

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Julius Wayne Dudley

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com  |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Dudley, Julius Wayne   |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley,  |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | August 15, 2003 and May 9, 2003  |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2003   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 8 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:35:00).  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Community activist and history professor Julius Wayne Dudley (1944 - ) is the executive director of the Phelps Stokes Fund. Dudley works with a number of international projects and leaders to send millions of books to African countries. Dudley is a professor at Salem State University. Dudley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 15, 2003 and May 9, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2003_103  |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.  |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Champion of education Julius Wayne Dudley was born on October 29, 1944, in Atlanta, Georgia. Dudley was the oldest of nine children, born to a hard-working, illiterate father and a former sharecropper. Dudley's mother read to him nearly every night and inspired him with a love of books. Growing up in a house rented to them by a family notorious for ties to the Ku Klux Klan, Dudley walked four miles each way to a segregated school. Persevering, Dudley attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta and later did graduate work at Clark Atlanta University, the University of Cincinnati and Harvard University.

While attending Morris Brown, Dudley was first acquainted with South African blacks, and he joined their struggle against apartheid. He also marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was active in the voter registration movement. While in graduate school, he became involved in the National Teacher Corps Program, and later, while at Harvard, he became involved in TransAfrica and worked as a tutor in Boston's urban schools. After earning his Ph.D., Dudley continued to teach, and currently he is a professor at Salem State College in Massachusetts. Dudley has led the charge in spreading his love of books to Africa, both through Salem and the Phelps-Stokes Fund Books for Global Literacy Program. He has worked with a number of world leaders, including Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela and the state of Massachusetts to send more than 1 million books to students in South Africa. He has also been involved with a similar project with the Universidade Católica de Angola. In total, he has helped send more than 4 million books to people in South Africa, Ghana, Ethiopia, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Malawi and Angola.

Dudley has also been affected by a stutter his whole life, and he has managed to find a means that helps him cope with the challenge. He speaks to groups of stutterers worldwide, and to others, encouraging governments and schools to train more speech therapists. Dudley focuses his efforts on all peoples who have been oppressed, and wants to spread literacy around the globe.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Julius Wayne Dudley was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 15, 2003 and May 9, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 8 Betacame SP videocassettes. Community activist and history professor Julius Wayne Dudley (1944 - ) is the executive director of the Phelps Stokes Fund. Dudley works with a number of international projects and leaders to send millions of books to African countries. Dudley is a professor at Salem State University.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Dudley, Julius Wayne

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Dudley, Julius Wayne --Interviews

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Universities and colleges--Faculty--Interviews

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African American civic leaders--Interviews

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## African American educators--Interviews

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### Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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### Occupations:

Community Activist

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, August 15, 2003 and May 9, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley was born on October 29, 1944 in Atlanta, Georgia to Julius and Ethel Hanson Dudley. Dudley's European ancestors in the United States, the Martins, can be traced to Georgia's Taliaferro County in 1786. His ancestors of African origin, the Robinsons, the Hansons, and the Dudleys, are all from Georgia. His maternal grandfather was a child of miscegenation born in the 1880s. Dudley remembers a story his maternal grandparents used to tell as well as his grandfather's original banjo songs which ranged from spiritual to humorous. Dudley's parents met during the Great Depression at a Conservation Corps Camp. They were married in Atlanta and worked in the city's Buckhead neighborhood where Dudley's father was a chauffeur for the Venables and the Ropers, a powerful Ku Klux Klan family. The Roper Venables helped his father secure a job with the Atlanta Housing Authority after he left their employment. Dudley's mother was a schoolteacher and later worked as a maid before raising nine children.

Universities and colleges--Faculty--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

African American educators--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley talks about his father employment as a chauffeur by the Venable and Roper families, who were leaders in the Ku Klux Klan. Dudley was raised in a working class community in Atlanta, Georgia and attended E.R. Carter Elementary School where all of his teachers were African American. He stuttered as a young boy and his mother sent him to Rush Memorial Kindergarten. Over the years, Dudley learned to control his stuttering and he presented a paper about famous stutterers at the 7th International Stuttering Conference. When Dudley was ten years old, his family moved to Smyrna, a rural town in Georgia, to save money. In Smyrna, Dudley and his siblings were often trailed by Klansmen on their way to Rose Garden Hills Elementary School. Dudley discovered his love of history in grade school after reading an article about Henry VIII and his six wives. He started frequenting the local library, became an avid reader of British reader and the Atlantic slave trade, and decided to major in history.

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley describes his experiences of racial discrimination in Georgia including an encounter with a state trooper while driving with his father. The town of Smyrna, Georgia, where Dudley lived from the age of ten to thirteen, had a reputation of lynching blacks and whites alike. Dudley remembers reading about the murders of black teenager Emmett Till and of Leo Frank, a Jewish businessman who was lynched in Marietta, Georgia. Dudley later examined mob violence and lynchings in his dissertation while a doctoral student at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. Dangerous racial tensions in Smyrna, Georgia led the Dudley family to move back to Atlanta, Georgia where Dudley attended Booker T. Washington High School, the state's first black high school. Dudley describes socioeconomic and class discrimination in the school as well as the preferential treatment of lighter-skinned students. One of his teachers, Mrs. Richardson, explicitly told working class students that they would not amount to anything. In high school, Dudley was active in the chess club and boys' chorus where he discovered a love of classical music.

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley applied to college with the help of a neighbor's nephew who helped him complete his application to Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia and secure a National Defense Student Loan. In college, Dudley worked part-time as a spot welder at Chevrolet Fisher Body plant to pay his tuition. He also participated in a student exchange program at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, his first experience in a majority institution. During the Civil Rights Movement, Dudley attended several anti-segregation marches in downtown Atlanta including a protest outside of Leb's Restaurant with HistoryMakers John Lewis and Julian Bond. Although initially in favor of the Vietnam War, Dudley changed his mind after hearing leaders like Stokely Carmichael and Malcolm X and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After graduating from Morris Brown College in 1966, Dudley enrolled in the National Teachers Corps program at the University of Georgia in Athens and in the history program at Atlanta University.

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_001\_005, TRT: 0:28:45 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley was mentored by Jean Childs Young as a student in the National Teacher Corps program at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Dudley enrolled in graduate programs at the University of Georgia and at Atlanta University studying under historian Clarence A. Bacote. Although he eventually dropped out of the Teachers Corps, Dudley was certified to teach early childhood education. Dudley then taught at the University of Dayton in Ohio and pursued a Ph.D. in history at the University of Cincinnati. Graduating in 1979, he wrote his dissertation on the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. During his Ph.D. studies, Dudley taught African American Studies at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa. Dudley left USF to pursue a master's in administration at Harvard University, graduating in 1985. He talks about his professional teaching career and starting the Collaborative Education with South Africans initiative while at the Phelps Stokes Fund.

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_001\_006, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley talks about Collaborative Education with South Africans, a book project that he established in 1992 while teaching full-time at Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts. Dudley worked with A.M.E. minister, Bishop McKinley Young in Cape Town, South Africa to assess the need for books in South Africa. Their efforts were publicized in The Boston Globe in 1994, which generated public interest and support for the project. The project, bolstered by Dudley's work as vice president of the Phelps Stokes Fund, went on to collect over 3 million books from institutions like Harvard University and Boston University for schools in several African countries including South Africa, Ethiopia, Liberia, and Angola. Dudley's aversion to fundraising, led him to invest his own funds in the project to ship books overseas. Dudley talks about HistoryMaker Reverend Eugene Rivers. He also reflects upon his hopes and concerns for the African American community and upon his legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_001\_007, TRT: 0:13:30 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley describes how he would like to be remembered and narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Julius Wayne Dudley, Section A2003\_103\_002\_008, TRT:

0:22:35 ?

Julius Wayne Dudley narrates his photographs.