

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wayne Dawkins

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Dawkins, Wayne
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Dawkins,
Dates:	August 4, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:41:41).
Abstract:	Author and newspaper editor Wayne Dawkins (1955 -) has written several articles and books, including a book on the history of the National Association of Black Journalists. He also started his own publishing press, August Press, in 1992. Dawkins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 4, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_185
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Author and newspaper editor Wayne Dawkins was born on September 19, 1955, in New York, New York to Iris and Edward H. Dawkins. Both his mother and father were of Jamaican and Panamanian descent. Dawkins became interested in journalism at an early age when his mother sent him to the neighborhood candy store to buy the daily newspaper. His parents also encouraged his reading habit, buying for him and his siblings a set of encyclopedias when he was still very young. As a child, Dawkins attended Benjamin Banneker Elementary in Brooklyn, New York and P.S. 176. He graduated from New Utrecht High School in 1973, located in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York.

In 1977, Dawkins graduated from Long Island University with his B.A. degree in journalism where he was a member of the junior varsity basketball team. After receiving advice from a mentor, he decided to further his education and enroll at Columbia University's School of Journalism where he received a substantial scholarship. Dawkins graduated with his M.S. degree in journalism in 1980 and was hired by the *Daily Argus* as a reporter where he met his first wife, Joyce Ingram. Afterwards, he moved to New Jersey where he worked for the *Courier Post*. In 1981, Dawkins attended his first National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) conference, and several years later he was appointed as regional director. While serving in that position, he witnessed the organization's growth and was instrumental in the establishment of several of its chapters. After graduating from the School of Journalism, he founded the alumni newsletter *Black Alumni Network* where he first wrote about the history of the NABJ in 1990. Sparking his interest, the book *Black Journalists: The NABJ Story* soon followed and was published under Dawkins's own press company, August Press.

Dawkins has worked as an editor for several newspapers, including the *Daily Press* in Hampton, Virginia. Deciding to share his skills as a reporter and editor, Dawkins began teaching journalism at Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton University, in Hampton, Virginia. He has received many awards and honors, including the distinguished Alumni Association Award from Columbia School of Journalism. In 2004,

Dawkins was awarded the prestigious Columbia University Alumni Federation Medal, which is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an alumnus of Columbia University.

Wayne Dawkins was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 4, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Wayne Dawkins was conducted by Paul Brock on August 4, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Author and newspaper editor Wayne Dawkins (1955 -) has written several articles and books, including a book on the history of the National Association of Black Journalists. He also started his own publishing press, August Press, in 1992.

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:

Dawkins, Wayne

Brock, Paul (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Dawkins, Wayne--Interviews

African American journalists--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Newspaper Editor

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 Wayne Dawkins, August 4, 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 Wayne Dawkins, Section A2005_185_001_001, TRT: 0:29:01 ?

Wayne Dawkins was born on September 19, 1955 in New York City, New York. His mother, Iris Carmen McFarquhar Dawkins, was born on September 27, 1921 in Panama, within the Panama Canal Zone. Her grandfather fought in the Spanish American War; her mother, Lulitta Eugenie Reed McFarquhar, was born on January 8, 1903 in Jamaica and worked as a teacher; and her father, Wilfred McFarquhar, was born on February 9, 1887 in Jamaica and was also a teacher. Lulitta McFarquhar was tall, a stern disciplinarian, and active in civic causes in Panama. Wilfred McFarquhar was a practicing minister who lived to be a hundred years old. Dawkins' maternal aunts and uncles were Hector McFarquhar, Fred McFarquhar, Lloyd Handel McFarquhar, and Mabel McFarquhar. Dawkins' mother married her first husband in Panama and gave birth to Dawkins' half-brother, Raymond Phipps. In 1952, she married Dawkins' father, Edward Henry Dawkins. Dawkins remembers escorting his maternal grandfather to Florida during his trip to the United States in 1975.

African American families.

Jamaicans--Panama.

Grandparents--Jamaica.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Dawkins, Section A2005_185_001_002, TRT: 0:29:19 ?

Wayne Dawkins was born in Bellevue Hospital in New York City, where his father, Edward Henry Dawkins, worked. Dawkins' father was born on June 10, 1920 in Jamaica to Urah Jolivet Mundle Dawkins and George D. Dawkins, who was a school headmaster. According to Dawkins' cousin, Hiram Johnson, the Dawkins family can be traced back to Thomas Dawkins in Jamaica in 1826. Edward Dawkins attended the prestigious Calabar High School in Kingston, Jamaica, where he met Hector McFarquhar. Dawkins' parents married in 1952 and moved to the United States before Dawkins was born in 1955. Dawkins remembers running errands in New York City, New York with his father and his father's gambling habit. He grew up on Kosciuszko Street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, near where Robert C. Maynard grew up and near HistoryMaker Reverend Gardner Taylor's Concord Baptist Church of Christ. Dawkins remembers reading comics in the New York Journal-American and the New York Herald Tribune.

African American families.

African American children--New York (State)--New York.

Fathers and sons--New York (State)--New York.

Caldwell, Earl.

New York (N.Y.).

Caribbean Americans.

Jamaicans--New York (State)--New York.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Dawkins, Section A2005_185_001_003, TRT: 0:28:57 ?

Wayne Dawkins received his B.A. degree from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York in 1977. In January of 1978, Dawkins began reporting for the Trans-Urban News Service (TUNS) under the tutelage of Andrew W. Cooper. In 1979, Dawkins enrolled at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism on a scholarship from the Philip L. Graham Fund. His classmates included James McBride, Jill Nelson, Betty Baye and Jim Dwyer. Dawkins received the Robert Herron Award and his M.S. degree in 1980 and became a

reporter for the Daily Argus newspaper in Mount Vernon, New York. In 1981, Dawkins attended the National Association of Black Journalists; and, in 1984, he became its regional coordinator. In 1982, he married Joyce Ingram; and in 1984, the couple moved to Mount Laurel, New Jersey, where Ingram worked for the Philadelphia Daily News and Dawkins worked for the Camden Courier-Post. They divorced in 1986, and Dawkins remarried Allie Crump in 1988. From 1989 until 1996, they lived in Winslow Township, New Jersey.

Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.).

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--New York (State)--New York.

African Americans--Education (Higher)--New York (State)--New York.

Rockettes (Dance company).

Bensonhurst (New York, N.Y.).

Radio City Music Hall (New York, N.Y.).

School integration--New York (State)--New York.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Dawkins, Section A2005_185_001_004, TRT: 0:29:04 ?

Wayne Dawkins became the regional director of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) for the New York region in 1984 and recalls the growth of NABJ from his first meeting in 1981 until he left in 1989. Dawkins recalls HistoryMakers Reverend Jesse Jackson and Milton Coleman speaking at the 1984 convention. Dawkins also recalls the growth of the association's infrastructure and the realignment of regions in the South. In 1992, Dawkins became a regular columnist for the Camden Courier-Post; and, in 1993, he self-published "Black Journalists, the NABJ Story" with his August Press. Other authors he published at the August Press include Dan Holly and Betty Baye. In 1996, he became an assignment editor for Knight Ridder Newspapers in Gary, Indiana. After 1997, he became an editorial writer for the Daily Press in Newport News, Virginia. Dawkins reflects on his legacy, his participation as a founding member of the William Monroe Trotter Group, his regrets, and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

African American journalists--New York (State)--New York.

African Americans--Marriage.

African American families--United States.

Columbia University. Graduate School of Journalism.

Long Island University.

National Association of Black Journalists--New York Chapter.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Dawkins, Section A2005_185_001_005, TRT: 0:29:29 ?

Wayne Dawkins narrates his photographs.

Cultural pluralism in mass media.

African American journalists.

African Americans--Religion.

African American Unitarian Universalists.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Dawkins, Section A2005_185_001_006, TRT: 0:15:51 ?

Wayne Dawkins narrates his family photographs.