

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Samuel Massie

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Massie, Samuel
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Massie,
Dates:	July 19, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:33:30).
Abstract:	Chemistry professor and organic chemist Samuel Massie (1919 - 2005) was the first African American professor at the Naval Academy. Massie also worked on the Manhattan Project earlier in his career. Massie was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 19, 2003, in Laurel, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_161
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Organic Chemist Samuel Massie was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 3, 1919; his mother, a teacher, and his father, a minister, instilled in him a love of education. By the age of thirteen, Massie had graduated from high school. Because he was denied admittance to the University of Arkansas because of his race, Massie went on to attend Agricultural Mechanical Normal College of Arkansas. He then attended Fisk University before being accepted to Iowa State University, where he received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry.

Massie attended Iowa State University at the height of World War II; during this time, he was summoned before the draft board. Massie was allowed to return to school, but he was assigned to the Manhattan Project, the program that created the first atomic bomb. After completing his Ph.D., Massie returned to Fisk University to teach; it was here that he met his future wife, Gloria. Over the years, Massie held positions at Langston University, Howard University, and the National Science Foundation. In 1963, Massie was named president of the University of North Carolina Central.

In 1966, Massie became the first African American professor at the U.S. Naval Academy; he then served as chair of the chemistry department from 1977 to 1981. In 1994, Massie retired from the Naval Academy, though he retained the title professor emeritus.

Massie was awarded with an NAACP Freedom Fund Award; a White House Initiative Lifetime Achievement Award; and was named one of the seventy-five outstanding scientists in the country by Chemical and Engineering News Magazine. Massie was also involved with the Smithsonian Institute, and spent more than two decades on the Maryland State Board for Community Colleges.

Samuel Massie passed away on April 10, 2005, three months after the passing of his wife, Gloria.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Samuel Massie was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 19, 2003, in Laurel, Maryland, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Chemistry professor and organic chemist Samuel Massie (1919 - 2005) was the first African American professor at the Naval Academy. Massie also worked on the Manhattan Project earlier in his career.

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:

Massie, Samuel

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Massie, Samuel--Interviews

African American chemists--Interviews.

African American scientists--Interviews.

Universities and colleges--Faculty--Interviews.

African American families.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Little Rock (Ark.).

Children.

African American mothers.

African American fathers.

African American young men.

African American youth.

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Fisk University.

Iowa State University.

Manhattan Project (U.S.).

Chemistry, Organic.

Eastman Kodak Company.

North Carolina Central University.

United States Naval Academy.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Organic Chemist

HistoryMakers® Category:

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 Samuel Massie, July 19, 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 Samuel Massie, Section A2003_161_001_001, TRT: 0:29:10 ?
Samuel P. Massie, with the help of his son, Trei Massie, describes his family background, recalling his ancestors from Texas, Arkansas, and Kentucky. He describes his childhood growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas, where his parents, both teachers, taught him the value of education at an early age. Massie talks about going to school as a child prodigy, graduating from high school at age thirteen. Massie describes his school life and various odd jobs he held while he was in high school.
African American families--Arkansas.
African American parents.
African American educators.
Gifted children—Education

- Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Massie, Section A2003_161_001_002, TRT: 0:29:30 ?
Samuel P. Massie, with the help of his son, Trei Massie, describes his higher education, discussing his time at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Fisk University, and Iowa State University. Massie describes working on the

Manhattan Project while he was a student at Iowa State. He also discusses being hired by the Eastman Kodak Company, becoming one of the first five African Americans to work there.

Education, Higher.

Manhattan Project (U.S.)

Eastman Kodak Company.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Massie, Section A2003_161_001_003, TRT: 0:28:10 ?

Samuel P. Massie, with the help of his son, Trei Massie, discusses his long, varied career and his many awards and accomplishments. Massie talks about his time as president of North Carolina Central University and his long professorship at the U.S. Naval Academy, during which time he became the first African American to be chair of a chemistry department. Massie also discusses the many honorary positions that have been named for him.

Universities and colleges—Faculty.

North Carolina Central University.

United States Naval Academy.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Massie, Section A2003_161_001_004, TRT: 0:06:40 ?

Samuel P. Massie, with the assistance of his son, Trei Massie, narrates a series of pictures depicting his life and family.

Photographs.