

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Moore

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Moore, John, 1923 January 11-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John Moore,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 18, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:58:09).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Human resources executive and civic leader John Moore (1923 - 2021) was Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's first African American chief of Civilian Personnel. In 2000, the John E. Moore, Sr. Technology Center was opened in his name on the campus of Sinclair Community College. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 18, 2006, in Dayton, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_040
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader John Edward Moore, Sr. was born on January 11, 1923 in Birmingham, Alabama. His parents, Ausro and Gertha Jones Moore moved the family to Dayton, Ohio shortly after he was born. Moore attended Washington Elementary School, Steele High School and graduated from Wilbur Wright High School in 1941, just prior to World War II. Working briefly as a civilian at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), Moore was drafted into the United States Army in 1943. Serving in the 2261st Quartermaster Trucking Company in Bangladesh, he earned the rank of corporal.

In 1946, Moore returned from World War II and was hired as a clerk at WPAFB. In 1955, he finished his B.S. degree from the University of Dayton in business administration and went on to pursue graduate studies at Ohio State University. Moore became the first Equal Employment Opportunity officer at WPAFB in 1960. In 1972, Moore became WPAFB's first African American chief of Civilian Personnel, one of the largest government employers in the nation. Moore retired in 1979.

Over the years, Moore has served the Dayton community as a civic leader. He has served on more than fifty boards and committees. In 1972, Moore was appointed to the Dayton Foundation board by Mayor James H. McGee, has served as chair of the board, is a founding member of its African American Community Fund and is current chair of the Diversity Task Force. He was co-chair of Parity, Inc., is a member of the Black Leadership Development Program Steering Committee, a trustee of the Med America Health Systems Corporation, a member of the United Way Public Policy Committee, Job Center Governing Board, Montgomery County Out of School Task Force, Montgomery County Workforce Policy Board, Montgomery County Workforce Policy Board Youth Council, chair of the Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative Advisory Committee, vice chair of Mound Street Academies, treasurer of Family and Children First Council and Executive Committee, and co-chair of Mary Scott Nursing Center Capital Campaign. Moore has received a myriad of awards including the 1994 Big Brothers and Big Sisters

“304 Service Award”; 1995 Leadership Dayton Emeritus Award; 1997 Montgomery County Citizen of the Year Award; Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Dayton (1998); 2000 Chamber of Commerce President’s Club Award; Ohio Association of Community Colleges 2001 Maureen C. Grady Award; 2003 Dunbar State Memorial Award and the 2005 Fred Shuttlesworth Humanitarian Award.

In 2000, the \$13 million John E. Moore, Sr. Technology Center was opened on the campus of Sinclair Community College. Moore, whose wife, Hester, passed away in 2004, has two grown children.

Moore passed away on January 7, 2021.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with John Moore was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 18, 2006, in Dayton, Ohio, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Human resources executive and civic leader John Moore (1923 - 2021) was Wright- Patterson Air Force Base’s first African American chief of Civilian Personnel. In 2000, the John E. Moore, Sr. Technology Center was opened in his name on the campus of Sinclair Community College.

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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:

Moore, John, 1923 January 11-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Moore, John, 1923 January 11- --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:

Civic Leader

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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 John Moore, March 18, 2006. 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 John Moore, Section A2006\_040\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:51 ?

John Moore was born on January 11, 1923 in Birmingham, Alabama to Gertha Jones Moore and Ausro Moore. His maternal great-grandparents were slaves near Pulaski, Tennessee, and his grandfathers, John Moore and John Jones, were distantly related. Moore's parents were both born in Pulaski around 1900, when it was a hub of Ku Klux Klan activity. His parents were educated in church schools up to about the eighth grade. When they married, the Moores moved first to Birmingham and then north to Dayton, Ohio, where they settled on Springfield Street, at the northeast edge of town. Moore's father worked for an automotive paint company during the Great Depression. He recalls how housing in Dayton became more segregated as the city grew and banking interests became more entrenched. Moore's family first installed electricity and indoor plumbing when he was about ten years old. As a teenager, he worked as a janitor in a local barbershop, where he particularly hated cleaning the tobacco spittoons.

Video Oral History Interview with John Moore, Section A2006\_040\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:19 ?

John Moore's father, Ausro Moore, worked several jobs during the Great Depression in both New York City and Dayton, Ohio. Moore attended Washington Elementary School in Dayton, where his favorite subjects were drawing and English. He moved on to Wilbur Wright Junior High School, where he won a writing contest but was not allowed to advance to the next round due to his race. He attended Steele High School, where he ran track and worked several jobs. Moore's drafting teacher, Perc Welcome, praised his skill but warned that such work was not offered to African Americans. He attended prom at the usually segregated Lakeside Ballroom, and graduated in 1941. Moore worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and then enlisted in the U.S. Army Quarter Master Corps in 1943. He completed basic training in North Carolina, and had several altercations with white soldiers while serving in the South, including being arrested and beaten in Macon, Georgia. Moore served in the China Burma India Theater during World War II.

Video Oral History Interview with John Moore, Section A2006\_040\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:02 ?

John Moore married Hester Burton Moore while furloughed from his duties in the U.S. Army. During World War II, he was assigned to the 2161st Quartermaster Truck Company and stationed in India for fifteen months. Moore recalls the extreme poverty of the Indian citizens; the ordeal of moving cargo between train lines; the threat of malaria; and his company's friendship with African troops. Although he learned about the Tuskegee Airmen by reading the Pittsburgh Courier and the Chicago Defender while deployed, he met no African American officers during the war. Moore was discharged in 1946. He returned to Dayton, Ohio, where he was hired as a clerk at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. His first responsibility was to scan and file intelligence captured in the war. In 1957, Moore secured a loan from Central Savings Association, and used it to build his family home in the Madden Hills neighborhood of Dayton. On base, he was promoted to equal employment opportunity officer in 1965 and chief of personnel in 1972.

Video Oral History Interview with John Moore, Section A2006\_040\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:54 ?

John Moore enrolled at the University of Dayton in 1946, where he took night classes and joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He graduated with a degree in business administration in 1955. Moore built his own home in Dayton in 1957 for \$24,000, but many African Americans, including his congregation at McKinley United Methodist Church, were denied loans due to their race. After Executive Order 11246 was signed in 1965, Moore became equal employment

opportunity officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, advocating for the equal treatment and promotion of women and people of color. He was promoted to chief of civilian personnel in 1972. His duties included negotiating with labor unions, including particularly tense struggles with the base firefighters, and instituting career programs for area students. Moore retired in 1979, and became involved with numerous community activist projects, including increasing opportunities for minority contractors and job retraining programs for African Americans.

Video Oral History Interview with John Moore, Section A2006\_040\_001\_005, TRT: 0:29:33 ?

John Moore was appointed to the board of The Dayton Foundation in Dayton, Ohio by Mayor James H. McGee in 1972, and served for twenty years. He retired as the chief of civilian personnel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1979. After retirement, Moore became active in multiple community groups dedicated to the advancement of African Americans, including Parity, Inc., which he co-founded with Charity Adams Earley in 1989. He also worked as a consultant for Dayton Public Schools, helping to recruit an administrative team for Superintendent Richard Hunter that included Jerrie Bascome McGill. During the 1990s, Moore became chair of the United Way of Greater Dayton, after being recruited into the organization by John Harewood. He served thirteen years on the board of Dayton's Sinclair Community College, which later named the John E. Moore, Sr. Technology Center in his honor, and prioritized making college affordable for local students. Moore describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with John Moore, Section A2006\_040\_001\_006, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

John Moore reflects upon his life and legacy. He describes his hopes and concerns for American society, his family life and how he would like to be remembered. Moore concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.