

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Roderick Pugh

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Pugh, Roderick W.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Roderick Pugh,
Dates:	December 16, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:27:31).
Abstract:	Psychology professor Roderick Pugh (1919 - 2010) was chief of psychological services at Hines V.A. Medical Center, and served as a professor of psychology at Loyola University Chicago from the 1960s until his retirement. Pugh has written extensively on African American issues in psychology and psychotherapy. Pugh was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 16, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_264
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Clinical psychologist Roderick Wellington Pugh was born on June 1, 1919, in Richmond, Kentucky. Pugh moved with his family to Dayton, Ohio when he was eleven years old. There, his father was one of several black doctors who lived in and served Dayton’s Westside community. Pugh graduated from Dayton’s integrated Steele High School in 1936. He attended Fisk University and graduated cum laude in 1940. Pugh went on to earn his masters degree in psychology from the Ohio State University in 1941. Pugh taught briefly at Albany State College in Georgia. He then enlisted in the U.S. military and attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant under General George S. Patton. He served in Germany before returning to the United States. Back home, Pugh studied psychology under Dr. Carl Rogers at the University of Chicago, where he made the Honor Society in psychology. Pugh obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1949.

Pugh worked for a time as chief of psychological services at Hines V.A. Medical Center. Pugh also served as a professor of psychology at Loyola University Chicago from the 1960s until his retirement. Pugh has written extensively on African American issues in psychology and psychotherapy. His articles have been featured in several publications, the majority of them dedicated to African American issues in psychology and psychotherapy. Pugh’s most recognized work is his *Psychology and the Black Experience*, published in 1972, which was widely used in college classrooms.

A member of the American Psychological Association and the Illinois Psychological Association, Pugh served as a diplomat for the American Board of Professional Psychologists. An esteemed international orator, Pugh has given numerous speeches internationally in a variety of places, including Chung Chi College in Hong Kong, Fisk University in Tennessee, and the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. He was a longtime resident of Chicago’s Hyde Park community, but often returned to Dayton’s Wayman A.M.E. Church to visit friends and family.

Pugh passed away on November 13, 2010 at the age of 91.

Roderick Pugh was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 16, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Roderick Pugh was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 16, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Psychology professor Roderick Pugh (1919 - 2010) was chief of psychological services at Hines V.A. Medical Center, and served as a professor of psychology at Loyola University Chicago from the 1960s until his retirement. Pugh has written extensively on African American issues in psychology and psychotherapy.

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:

Pugh, Roderick W.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Pugh, Roderick W.--Interviews

African American psychologists--Interviews

Loyola University of Chicago--Faculty--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Loyola University of Chicago

Occupations:

Psychology Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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 Roderick Pugh, December 16, 2005. 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 Roderick Pugh, Section A2005_264_001_001, TRT: 0:30:43 ?

Roderick Pugh was born on June 1, 1919 in Richmond Virginia to Lena White Pugh and George Pugh. His mother was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1895. Her grandmother, Clara Cheatham, was a slave owned by her father. Pugh's mother attended Pearl High School in Nashville before her family moved to Chicago, Illinois, where her father worked in the stockyards. Pugh's father was born to a former slave, Roderick Pugh, around 1877 near Whatley, Alabama. He decided to become a doctor and learned to cut hair in Selma, Alabama to support himself while attending Meharry Medical College, where he graduated in 1917. Pugh's parents met after she walked by the window of the barber shop where he worked. Pugh describes taking after both of his parents, who emphasized education. His father practiced medicine in Richmond, Kentucky with mostly rural patients, and he used a Ford Model T to make house calls. As a child, Pugh often visited other families with his mother and once taught a young girl to walk.

African American psychologists--Interviews.

Loyola University of Chicago--Faculty--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Roderick Pugh, Section A2005_264_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Roderick Pugh lived with his parents, Lena White Pugh and George Pugh, in Richmond, Kentucky until he was ten years old. He watched the annual Ku Klux Klan march, and although Pugh does not recall witnessing serious racial violence, his family decided to move to the west side of Dayton, Ohio after his father offended Judge William Rhodes Shackelford. There, Pugh's father negotiated with the school district so that his son could attend integrated schools and later befriended Frederic C. McFarlane, the principal of the newly opened Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. Pugh graduated from Steele High School in 1938. Although, in Richmond, he had converted to the Baptist faith, in Dayton, Pugh accompanied his mother to Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Church and played violin in Wayman's string trio. Led by the reverend's wife, the trio became very popular and performed on WHIO, a local radio station. At fifteen years old, Pugh was obtained his first job as a soda jerk at Cox's Drugstore in Dayton.

Video Oral History Interview with Roderick Pugh, Section A2005_264_001_003, TRT: 0:31:10 ?

Roderick Pugh attended ninth grade at Colonel White High School in Dayton, Ohio, where he was one of few African American students. At Steele High School, he was inducted into the National Honor Society, played tennis, and was the first chair violinist in the orchestra during his senior year. Although the school was integrated, Pugh mostly socialized with African Americans, whom he met through his parents and at Wilberforce University's annual African Methodist Episcopal youth conferences. He learned to swim at the Fifth Street Y, where his mother watched him through the windows to make sure he was safe. Pugh attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee from 1936 to 1940, when Charles S. Johnson was chairman of the sociology department. As Fisk did not offer a psychology major, Pugh majored in chemistry, which was chaired by St. Elmo Brady. Due to his knowledge of chemistry, Pugh received high marks on his entrance exam to The Ohio State University's psychology master's program.

Video Oral History Interview with Roderick Pugh, Section A2005_264_001_004, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Roderick Pugh received his master's degree in psychology in 1941 from The

Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He was mentored by psychologist Carl Rogers but later began practicing psychotherapy based on the theories of B.F. Skinner. In Columbus, Pugh rented a room in an off-campus house, as African American students were prevented from living on campus. Upon graduation, Pugh applied to teaching positions at every historically black college. He received a response from J.W. Holley at Albany State College in Georgia and, despite having a master's degree in psychology, taught chemistry there until being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942. Pugh was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where a superior officer, who was also an alumnus of The Ohio State University, resented Pugh's graduate degree. Pugh was later stationed in Northern Ireland, where African American troops were welcomed because they were not Catholic, though they still experienced discrimination in the segregated military.

Video Oral History Interview with Roderick Pugh, Section A2005_264_001_005, TRT: 0:28:18 ?

Roderick Pugh petitioned to speak with the U.S. Army inspector general regarding racial discrimination in his battalion. Though he had not initiated the movement, he was the first to step forward, leading his fellow soldiers to follow suit. In his meeting with the I.G., Pugh received orders to apply for Officer Candidate School, but the battalion adjutant demoted him to preclude his application. Pugh was soon transferred to another battalion where the company commander recommended him to be promoted to an officer position. Pugh became a Second Lieutenant but requested to be discharged as the war ended. In 1945, he left the army and began his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois under the tutelage of Carl Rogers, who had been his advisor at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. For his dissertation, Pugh studied the long term effects of electroconvulsive therapy on depressed patients and found that it had little lasting impact.