

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Mitchell, Michael, Sr., 1945-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr.,
Dates:	August 5, 2004 and June 9, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	10 Betacame SP videocassettes (5:03:42).
Abstract:	State senator The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr. (1945 -) was the director of the Washington, D.C. NAACP, and was in charge of the Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson Museum. By 1975, at the age of twenty-nine, Mitchell was serving on the Baltimore City Council, and in the 1980s, he was elected to the Maryland State Senate. Mitchell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 5, 2004 and June 9, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_068
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Member of the prominent Baltimore family of the same name, Michael Bowen Mitchell was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 7, 1945. His father, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., was a reporter for the Baltimore *Afro-American* and was director of the Washington, D.C., bureau of the NAACP for almost thirty years. His mother, Juanita Jackson, was a prominent attorney and civil rights activist. Mitchell graduated from the Baltimore City College High School in 1963. He then enrolled at Lincoln University, where he earned his B.A. degree in 1967. Mitchell went on to attend the University of Maryland School of Law, earning his J.D. degree in 1970.

With his family prominent in the Civil Rights Movement, Mitchell became involved at a young age in the movement himself, often joining his parents and family members in organizing demonstrations. By 1975, at the age of twenty-nine, Mitchell was serving on the Baltimore City Council, and in the 1980s, he was elected to the Maryland State Senate. Since then, he has been involved in a number of businesses. At the time of the interview, he was in charge of the Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson Museum. Jackson is Mitchell's maternal grandmother and was an early fighter for civil rights. She was an influential counselor to Thurgood Marshall, and she was crucial in instigating "Buy Where You Can Work" campaigns in the greater Baltimore area, which then caught on nationwide. The museum stores the photos and papers of many members of the Mitchell family, including those of his parents.

Mitchell was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 9, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 5, 2004 and June 9, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 10 Betacame SP videocassettes. State senator The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr. (1945 -) was the director of the Washington, D.C. NAACP, and was in charge of the Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson Museum. By 1975, at the age of twenty-nine, Mitchell was serving on the Baltimore City Council, and in the 1980s, he was elected to the Maryland State Senate.

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, Michael, Sr., 1945-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Mitchell, Michael, Sr., 1945---Interviews

African American legislators--Maryland--Interviews

African American politicians--Maryland--Interviews

Museum directors--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews

African American businesspeople--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore

African Americans--Genealogy

African American history--Maryland

Jackson, Lillie May, 1889-1975

Racism--Southern States

African Americans--Relations with Indians

Civil rights movement--Maryland

Lynching--Maryland--History

Maryland--History

African Americans--Colonization--Liberia

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Racism--United States--History

Depressions--1929--United States

African American newspapers--Maryland--Baltimore

Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993

Houston, Charles Hamilton, 1895-1950

African Americans--Race identity

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Maryland

Occupations:

State Senator

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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 The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., August 5, 2004 and June 9, 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 The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_001_001, TRT: 0:31:13 ?

Politician and businessman Michael Mitchell gives a detailed background of his family history, discussing an ancestor of his who signed the Declaration of Independence and helped to shape the early history of Maryland and Baltimore. Mitchell also focuses on his grandmother, the civil rights activist Lillie Carroll Jackson, and gives a history of the neighborhood in Baltimore in which his family resides.

African American legislators--Maryland--Interviews.

African American politicians--Maryland--Interviews.
Museum directors--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews.
African American businesspeople--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews.
African American families--Maryland--Baltimore.
African Americans--Genealogy.
African Americans--Maryland.
Jackson, Lillie May, 1889-1975.
Racism--Southern States.
African Americans--Relations with Indians.
Civil rights movements--Maryland.
Lynching--Maryland--History.
Maryland--History.
African Americans--Colonization--Liberia.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
Racism--United States--History.
Depressions--1929--United States.
African American newspapers--Maryland--Baltimore.
Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993.
Houston, Charles Hamilton, 1895-1950.
African Americans--Race identity.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_001_002, TRT: 0:30:31 ?

Michael Mitchell continues to discuss his family background, delving into the histories of his grandmother Lillie Carroll Jackson and grandfather Kieffer Albert Jackson. Mitchell explains how the violent racism in the South shaped his grandfather's life and career, and tells stories of his time as a traveling silent movie exhibitor. Mitchell also discusses his family's Choctaw roots.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_001_003, TRT: 0:29:25 ?

Michael Mitchell discusses the prominent members of his family, listing their accomplishments. He focuses on the civil rights activism of his mother, grandmother, and father, detailing a story of a Maryland lynching his father covered for the Afro-American. Mitchell continues to detail Baltimore's and Maryland's history, focusing on the state's role in establishing the nation of Liberia in the 19th century.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_001_004, TRT: 0:29:13 ?

Michael Mitchell continues to discuss the activism of his family, particularly his grandmother Lillie Mae Jackson. Mitchell also recalls various encounters with racial discrimination around the country, and explains the impact of the NAACP. Mitchell details his father's background, explaining his family's situation living in Baltimore during the Great Depression.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_001_005, TRT: 0:30:25 ?

Michael Mitchell continues to describe his father's background, explaining how he got a job as a reporter for the Afro-American, where he was assigned to cover the landmark civil rights case Murray v. Pearson. Mitchell details the legal strategies of Thurgood Marshall and Charles Houston, and tells the story of

Marshall's own struggles with discrimination. Mitchell then recalls his father's antagonism with the FBI and recounts being brought up in a family that emphasized racial pride.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_002_006, TRT: 0:30:19 ?

Interview is slated. HM describes his earliest childhood memory. HM describes the sights, sounds and smells of his childhood. He talks about his early exposure to politics. He remembers the arrest and release of his father. HM talks about his elementary school experiences.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_002_007, TRT: 0:30:49 ?

HM describes his family history at Garnett Elementary School. HM talks about his childhood personality. HM recalls his childhood social activities.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_002_008, TRT: 0:29:56 ?

HM describes his father's role in the local Parent-Teachers Association. HM describes his entertainment as a child. HM talks about his early childhood influences. HM recalls facing discrimination in and out of school as a child.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_002_009, TRT: 0:30:39 ?

HM describes learning from misleading textbooks in school. HM recalls attending his first political convention. HM remembers his role in the Civil Rights Movement across the country.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael Mitchell, Sr., Section
A2004_068_002_010, TRT: 0:31:12 ?

HM remembers his brother's election to political office. HM remembers the commemorations for his father in aiding the Civil Rights Act's passage. HM describes the organization of the March on Washington and the effects of President John F. Kennedy's assassination. HM talks about Malcolm X.