

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with C. Payne Lucas

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lucas, C. Payne
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with C. Payne Lucas,
Dates:	May 25, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:01:33).
Abstract:	Nonprofit executive C. Payne Lucas (1933 - 2018) was the founder and president of Africare, the nation's oldest non-profit African aid organization, and served in the Peace Corps administration in Togo and Niger. Lucas was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 25, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_057
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Africare co-founder and thirty-year president, C. Payne Lucas was born on September 14, 1933, in Spring Hope, North Carolina. He grew up in a family of fourteen children and earned money as boy picking cotton and shining shoes. In 1951, he earned his high school diploma from Spaulding High School, where he was a member of the baseball team and excelled in drama and public speaking activities. In 1950, during his junior year of high school, he joined the NAACP and became a youth representative for the state of North Carolina and initiated a voter registration drive in Spring Hope.

Lucas earned a bachelor's of science degree in history from the Maryland State College, now known as the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, in 1959. During his sophomore year he left Maryland, and enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served for four years. He then went on to earn his master's degree in government from the American University in 1961.

After working as a volunteer for the Democratic National Committee in 1961, he joined the Peace Corps under the agency's first Director, Sargent Shriver. From 1962 to 1971, Lucas served as assistant country director in Togo, country director in Niger, director of the Africa Region and director of the returned volunteers. Lucas left the Peace Corps in 1971 to become the president of Africare, an organization he co-founded with William Kirker. Today, Africare is the oldest and largest African-American nonprofit organization specializing in aid to Africa. Africare has more than 150 programs, which benefit families and communities in nearly thirty nations throughout the continent.

After thirty-one years as president, Lucas retired from Africare in 2002 and was succeeded by Julius Coles. He continues to remain active with the organization and serves on its board of directors. Currently he serves as chief executive officer of Lodestar, LLC, a domestic and international business consulting firm.

He is married to Freddie Hill Lucas and they have three grown children and one grandchild.

Lucas passed away on September 15, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with C. Payne Lucas was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on May 25, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Nonprofit executive C. Payne Lucas (1933 - 2018) was the founder and president of Africare, the nation's oldest non-profit African aid organization, and served in the Peace Corps administration in Togo and Niger.

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:

Lucas, C. Payne

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lucas, C. Payne--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Africare (Organization)

Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

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 C. Payne Lucas, May 25, 2004. 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 C. Payne Lucas, Section A2004_057_001_001, TRT: 0:31:12 ?
Africare founder C. Payne Lucas recalls his family background and his early

childhood in Spring Hope, North Carolina. He details the lives of his mother, father, and grandparents. Lucas describes his daily life and talks about living in a rural area. He recalls his favorite pastimes and activities as a child, and discusses his siblings.

Video Oral History Interview with C. Payne Lucas, Section A2004_057_001_002, TRT: 0:29:37 ?

Africare founder C. Payne Lucas shares memories from his early childhood and education. He recalls his high school experiences and his involvement in civil rights activities in 1950s Spring Hope, North Carolina. He then recounts his undergraduate years, focusing on his scholastic and athletic achievements. Lucas then explains why he left the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to join the Air Force.

Video Oral History Interview with C. Payne Lucas, Section A2004_057_001_003, TRT: 0:29:43 ?

Africare founder C. Payne Lucas recalls the completion of his higher education, first at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and later at American University. He then details how he became involved with the Peace Corps in Togo and Niger, which in turn led him to establish Africare, a non-profit organization specializing in sending aid to Africa. He discusses the need for African Americans to reconnect with Africa, and concludes by summarizing social and political changes on the African continent.

Video Oral History Interview with C. Payne Lucas, Section A2004_057_001_004, TRT: 0:31:01 ?

Africare founder C. Payne Lucas discusses the major problems facing contemporary Africa, and Africare's work to better the situation. Lucas discusses various U.S. presidential administrations and how they have helped aid Africa. After commenting on the end of apartheid in South Africa, Lucas discusses criticism of his program. Next, Lucas talks about why he left Africare and discusses his legacy. Finally, Lucas narrates his personal photographs as they are recorded on videotape.