

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nannette Kindle Mitchell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Mitchell, Nannette, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Nannette Kindle Mitchell,
Dates:	September 28, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:58:30).
Abstract:	County government administrator Nannette Kindle Mitchell (1946 -) grew up amid the struggle for civil rights in Richmond, Virginia. She works as a management assistant in the Baltimore County government. Mitchell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 28, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_237
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nannette Kindle Mitchell was born in Philadelphia on September 16, 1946, but moved to Richmond, Virginia, a year later after her father completed his master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1951, Mitchell entered kindergarten at the school behind her home, a school that until that year had been an all-white school. Three years later, her uncle, Oliver Hill, moved into the house next door. Hill was a civil rights attorney who had written part of the *Brown vs. Board of Education* argument. The Ku Klux Klan burned crosses in their yards following Hill's arrival, and Mitchell's family was placed under police protection. During that time, her father would often sit outside her uncle's house with a gun to ensure that her uncle arrived safely home.

That same year, Mitchell was expelled from school because her parents refused to sign a document saying that the Board of Education could place students in any school it saw fit. The African American community pulled together, and the students continued their education in a church, with parents who worked as teachers writing the curriculum and stay-at-home parents teaching. Graduating from high school in 1964, Mitchell saw many of her friends arrested during sit-ins and protests.

Today, Mitchell works as a management assistant in the Baltimore County government. She has spent time working with the Baltimore Police Department and is now with the Department of Social Services. She is also still aware of the racial polarization of the country and has given speeches on the subject. Mitchell continues to counsel her children much the way her parents did her. She is also active in her community of Baltimore, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Franciscan Center, which provides emergency outreach and supportive assistance to the poor. Mitchell lived through a turbulent time and continues to fight for equality for all.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Nannette Kindle Mitchell was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 28, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. County government administrator Nannette Kindle Mitchell (1946 -) grew up amid the struggle for civil rights in Richmond, Virginia. She works as a management assistant in the Baltimore County government.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

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

Persons:

Mitchell, Nannette, 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Mitchell, Nannette, 1946- --Interviews

County officials and employees--Maryland--Baltimore County--Interviews

African American civil rights workers--Virginia--Richmond--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Baltimore County (Md.)

Occupations:

County Government Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Nannette Kindle Mitchell, September 28, 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Nannette Kindle Mitchell, Section A2003_237_001_001, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Nannette Kindle Mitchell was born on September 16, 1946 to William and Evelyn Kindle. Her mother was born in Richmond, Virginia and her father,

Springfield, Massachusetts. Mitchell's maternal great-grandfather could pass for white and owned a shoe store in Richmond, Virginia. Mitchell also talks about her paternal family history, telling a story about her great-grandmother and great-aunt having walked from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to Baltimore after emancipation. Mitchell describes her grandmother, Ethel Johnson Kindle, who attended Girls' Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts as well as Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mitchell describes her family's educational background and their long association with Virginia Union University, where her father was dean and her great-uncle, Dr. Thomas Howard Henderson, was president. She also talks about her mother and her own decision to attend Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

County officials and employees--Maryland--Baltimore County--Interviews.

African American civil rights workers--Virginia--Richmond--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Nannette Kindle Mitchell, Section A2003_237_001_002, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Nannette Kindle Mitchell talks about her parents, Evelyn Gilpin Kindle and William Kindle. Mitchell's mother was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. She attended Virginia Union University and was a teacher. She earned her M.A. degree at Atlanta University and met Mitchell's father while living there. Mitchell's father spent most of his childhood in Talladega, Alabama, where his parents taught at Talladega College. He later attended Morehouse College. Mitchell grew up in Richmond. In 1954, she and other black students were forced to leave Albert V. Norrell Elementary School as the school board tried to uphold segregation. In response, her mother and other parents organized a temporary school in a local church. Mitchell grew up next to HistoryMaker and Civil Rights lawyer Oliver Hill. The Ku Klux Klan burned a cross between their two homes in reaction to Hill's involvement in Brown vs. the Board of Education. Mitchell describes her favorite subjects, teachers and her brother's experience with integration.

Video Oral History Interview with Nannette Kindle Mitchell, Section A2003_237_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Nannette Kindle Mitchell attended Maggie L. Walker High School in Richmond, Virginia. Mitchell's mother was a friend of Walker's granddaughter, Maggie Laura Walker. In high school, Mitchell's interest in math continued and she wanted to become an actuary. She graduated in 1964 and chose to enroll at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she studied math for three years and took an art appreciation course from Aaron Douglas. She then married HistoryMaker Keiffer Mitchell, had a son, and moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where she pursued an economics degree at Morgan State University. After graduating, Mitchell worked for Baltimore's consumer protection division. She left to become a stay-at-home mother until her youngest child was ten years old. She then began to work for Baltimore County government. Mitchell talks about her work while and after raising her children, life in Baltimore, her son, Keiffer Mitchell, Jr. and volunteering for the campaign of Chuck Robb for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.

Video Oral History Interview with Nannette Kindle Mitchell, Section A2003_237_001_004, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Nannette Kindle Mitchell talks about her son, Keiffer Mitchell Jr., and his political career. Mitchell reflects upon her hopes for his career as well as her hopes and concerns for the African American community. Mitchell recalls racial incidents involving her daughter-in-law, who is white, and her grandson while they were campaigning. She hopes for a future free of discrimination. Mitchell

reflects upon her life and legacy, commenting on her ability to positively affect the lives of others. Mitchell concludes the tape by narrating her photographs.