanta Junior College, Georgia, Introduction to Journalism course material, 1981 [James Williams, instructor]
- Folder 5 Bowie State College, Maryland, 1978, 1984, no date
- Folder 6 Bowie State College, Maryland, Black history test, no date
- Folder 7 Bowie State College, Maryland, financials, 1984, no date
- Folder 8 Bowie State College, Maryland, radio and television production course material, 1984
- Folder 9 Bowie State College, Maryland, release forms, no date
- Folder 10 Business and membership cards, 1978, no date
- Folder 11 Career and school papers, general, 1966, 1978, 1980-1989, no date
- Folder 12 Certificates of merit, 1981, 1989, 1982
- Folder 13 Certification in teaching, Georgia, study guide, 1986
- Folder 14 Certification in teaching, Michigan, 1962
- Folder 15 Certification in teaching, New Jersey, 1988, no date
- Folder 16 Certification in teaching, South Carolina, 1988, no date
- Folder 17 Classroom observations, 1989
- Folder 18 Clark College, Georgia personal directory, 1980-1981
- Folder 19 Essays and articles by James J. Williams, 1986-1988
- Folder 20 Essex County College, New Jersey, media consultant reports, 1988
- Folder 21 Georgia Southern College, Georgia, administration and supervision class notes, 1986-1987, no date
- Folder 22 International Business Machine Corp. (IBM), National Marketing Division (NMD) Summer internship, 1968, 1980-1982, no date [digital data disks of James Williams resume]

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

***Box***

***Folder Number Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]***

**Box 1121-125-0001**

***Career and School papers Continued***

- Folder 23 IBM, NMD Summer internship, audio teleconferencing site moderator's guide, no date
- Folder 24 Intern information, no date
- Folder 25 Job application forms, no date
- Folder 26 Job vacancy announcements, 1983, 1985, no date
- Folder 27 Learning education notes, 1987, no date
- Folder 28 Malcolm X College, Illinois, 1972, no date
- Folder 29 Mass media course material, no date
- Folder 30 Mega Shrimp Farming, Inc., articles on fish and shrimp farming, 1960, 1969, 1977, 1982-1984, no date
- Folder 31 Mega Shrimp Farming, Inc., "Draft of Project Issues Summary Report for Fish Farming and Processing," prepared by consultant James Williams, circa 1983
- Folder 32 Mega Shrimp Farming, Inc., incorporation, 1978, 1984, 1987-1990, no date
- Folder 33 Mega Shrimp Farming, Inc., proposal, circa 1983
- Folder 34 Mega Shrimp Farming, Inc., proposal drafts, no date
- Folder 35 Military service, 1952-1953
- Folder 36 Music pages and song sheets, no date
- Folder 37 News articles on James Williams, 1970-1978, 1981, no date
- Folder 38 News releases on James Williams, 1968, 1969, 1978
- Folder 39 Notes, no date
- Folder 40 Notes, hardcover notebook, April 26, 1990
- Folder 41 Notes, spiral notepads, no date
- Folder 42 Orange Board of Education, New Jersey, substitute teacher manual, 1988
- Folder 43 Orange, New Jersey Elementary Schools, music class materials, 1986-1987, no date
- Folder 44 Personal Standard Qualifications statement forms from the United States government, no date
- Folder 45 Radio scripts, 1977, no date
- Folder 46 Radio scripts, American Cancer Society public service announcements (PSA), no date

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

***Box***

***Folder Number Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]***

**Box 1121-125-0001**

***Career and School papers Continued***

- Folder 47 Radio and television course material, 1979-1984, no date
- Folder 48 "Reading Exercises in Negro History Volume Two," by Fred B. Chernow and Carol Chernow, The Continental Press, 1969
- Folder 49 Resumes, no date
- Folder 50 Rutgers University, New Jersey, "Telecommunications in the Year 2000: National and International Perspectives," Conference, November 17-20, 1981 [James Williams, presenter]
- Folder 51 School transcripts, 1950, 1975, no date

**Box 1121-125-0002**

- Folder 1 Seton Hall University, New Jersey, notebook with history notes, 1985, no date
- Folder 2 Seton Hall University, New Jersey, notebook holder with notes, no date
- Folder 3 Seton Hall University, New Jersey, Upward Bound program, 1988-1990
- Folder 4 Seton Hall University, New Jersey, Upward Bound program, notebook holder, notes and schedules, 1987-1990, no date
- Folder 5 Seton Hall University, New Jersey, Upward Bound program, Journalism Writing course material, 1989
- Folder 6 Students records, 1987, 1989, no date
- Folder 7 Students records, Gaetane, Jean-Marie, 1989-1990
- Folder 8 University of Michigan, Michigan, transcripts, 1957, 1978, 1985, 1989

***Correspondence***

- Folder 9 1946-1969
- Folder 10 1970-1977
- Folder 11 1978-1979
- Folder 12 1980 January-March
- Folder 13 1980 April-November [attached to letter, original sketch drawings from Jimmie Williams, IV, sent May 11, 1980]
- Folder 14 1981
- Folder 15 1982

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

***Box***

***Folder Number Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]***

**Box 1121-125-0002**

***Correspondence Continued***

Folder 16 1983

Folder 17 1984 January-May

Folder 18 1984 July-October

Folder 19 1985-1987

Folder 20 1988

Folder 21 1989

Folder 22 1990

Folder 23 Job application correspondence, 1982-1983, 1990

Folder 24 No date

***Financials***

Folder 25 Bank records, 1984-1987, no date

Folder 26 Financials, general, 1956, 1962, 1982-1989, no date

Folder 27 Gas and electric bills, 1984, 1987, no date

Folder 28 Lottery, 1988-1989, no date

Folder 29 Phone bills, 1988, no date

Folder 30 Receipts, 1973-1974, 1984-1989, no date

Folder 31 Speeding Tickets, 1989-1990, no date

***Personal Papers***

Folder 32 Contacts and directories, no date

Folder 33 Matchbook from Patricia and Barry's wedding and an emery board from County Commissioner Artie Jones Jr.'s campaign, 1986, no date

Folder 34 Personal papers, general, 1990, no date

Folder 35 Photograph and photograph envelopes, 1954, 1990, no date

Folder 36 Wedding invitations and greeting card, 1961, no date

***Property Papers***

Folder 37 1686 Elmhurst, Detroit, Michigan ("Second House"), 1962

Folder 38 1686 Elmhurst, Detroit, Michigan ("Second House"), 1963-1965, no date

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

***Box***

***Folder Number Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]***

**Box 1121-125-0002**

***Property Papers Continued***

- Folder 39 Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, property records, November 1972
- Folder 40 Renovation plans and polaroid photographs for 830 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Savannah, Georgia, 31401, no date

***Subject Files***

- Folder 41 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), no date
- Folder 42 African American history book, reproduction, unknown author, no date
- Folder 43 "The Afro-American and the Constitution: From Colonial Times to Present, a bibliographic guide," by the Special Collections Department Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, circa 1987
- Folder 44 Alfred E. Beach High school, 1949, 1989
- Folder 45 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Beta Phi Lambda chapter, 1971, 1986
- Folder 46 Baseball cards and catalogues, 1983, 1987-1989
- Folder 47 Bibliographies and book lists, no date
- Folder 48 Black athletes, no date
- Folder 49 "Black Brass: Black Generals and Admirals in the Armed Forces of the United States," by Henry E. Dabbs, 1985 [reproduced excerpt]
- Folder 50 "Black Georgians in History," by Chet Fuller and the NAACP Savannah branch, no date
- Folder 51 Black inventors of America, no date

**Box 1121-125-0003**

***Subject Files continued***

- Folder 1 Black women, 1972, 1977, 1983, 1990, 1992 [black and white portrait photograph reproductions of various people]
- Folder 2 Book card catalogue, no date
- Folder 3 Book catalogues and bookmark, 1988, no date
- Folder 4 Calendars, 1987



**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

***Box***

***Folder Number Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]***

**Box 1121-125-0003**

***Subject Files Continued***

- Folder 5 Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia, 1980, 1982
- Folder 6 Copyright law, 1969, 1973, 1976, 1980, no date
- Folder 7 Drama, 1973, 1986
- Folder 8 Economics, 1981, 1983, no date
- Folder 9 Education, 1972, 1981-1989
- Folder 10 Events, 1956, 1962-1963, 1971, 1982-1990
- Folder 11 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 1982, 1986, 1988
- Folder 12 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) policy regarding the advancement of minority ownership in broadcasting, December 1982
- Folder 13 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) information bulletins, 1986-1988
- Folder 14 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "Interim Report of the FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced Television Service," by Richard E. Wiley, FCC Chairman, June 16, 1988
- Folder 15 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) news and public notices, 1982, 1988
- Folder 16 First Black Americans, no date
- Folder 17 Food and health, 1989, no date
- Folder 18 General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church Annual Report, 1986
- Folder 19 Glossaries of theater and human communication terms, no date
- Folder 20 Historically Black colleges and universities, 1981, 1988, 1990
- Folder 21 History, 1969, 1976, 1983, 1988, no date
- Folder 22 Howard University, Washington, DC, School of Communications Souvenir Journal, "Still Here," February 18-21, 1982
- Folder 23 Journalism, no date
- Folder 24 Libraries, no date
- Folder 25 Newark Public Library, New Jersey, 1989, no date
- Folder 26 Magnet Schools, 1986, no date
- Folder 27 "Maximizing the Benefits of Tax Certificates in Telecommunications Ventures," by Erwin G. Krasnow and David L. Crawford, September 19, 1988

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

***Box***

***Folder Number***                      ***Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]***

**Box 1121-125-0003**

***Subject Files Continued***

Folder 28        Montreux Jazz Festival, Switzerland, 1981

Folder 29        Music, no date

Folder 30        National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), no date

Folder 31        National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), 1989, no date

Folder 32        New Jersey, 1990, no date

Folder 33        "An Open Challenge to the Participants of the Aspen Institute Conference on Proposals to establish a Permanent Center for the Study of Television, Wye Plantation, October 17-19, 1980, from one of the participants," by Nolan A. Bowie, October 21, 1980

Folder 34        Organizations, 1981-1982, no date

Folder 35        Parker, Charlie "Bird," no date

Folder 36        Periodicals, 1978, 1988-1989

Folder 37        Periodicals, newsletters, 1981-1982, 1989-1990

Folder 38        People, 1989-1990, no date

Folder 39        People in the military, no date (index cards)

Folder 40        President John Kennedy assassination, no date

Folder 41        Resumes, 1981, 1984, 1988-1989, no date

Folder 42        "People History Heritage, Second to None," unknown author, no date

Folder 43        *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, education supplements, 1986

Folder 44        "Program Planning and Proposal Writing," by Grantsmanship Center, 1979

Folder 45        "Public Relations versus Advertising," by unknown author, no date

Folder 46        "Sex and Broadcasting: A Handbook on Starting a Radio Station for the Community," by Lorenzo W. Milam, 1975

Folder 47        South Carolina, no date

Folder 48        Springboards education pamphlets on American History by Portal Press, Inc., 1968

Folder 49        Storyboards, 1980

Folder 50        Subject files (general), 1981-1989, no date

Folder 51        Technology, 1989, no date

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

***Box***

***Folder Number***                                    ***Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]***

**Box 1121-125-04**

***Subject Files Continued***

- Folder 1            Test item bank from "Readers' Guide" November 10, 1977
- Folder 2            "Tri-Masters, the First National Black and Hispanic Triathlon Team," news packet by Quinn-Hart Production, Inc., 1989
- Folder 3            Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, commencement programs, 1982
- Folder 4            United Negro College Fund annual report, 1979
- Folder 5            United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census folder packet, 1990
- Folder 6            Williams, John Mark, 1982

***RESTRICTED***

***[The following material contains sensitive information and has been restricted for access until the listed year]***

- Folder 7            Employee documents, 1982-1986, 1990 [RESTRICTED until 2065]
- Folder 8            Georgia State Board of Education employee documents, 1984, 1986-1988 [RESTRICTED until 2063]
- Folder 9            Job applications, 1982-1983, 1988, no date [RESTRICTED until 2063]
- Folder 10            Medical documents, 1965, 1984, 1987-1989, no date [RESTRICTED until 2064]
- Folder 11            National Science Foundation, proposals and forms, no date [RESTRICTED until 2096]
- Folder 12            Taxes, 1985 [RESTRICTED until 2060]
- Folder 13            Taxes, 1987 [RESTRICTED until 2062]
- Folder 14            Taxes, 1988 [RESTRICTED until 2063]
- Folder 15            Veterans Administration, 1981-1984 [RESTRICTED until 2059]

**Box 1121-125-05**

***Oversized Material***

- Folder 1            Drawings of United States prison barracks by James Williams IV, no date
- Folder 2            Envelopes, 1990, no date
- Folder 3            Forward Times, news supplement, "Famous Black History Makers," February 17, 1979
- Folder 4            George Washington University, Washington, D. C., implementation schedule of typical small Earth terminal, March 21, 1981
- Folder 5            George Washington University, Washington, D. C., modular design plans, no date
- Folder 6            George Washington University, Washington, D. C., new Earth station typical site schedule, 1982

**Record Series 1121-125, James J. Williams, III papers**

*Box*

*Folder Number*

*Folder Title, Date (s) [Archivist's notes]*

**Box 1121-125-05**

*Oversized Material Continued*

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Folder 7 | James Williams III's Beach High School diploma and University of Michigan admission certificate, 1950, 1953 |
| Folder 8 | Plan of part of Old Hope Pen and Johns Point, Westmoreland, Jamaica, October 1938 [reproduction]            |