

Prairie View A&M University

## Digital Commons @PVAMU

---

President Emeritus George C. Wright Speeches

Office of the President

---

10-26-1990

### Chicago Presentation

George C. Wright

*Prairie View A&M University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/president-emeritus-george-c-wright>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Wright, G. C. (1990). Chicago Presentation. Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/president-emeritus-george-c-wright/34>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at Digital Commons @PVAMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in President Emeritus George C. Wright Speeches by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @PVAMU. For more information, please contact [hvkoshy@pvamu.edu](mailto:hvkoshy@pvamu.edu).

## Chicago Presentation

October 26, 1990

For the last dozen years, my scholarship has been centered around the black experience in the Border State of Kentucky. I have long been convinced of solid research on blacks in that area: that far too often scholars had merely generalized when making statements about blacks or race relations in that area. I conceived of my work in three parts: (1) a study on blacks in Louisville, which was published in 1985; (2) a study of racial violence in Kentucky, which was published in June of this year; (3) a general study of Kentucky blacks, covering the years 1890 to the Present.

An outgrowth of the work on Kentucky blacks is an autobiography I am now working on: the life of Robert Charles O'Hara Benjamin. *would publish books & pamphlets.*

Right from the beginning, I encountered a number of problems when doing research. There was a scarcity of sources on Kentucky blacks. For example, black newspapers had not been preserved.

Virtually no records existed on the major Afro-American leaders and institutions. *The reason scholars have omitted RCO is clear: no papers exist.*

The archives of several black institutions have proven to be very invaluable to me. At Howard University, I found several rare books and M.A. thesis on Kentucky blacks. Also, several newspapers that were not in circulation. There was material on the Louisville Afro-American YMCA that proved to be extremely useful to me. Howard University also has one of the books that R.C.O. Benjamin published.

I have made at least six trips to the Schomburg Center over the years. Found poems by a Louisville black school principal. A number of newspapers and letters by blacks. Also, *the Schomburg* ~~Howard~~ has a book of poetry that was authored by R. C. O. Benjamin, and another one of his books as well. *BLACK branch of LFRL proved to be very useful to me.*

Because it is very important for me to *put* ~~pub~~ my research on Kentucky blacks and R. C. O. Benjamin into a larger historical perspective, I needed to consult a wide range of other primary source materials. These institutions have numerous collections that have assisted me.

*Mention August Meier's influence on my Scholarship.*