

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with DeWayne Wickham

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Wickham, DeWayne
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with DeWayne Wickham,
Dates:	June 27, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:43:03).
Abstract:	Author and newspaper columnist DeWayne Wickham (1946 -) writes for USA Today and is a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists. Wickham is the author of, "Fire At Will," "Woodholme: A Black Man's Story of Growing Up Alone," and, "Bill Clinton and Black America," and is the editor of "Thinking Black: Some of the Nation's Best Black Columnists Speak Their Mind." Wickham was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 27, 2005, in Owings Mills, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_152
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Columnist DeWayne Wickham was born July 22, 1946, in Baltimore, Maryland. His mother, DeSylvia Virginia Chase, was related to a Buffalo Soldier and his father, John Trevillion Wickham, was a member of the Wickham House Museum's Wickham family, of Richmond, Virginia. Tragedy orphaned Wickham, who was raised by his Aunt Annette in Baltimore. He attended Cherry Hill Elementary School and Junior High School and four high schools, before joining the United States Air Force in 1964. Attaining the rank of sergeant, Wickham was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal. He attended Community College of Baltimore from 1970 to 1972. He earned his B.S.J. degree and a certificate in African American studies from the University of Maryland in 1974 and his M.P.A. from the University of Baltimore, in 1982.

From 1972 to 1973, Wickham served at the *Baltimore Evening Sun* as an intern, and became a copy editing intern for the *Richmond Times Dispatch* in 1974. He was Capitol Hill correspondent for *U.S. News and World Report* from 1974 to 1975, a reporter with the *Baltimore Sun* from 1975 to 1978 and was a talk show host for Baltimore's WBAL-TV from 1976 to 1989. From 1978 to 1980, Wickham took a sabbatical from journalism and worked for Dr. Mary Frances Berry in President Jimmy Carter's administration. He was a columnist for Gannett News Service in 1985 and started writing his column for *USA Today* in 1988. Wickham was part of the press corps that accompanied Nelson Mandela on his 1992 U.S. tour and was one of twelve journalists who accompanied Jean Bertrand Aristide back to Haiti in 1994. He also has served as a contributing editor to *Black Enterprise* magazine. In 2000, Wickham, created the Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies, which is based at North Carolina A&T State University.

A founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), Wickham served as president from 1987 to 1989. In 1995, Wickham led the first delegation of black columnists to the White House for a meeting with

a United States President, Bill Clinton and led them back for another lengthy session in 1997. Wickham is a founder of the Trotter Group, an organization of black columnists, named for the *Boston Guardian's* William Monroe Trotter. Wickham is the recipient of the Award of Special Merit from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. He is the author of *Fire At Will* (1989); *Woodholme: A Black Man's Story of Growing Up Alone* (1995); and *Bill Clinton and Black America* (2002); and is the editor of *Thinking Black: Some of the Nation's Best Black Columnists Speak Their Mind* (1996).

A lifelong member of the NAACP, Wickham has two daughters with his first wife, Ruth Ann Frederick, and one by his second wife, Wanda Nadine Persons, with whom he lives in suburban Baltimore and Orlando.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with DeWayne Wickham was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 27, 2005, in Owings Mills, Maryland, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Author and newspaper columnist DeWayne Wickham (1946 -) writes for USA Today and is a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists. Wickham is the author of, "Fire At Will," "Woodholme: A Black Man's Story of Growing Up Alone," and, "Bill Clinton and Black America," and is the editor of "Thinking Black: Some of the Nation's Best Black Columnists Speak Their Mind."

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:

Wickham, DeWayne

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Burghelea, Neculai (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Wickham, DeWayne--Interviews

African American journalists--Interviews

African American newspaper editors--Interviews

Authors and publishers--Interviews

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore

African Americans--Genealogy

Murder--Maryland

Suicide--Maryland

Post-traumatic stress disorder

Parents--Death--Psychological aspects

Education--Maryland--Baltimore

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

USA today (Arlington, Va.)

Occupations:

Newspaper Columnist

Author

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 DeWayne Wickham, June 27, 2005. 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 DeWayne Wickham, Section A2005_152_001_001, TRT: 0:15:41 ?

Columnist DeWayne Wickham slates his interview and lists his favorites. He describes both of his parents' family backgrounds and describes his mother's occupation. Wickham discusses his parents' murder-suicide and the lack of family contact that followed. Wickham explains how the tragic event affected his life and influenced his relationships with other family members.

African American journalists--Interviews.

African American newspaper editors--Interviews.

Authors and publishers--Interviews.

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Murder--Maryland.

Suicide--Maryland.

Post-traumatic stress disorder.

Parents--Death--Psychological aspects.

Education--Maryland--Baltimore.

Video Oral History Interview with DeWayne Wickham, Section A2005_152_001_002, TRT: 0:28:47 ?

Columnist DeWayne Wickham lists his siblings. He recalls growing up in impoverished conditions in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland with his custodial aunt and uncle. Wickham describes how he and his brother coped with their parents' deaths. Finally, he describes his elementary and junior high school experiences.

Video Oral History Interview with DeWayne Wickham, Section A2005_152_001_003, TRT: 0:28:54 ?

Columnist DeWayne Wickham describes his junior high school experience. He discusses his early love of reading and his favorite television programming. He describes his church participation and his first job as a caddy. Wickham details the conflicts he had with his custodial aunt and the problems he experienced in his high school years.

Video Oral History Interview with DeWayne Wickham, Section A2005_152_001_004, TRT: 0:29:41 ?

Dewayne Wickham narrates his photographs.