

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Chuck Stone

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Stone, Chuck
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Chuck Stone,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 4, 2005
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:25:00).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Journalism professor and newspaper columnist Chuck Stone (1924 - 2014 ) was the founding president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and the first host of, "Black Perspectives on the News." Stone was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize twice, and was the father of film director Charles Stone, III. Stone was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 4, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2005_189
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Chuck Stone was born Charles Sumner Stone, Jr. on July 21, 1924 in St. Louis, Missouri. Stone's father was business manager for Annie Malone's Poro College, and his mother, Madalene M. Chafin Stone was the payroll officer for the Hartford Board of Education. In Hartford, Connecticut, Stone attended Arsenal Elementary School, Bernard Junior High School and graduated with honors from Hartford Public High School as "class prophet" in 1942. Drafted in 1943, Stone was commissioned as a navigator in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Leaving the army in 1945, Stone earned his A.B. degree from Wesleyan University in 1948 and his M.A. in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1951.

Stone represented CARE in India and Egypt from 1957 to 1958. Recruited by the *New York Age*, Stone became editor from 1958 to 1960. In 1960, he became associate director of the American Committee on Africa and the White House correspondent and editor of the *Washington Afro-American*. He was named editor-in-chief of the *Chicago Defender* in 1963 and taught journalism at Columbia College. From 1965 to 1967, Stone served as special assistant to Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., writing speeches and directing activities for the House Education and Labor Committee. Stone cultivated close relationships with both Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. His books, *Tell It Like It Is*, *Black Political Power In America* and *King Strut* and his appearances on talk shows made him a national pundit. From 1972 to 1991, Stone was a political columnist and senior editor for the *Philadelphia Daily News*. Stone also taught at the University of Delaware, and from 1991 to 2005, he served as a faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as the Walter Spearman Professor in the School of Mass Communications.

From 1975 to 1977, Stone was founding president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and first host of PBS's *Black Perspectives On The News*. Nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize, Stone was a member of the NABJ Hall of Fame. He was the recipient of the 1993 Free Spirit Award from the Freedom Forum; the

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's Thomas Jefferson Award in 2002; and the Trailblazer Award from Greensboro, North Carolina's Sit-In Movement, Inc. in 2005. In 2003, Stone wrote a children's book about race called, *Squizzy the Black Squirrel*.

Stone and his wife, Louise, had three children, Krishna, Allegra and Charles, III, a movie director.

Stone passed away on April 6, 2014.

Chuck Stone was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 4, 2005.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Chuck Stone was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 4, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Journalism professor and newspaper columnist Chuck Stone (1924 - 2014 ) was the founding president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and the first host of, "Black Perspectives on the News." Stone was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize twice, and was the father of film director Charles Stone, III.

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# 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®.

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# 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.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

Stone, Chuck

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Stone, Chuck--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Philadelphia Daily News (Firm)

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## Occupations:

Newspaper Columnist

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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## 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 Chuck Stone, 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Chuck Stone, Section A2005\_189\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Chuck Stone was born on July 21, 1924 in St. Louis, Missouri. His mother, Madalene Chafin Stone, was born in 1903 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Her grandmother was a slave from Haiti sent to work on the Avery sugar plantation in New Iberia, Louisiana. Her father was Cherokee and Spanish and grew up in Virginia. Stone's mother spent her childhood in Springfield, Massachusetts. After completing high school, she took accounting classes at Bay Path Institute and worked at Johnson's Bookstore as a bookkeeper. His father, Charles Stone, Sr., named after abolitionist Charles Sumner, was born in 1896 to Minnie Stone and Charles Stone in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was raised. While serving in the U.S. army in France during World War I, a fellow soldier told him to look up his cousin in Springfield, which resulted in Stone's parents meeting. They married in 1922. After graduating from Springfield College, his father worked as a business manager for entrepreneur Annie Malone's beauty school, Poro College in St. Louis.

Video Oral History Interview with Chuck Stone, Section A2005\_189\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Chuck Stone lived in St. Louis, Missouri for the first two years of his life. His father became an alcoholic due to shellshock from World War I. After being laid off from his job at Poro College, he moved the family to Springfield, Massachusetts then Hartford, Connecticut. Stone grew up in an integrated neighborhood in Hartford where he attended Shiloh Baptist Church and mostly white schools. He began at Arsenal School, then moved to Vine Street School after redistricting before entering Henry Barnard Junior High School. At Hartford Public High School, he enjoyed studying English, was on student council and ran track, usually the four hundred yard dash. As part of a relay team, he won the Greater Hartford Meet. He graduated in 1942. In 1981, Stone was asked to negotiate with inmates who were holding six people hostage at Graterford State Prison in Pennsylvania. The hostage-takers declared they would speak only to Stone because of his writings on injustice in the U.S. prison system.

Video Oral History Interview with Chuck Stone, Section A2005\_189\_001\_003, TRT: 0:26:30 ?

Chuck Stone entered Springfield College in Massachusetts after graduating from Hartford Public High School in 1942. Before completing his first year of college, he was drafted into the U.S. military for World War II. He joined the U.S. Air Force, where he trained as a navigator and bombardier, becoming one of the Tuskegee Airmen. Though sent to various bases, mainly in the segregated South, the war ended before he was deployed overseas. He matriculated at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut in 1944. As the only African American student at Wesleyan, he was often lonely and usually returned home on weekends. However, he remained involved in extracurricular activities, serving as president of the Student Christian Association, co-captain of the track team and winning the Everett Bennett Rosa award. After completing his studies in political science and economics in 1948, he entered a graduate program in sociology at the University of Chicago. There, he learned about polling from Philip Hauser.