

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rachel Brown

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Brown, Rachel, 1912-2012
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rachel Brown,
Dates:	June 3, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:57:23).
Abstract:	Elementary school teacher and high school teacher Rachel Brown (1912 - 2012) was an educator for over four decades, and was instrumental in integrating Anne Arundel County in Maryland. In 1970, Brown was appointed to the White House Conference on Children and Youth. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 3, 2004, in Annapolis, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_062
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lifelong educator Rachel Hall Brown was born on November 16, 1912, in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Brown's mother was a homemaker, and her father sold produce that he grew on their farm. She grew up the fourth of fourteen children. As she grew older, she was sent to live with relatives in nearby Baltimore because Glen Burnie did not have a high school for blacks to attend. Brown attended and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore in 1928. Douglass was also the alma mater of former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and entertainers Cab Callaway and Anne Brown.

Upon graduation, Brown planned to attend Morgan State University, but was unable due to financial reasons. Instead she attended Coppin State University where she earned her degree and graduated in 1930. She received her first teaching assignment upon graduation at Skidmore School in Anne Arundel County, where she taught first, second and third grades. In 1932, Brown was reassigned to Jones School, where she met and married her husband, Philip Brown, who was the principal of the two-room school where they both worked. Shortly after her marriage, she and her husband attended classes at Morgan State University where both earned their bachelor's degrees in education. In 1938, her husband led the effort to sue the Anne Arundel Board of Education for equal pay for African American teachers. The teachers were represented by former Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. In 1955, Brown earned her master's degree in education from New York University.

In 1966, Brown helped to integrate Anne Arundel County public schools when she was one of the first black teachers assigned to teach at Tyler Heights School. In 1970, Brown was appointed to the White House Conference on Children and Youth, an organization that promoted understanding of child development and fostering children's mental and emotional health. Brown retired from the school system in 1973.

Brown passed away on April 12, 2012 at age 99.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rachel Brown was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on June 3, 2004, in Annapolis, Maryland, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Elementary school teacher and high school teacher Rachel Brown (1912 - 2012) was an educator for over four decades, and was instrumental in integrating Anne Arundel County in Maryland. In 1970, Brown was appointed to the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

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:

Brown, Rachel, 1912-2012

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brown, Rachel, 1912-2012--Interviews

African American women educators--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews

African American teachers--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews

Eastern Shore (Md. and Va.)--History

African American families--Maryland

African Americans--Genealogy

African Americans--Religion--Maryland

Education--Maryland--Baltimore

Frederick Douglass High School (Baltimore, Md.)

Coppin State University

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

School integration--Maryland--Anne Arundel County

Education, Elementary

Education--Research--Congresses

United States.--No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Stay-at-home mothers

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Elementary School Teacher

High School Teacher

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 Rachel Brown, June 3, 2004. 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 Rachel Brown, Section A2004_062_001_001, TRT: 0:30:35 ?

Educator Rachel Hall Brown discusses her family's Eastern Shore heritage. She recalls daily family life and tells stories of how her mother and father influenced her as they reared the family. Rachel Hall Brown discusses her relationship with each of her siblings.

African American women educators--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews.

African American teachers--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews.

Eastern Shore (Md. and Va.)--History.

African American families--Maryland.

African Americans--Genealogy.

African Americans--Religion--Maryland.

Education--Maryland--Baltimore.

Frederick Douglass High School (Baltimore, Md.).

Coppin State University.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

School integration--Maryland--Anne Arundel County.

Education, Elementary.

Education--Research--Congresses.

Carter, Jimmy, 1924-.

Stay-at-home mothers.

Video Oral History Interview with Rachel Brown, Section A2004_062_001_002, TRT: 0:30:04 ?

Rachel Hall Brown describes her childhood community and then recalls her elementary school experiences. She describes how religion played an important role in her life before remembering her high school years at Frederick Douglass in Baltimore, Maryland. Brown also talks about well-known classmates at Douglass. Rachel Hall Brown tells of her college aspirations and discusses her early days at Coppin State University. Finally, Brown talks about her first teaching job.

Video Oral History Interview with Rachel Brown, Section A2004_062_001_003, TRT: 0:30:23 ?

Rachel Hall Brown discusses years spent as a teacher at Skidmore School in Maryland. She recalls her courtship with her now husband Philip Brown. Brown tells the story of a missed opportunity to teach in Baltimore and how it could've changed her entire life. Next, she details teaching during the period between Brown v. the Board of Education and actual integration. In 1966, the Anne Arundel County schools were integrating and Rachel Hall Brown shares her thoughts on the process. She then discusses the changes needed in elementary school education.

Video Oral History Interview with Rachel Brown, Section A2004_062_001_004, TRT: 0:26:21 ?

Rachel Hall Brown discusses her involvement in the White House's 1970 Children and Youth conference. She shares her opinions on current educational issues such as No Child Left Behind and school vouchers. Next, Brown talks about the need for mothers to stay home and nurture their children before going back to work. Rachel Hall Brown reflects on her career and offers advice to educators.