

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb

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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>	Rabb, Maurice F.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 16, 2001
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2001
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:39:21).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Ophthalmologist Dr. Maurice F. Rabb (1932 - 2005 ) was internationally known for his pioneering work in cornea and retinal vascular diseases. Rabb began his career when he established a private practice specializing in retinal diseases in downtown Chicago. He later served as director of the Illinois Eye Bank and Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois Medical School, director of the Fluorescein Angiography Laboratory at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, and as co-director of the Sickle Cell Center at the University of Illinois Medical Center. Rabb was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 16, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2001_061
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Ophthalmologist Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Jr., is internationally known for his pioneering work in cornea and retinal vascular diseases. He achieved many firsts as an African American physician. Rabb was born in 1932 in Kentucky, the son of Dr. Maurice Rabb, Sr., a physician and civil rights activist, and Jewel Rabb, a teacher. Because African Americans were banned from attending the University of Louisville, Rabb spent his first two years of undergraduate study at Indiana University. In 1951, when segregation ended in Kentucky, he transferred to the University of Louisville, becoming one of the first African American students admitted there. He graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1958.

Rabb did postgraduate training at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, and studied ophthalmology at New York University. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, where he was the first African American chief resident. After his residency, Rabb established a private practice specializing in retinal diseases in downtown Chicago, something that African Americans were not doing at the time. In his notable career, he served as director of the Illinois Eye Bank and Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois Medical School, director of the Fluorescein Angiography Laboratory at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, and as co-director of the Sickle Cell Center at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

Most recently, he served as a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Mercy Hospital, president of the Mercy Hospital Medical Staff, and medical director of Prevent Blindness America. Rabb was the author of numerous articles and a collaborator on several medical films. He was married to Madeline Murphy Rabb, an artist and art consultant. They have two

sons, Maurice and Christopher.

Dr. Rabb passed away on June 6, 2005.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on April 16, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Ophthalmologist Dr. Maurice F. Rabb (1932 - 2005 ) was internationally known for his pioneering work in cornea and retinal vascular diseases. Rabb began his career when he established a private practice specializing in retinal diseases in downtown Chicago. He later served as director of the Illinois Eye Bank and Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois Medical School, director of the Fluorescein Angiography Laboratory at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, and as co-director of the Sickle Cell Center at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

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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:

Rabb, Maurice F.

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Rabb, Maurice F.--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:

Ophthalmologist

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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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 Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, April 16, 2001. 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 Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Section A2001\_061\_001\_001, TRT:

0:29:39 ?

Noted ophthalmologist Dr. Maurice Rabb, describes the interesting origins of his name and his family history. Rabb also describes life in his hometown, segregated Louisville, Kentucky.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Section A2001\_061\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:06 ?

Noted ophthalmologist, Dr. Maurice Rabb shares several anecdotes about his parents, particularly his father's influence on his future choice of profession. Rabb also details the impact segregation had upon his secondary school education.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Section A2001\_061\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:15 ?

Noted ophthalmologist Dr. Maurice Rabb details his efforts to secure a superior education, despite of the pervasiveness of segregation and discrimination in higher education. Rabb discusses his undergraduate education at Indiana University, the University of Louisville and his medical school education at the University of Louisville as well.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Section A2001\_061\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:15 ?

Noted ophthalmologist Dr. Maurice Rabb describes his life as a medical student, resident and fellow in ophthalmology. He also discusses his courtship, marriage and family. Finally, Rabb delves into the practice of ophthalmology and several breakthroughs in treatment he has been at the forefront of in that specialty.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Section A2001\_061\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:23 ?

Noted ophthalmologist, Dr. Maurice Rabb, discusses his legacy, his views on the future of black America and the role his family played in his success.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Section A2001\_061\_001\_006, TRT: 0:06:43 ?

Dr. Maurice F. Rabb narrates his photographs.