

Interviewee: William Wilsey

Interviewer: Jaira Wilsey

Summary: Discusses wife's choice to keep name, both for professional and personal reasons.

*What do you know about your middle name. My middle name? Ya. My middle name is from my mother's maiden name and also my grandfather's grandfather's name. Right. Do you happen to know why it was given to you? You have two middle names right? My full name is William Lee Merriken which was my grandfather's name, and so my mother and father had thought of naming children in our family after fathers or grandfathers or mothers or grandmothers.*

*Do you think this has any relationship to feminism? No. Alright, why did you decide to pass down Lee to your son? Because Lee was a family name, that we thought might be, my wife and I, when naming our children we looked for interesting family names that we could either use to name our children or change the name to name our children. That's how my favorite daughter was named Jaira from the family name Jairus. So, has there been any unforeseen consequences? No.*

*Would you make the same choice again? Yes. Alright, so now I'm going to ask you about mom. Okay. So, what is the story there? [laughs] The story with mom is mom was a working professional and all of her professional business contacts knew her as Hillary Hutchison, and at the time she felt like it would be easy for her professionally if she would keep her last name. So, it made it easier for her she made the choice to do that. When she quit working she just it had been so long, she decided to keep it. Alright, do you think it had any relationship to feminism? No. Do- have there been any unforeseen consequences? Nothing that is severe or debilitating or difficult. Right. There are some minor consequences, such as confusion at schools and banks and things like that where common practice is where spouses share common surnames, so that's been a little bit tough in certain situations but nothing major. Did you guys ever consider having a hyphenated last name? No. How come? [Too much to write.] Had to do with length or spelling? Yep. That would have been more inconvenient than a different name. Did you ever think of combining names? No. That would have been weird. Both kids are Wilsey, right. How did you decide that? I don't remember, I don't think there was ever a discussion. We thought Hutchison-Wilsey just was cumbersome for both of you. Yeah. So, basically mom kept her name for her professional life. Yes, and she worked quite a while after we got married, so it made sense for her. It didn't bother me one way or another, it had nothing to do with feminism. It just was easier for her. Alright.*

It was not taken on some reflection on me as a person, it doesn't matter she wanted to do whatever would be easy. Yeah. I never call her Hutchison I call her Hillary. Or Hiwvy. Yeah, and she never calls we Wilsey she calls me Bill. Do you think her going to college and being educated at liberal arts had something to do with that? No. Alright, What kinds of reactions have you gotten about your choice? About the last name? Reactions? Nothing really. Both of our parents forgot that Hillary kept her last name so they would mail and other things for Hillary Wilsey, but, nothing that was major. The most interesting thing about our relationship is that we were Bill and Hillary like Bill and Hillary Clinton. Everyone always talks about our first names but not our last ones. Great, that's it. Unless you want to add something. No, it was strange at

first but we got used to it and now we're too old to care. I feel like its common in big cities, women who want their professional lives. If you have everything in that name, mom had a complicated project that meant a lot to her so it was important for her to keep it, it's difficult to change a name. Advertising, etc. Did you know you still have to do that? No I did not know that. An ad in the paper. Wow really. It is ridiculous. [small talk]