

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rebecca "Becky" Love

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Love, Rebecca, 1916-2013
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love,
Dates:	March 28, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:39:39).
Abstract:	Elementary school teacher and yoga instructor Rebecca "Becky" Love (1916 - 2013) was a third grade teacher for thirty-eight years in Chicago. Love was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 28, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_058
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Elementary school teacher-turned-yoga instructor Rebecca "Becky" Love was born on May 2, 1916, in Buffalo, New York, to Johnetta and Robert Grant. After relocating to Chicago, she married Edison Love, a Chicago politician, in 1942. She took night classes at Northwestern University, earning a B.S. in education in 1951, and went on to study English and psychology there, receiving her M.A. in 1966.

Love taught third-grade students at Doolittle West School, in the Douglas community on Chicago's South Side, for thirty-eight years.

Her fascination with yoga began when Love was just a teenager. However, it was not until she was in her forties that she began formal training. Love studied yoga with Sivananda Yoga Vendanta group and began teaching in the early 1960s. Love conducted master-level training at the Temple of Kriya Yoga. She earned the title master teacher of Hatha yoga in 1972. Since then, she has trained hundreds of yoga teachers at the Temple and has taught classes at the Sears Tower, Harold Washington College, Lawson YMCA, the New City YMCA, Michael Reese Hospital, Neiman Marcus and the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Over the years, she has become one of Chicago's most beloved yoga instructors.

Love has lived in the same home on the South Side for the past sixty years. Her only daughter, Candace Crolley Love, died of kidney problems in the early 1980s at the age of thirty-five. Her husband died several years later.

Love has been featured in numerous local publications and on March 7, 2002, was the focus of Harry Porterfield's "Someone You Should Know" segment on ABC Channel 7. She regularly lectures and conducts workshops on health and nutrition in addition to teaching eleven yoga classes, six days a week.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 28, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Elementary school teacher and yoga instructor Rebecca "Becky" Love (1916 - 2013) was a third grade teacher for thirty-eight years in Chicago.

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:

Love, Rebecca, 1916-2013

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Love, Rebecca, 1916-2013--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews.

African American women teachers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

.)

Occupations:

Elementary School Teacher

Yoga Instructor

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Rebecca "Becky" Love, March 28, 2003. 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 Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_001, TRT: 0:27:46 ?

Rebecca Love narrates her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_002, TRT: 0:30:02 ?

Rebecca Love was born in May of 1916 in Buffalo, New York to Johnetta Clanton Grant and Robert Ledley Grant. To hide the fact that Love was conceived out of wedlock, Love's parents moved from Chicago, Illinois to Buffalo, New York until after he was born. Love's maternal grandparents, Solomon T. Clanton and Olive Bird Clanton were from New Orleans, Louisiana. They moved to Chicago after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld racial segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896. In Chicago, Love's grandfather studied theology at the University of Chicago. Love's mother graduated from Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. A teacher in Chicago, she also played the piano, having taken lessons from Daisy Kennedy Ellington, Duke Ellington's mother. Love's father was a white Englishman who concealed the details of his marriage to his family. He worked as a cook on the railways before becoming a butcher. As a young girl, Love was an avid reader. She reflects on the sights, smells and sounds of her neighborhood. Love also describes her grade school years at Douglas Elementary School, her experience at Hyde Park High School, and the Artists and Models Ball produced by HistoryMaker Margaret Burroughs.

Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915

Tuskegee University.

African Americans--Segregation.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

African Americans--Illinois--Chicago--Social life and customs.

African Americans--Education--Illinois--Chicago.

African Americans Segregation--Louisiana.

Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_003, TRT: 0:28:16 ?

Rebecca Love attended Chicago Teachers College after graduating from Hyde Park High School in Chicago, Illinois. She then taught at Doolittle Elementary School for thirty-eight years. While at Doolittle, Love also took night classes at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, earning a B.S. degree in 1951 and a M.A. degree in 1966. Although Love's husband, Edison Love encouraged her to become a school principal, Love discovered that her true passion was yoga after reading "Autobiography of a Yogi" by Paramahansa Yogananda. She describes Yogananda's influence in her life, the process of meditation, and various forms of yoga. After Love was initiated in the practice of kriya yoga by the Self-Realization Fellowship in California in 1960, she went to Canada to study under Vishnudevananda Saraswati. She also took lessons at Chicago's Temple of Kriya where the swami appointed her to teach yoga at the Lawson House YMCA. Love talks about yoga's positive impact on her health. She remembers being bitten by a neighbor's Rottweiler and talks about reincarnation in the Bible and in Africa.

Yoga--Health aspects.

Yoga--Illinois--Chicago.

Hatha yoga--Study and teaching.

Reincarnation.

Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_004, TRT: 0:13:35 ?

Rebecca Love retired from teaching at Doolittle Elementary School in Chicago,

Illinois around 1986. During her thirty-eight years at the school, Love witnessed the decline in the neighborhood and in parent-teacher relationships. Near the end of her teaching career, Love incorporated yoga and fruit in her classroom to improve her students' focus and health. Love talks about how yoga cemented Ghandi's commitment to non-violence, and how his philosophy of nonviolent resistance influenced Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and The Civil Rights Movement. As a yoga instructor, Love has taken many groups to countries like Mexico and Hawaii. She closes the interview by reflecting upon her legacy, how she would like to be remembered, and her hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Gandhi, Mahatma, 1869-1948

World War III

Scallion, Gordon Michael, 1942-

Yoga, Karma