

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lloyd G. Trotter

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Trotter, Lloyd G., 1945-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd G. Trotter,
Dates:	October 24, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:23:25).
Abstract:	Corporate executive Lloyd G. Trotter (1945-) worked for GE for nearly forty years, where he served as a president and vice chairman of GE Industrial. In 2008, he became the full-time managing partner of the private equity firm, GenNx360 Capital Partners. Trotter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 24, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_036
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive Lloyd G. Trotter was born on April 9, 1945 in Cleveland, Ohio to Lillian Trotter and Reverend Lee Trotter, Sr. He graduated from John Adams High School in 1963, and entered an apprenticeship program with Cleveland Twist Drill. He studied at Cleveland State University while working at Cleveland Twist Drill, graduating in 1972 with his B.A. degree in business administration.

Trotter was promoted to a full-time product design and application engineer at Cleveland Twist Drill in 1967. He began working for General Electric (GE) as a field service engineer in 1970, where he was named vice president and general manager of manufacturing for the Electric, Distribution and Control division (ED&C) in 1990. That same year, he helped found the GE African American Forum, a mentor group for African American GE employees. While working in management at GE, he invented the Trotter Matrix, a tool for evaluating standards across various plants which was quickly adopted throughout the company. In 1991, Trotter became the president and CEO of the Electric, Distribution and Control division, and then to president and CEO of GE Industrial Solutions in 1998. In 2003, Trotter became senior vice president of GE Industrial, followed by executive vice president of operations at in 2005. In 2008, after almost forty years, Trotter left GE to become a managing partner at the private equity firm GenNx360 Capital Partners, which he founded with Ronald Blaylock, Arthur Harper and James Shepard.

Starting in 2008, Trotter served on the board of directors of PepsiCo as well as Textron, Inc., Meritor, Inc. and Daimler AG. Trotter also served on the boards of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, and National Electrical Manufacturers Association. He received the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award from GE Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt, and the GE Chairman's Award for three consecutive years from 2003 to 2005. Trotter received an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, Cleveland State University, North Carolina A&T School of Business and Saint Augustine University. The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) honored Trotter with a scholarship established in his name, and the Harlem

YMCA presented him the Black Achievers in Industry Award.

Trotter and his wife, Teri, have three children.

Lloyd G. Trotter was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 25, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lloyd G. Trotter was conducted by Harriette Cole on October 24, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate executive Lloyd G. Trotter (1945-) worked for GE for nearly forty years, where he served as a president and vice chairman of GE Industrial. In 2008, he became the full-time managing partner of the private equity firm, GenNx360 Capital Partners.

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:

Trotter, Lloyd G., 1945-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Trotter, Lloyd G., 1945- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Corporate Chief Executive

Investment Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Lloyd G. Trotter, October 24, 2016. 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 Lloyd G. Trotter, Section A2016_036_001_001, TRT: 1:31:08 ?

Lloyd G. Trotter was born on April 9, 1945 in Cleveland, Ohio to Lillian Eskridge Trotter and Lee Trotter, Sr. His mother was born to sharecroppers Celia Govan Eskridge and Lenzi Eskridge. Trotter's parents met and married in Duck Hill, Mississippi, where they were both born. They moved to Nashville, Tennessee, then followed his mother's family to Cleveland. Trotter's mother was a domestic worker, while his father worked at Fisher Body, and pastored New Bethlehem Baptist Church. Trotter attended Bolton Elementary School in a working class black neighborhood, before the family moved to the primarily Jewish Mount Pleasant neighborhood, where he attended Andrew J. Rickoff Elementary School. At John Adams High School, Trotter encouraged fellow African American students to participate in student government. Instead of attending college, Trotter was accepted into an apprenticeship program at Cleveland Twist Drill Company. He describes Carl Stokes' historic mayoral election, and the race riots in Cleveland.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd G. Trotter, Section A2016_036_001_002, TRT: 2:28:22 ?

Lloyd G. Trotter attended Fenn College during his apprenticeship with Cleveland Twist Drill Company. After completing the program in 1967, he was hired as a full-time product design and application engineer. There, he impressed a General Electric employee with his technical knowledge, and was offered a field service engineer position at General Electric in 1970. Eventually Trotter was promoted to first line supervisor, and led the opening of a company plant in Ravenna, Ohio. He also worked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and gained experience in the lighting, power generation, and plant management divisions. Trotter was transferred to the appliance department, where he effectively boosted productivity in the home laundry division. Despite his accomplishments, he was not promoted with the white members of his team. In protest, Trotter left General Electric to work at Honeywell International, Inc. in Tampa, Florida. He stayed ten months before returning to General Electric.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd G. Trotter, Section A2016_036_001_003, TRT: 3:28:08 ?

Lloyd G. Trotter returned to General Electric in 1983 as a manager of materials at the headquarters in Fairfield, Connecticut. He was then promoted to general manager of manufacturing in the company's Electrical Distribution and Controls (ED&C) division, where he oversaw forty-three manufacturing plants, and opened plants in China and Mexico. He had a positive relationship with CEO Jack Welch, who trusted his management skills. While directing the ED&C group, Trotter created the Trotter Matrix to measure and replicate his plants' best practices, which was later adopted across the company. He was the highest-ranking African American employee at the time, and was one of the fifteen African American employees who were invited, along with fifteen women employees, to discuss the lack of diversity in management. He presented the group's suggestions for engaging minority employees, and helped found General Electric's African American Forum. Trotter became vice president of manufacturing of the ED&C group in 1990.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd G. Trotter, Section A2016_036_001_004, TRT: 4:27:59 ?

Lloyd G. Trotter helped found General Electric's African American Forum, which was open to all African American employees, regardless of rank. It inspired the creation of Women's Network, Hispanic Forum, and Asian Pacific American Forum at the company. In 1991, Trotter became the president and CEO of the Electric, Distribution and Control division. During the early 1990s, many of General Electric's companies merged to improve production; at which

point, Trotter became CEO and president of General Electric Industrial Solutions. Over his career, Trotter gained advice and support from employees in various departments, and overcame challenges like balancing budgets. He was even encouraged and advised by CEO Jack Welch and later, Welch's successor, Jeffery R. Immelt. Because General Electric officers were prohibited from sitting on public boards, Trotter joined non-profit boards like United Way Worldwide and A Better Chance. Trotter ended his thirty-eight year career at General Electric at sixty-two years old.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd G. Trotter, Section A2016_036_001_005, TRT: 5:27:48 ?

Lloyd G. Trotter worked as director at Genpact Limited, a General Electric company, before deciding to partner with his coworkers, Ronald E. Blaylock, James Shepard and Arthur H. Harper, to found GenNX360 Capital Partners in 2007. Trotter eventually left General Electric to become a full-time managing partner at GenNX360 Capital Partners. The company achieved early success, despite the economic recession, and raised six million dollars on its first fund. Trotter, Blaylock, Shepard and Harper maintained a good relationship with their former employer General Electric, who became one of their investors. In retirement, Trotter joined the National Association of Guardsmen, Inc., and continued mentoring business executives. He shares his advice to young professionals, and his observations on the global market. He also reflects upon his life, legacy, and his family; and concludes the interview by describing his future plans.