

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jacqueline Finney Brown

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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>	Brown, Jacqueline Finney
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 26, 2007 and September 24, 2007
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 Betacame SP videocassettes (4:07:25).
<b>Abstract:</b>	County government administrator and education administrator Jacqueline Finney Brown (1944 - ) is the former chairperson of the Maryland State Board of Examiners for Professional Counselors. She served as Director of Academic Support and Director of Reform for the Howard County, Maryland Public School System. She also became Chief Administrative Officer for Prince George's County, Maryland and Executive Director of the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 26, 2007 and September 24, 2007, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2007_166
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Therapist, educator and government administrator Jacqueline Finney Brown was born on September 4, 1944 in Baltimore, Maryland. As a child, Brown lived with her mother and step-father. The home was a center-piece of Baltimore black society. The family received frequent guests including doctors, lawyers, teachers and prominent entertainers. A young Leslie Uggams practiced singing there, and Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall and the Fashion Fair models all attended parties inside Brown's childhood home. In elementary school, Brown attended Baltimore's segregated schools, but in 1961, however, she graduated from Western High School, a predominantly white school where she was elected vice president of her senior class and was active in theater.

In 1961, Brown entered Howard University, where she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She then transferred to the University of Cincinnati and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1967 with her B.A. degree in sociology, psychology and social welfare. Brown received her M.A. degree in guidance and counseling from Bowie State College and her Ph.D. in human development from the University of Maryland. Brown worked as tenured professor in counseling psychology at Bowie State University. Not only is she the former chairperson of the Maryland State Board of Examiners for Professional Counselors, she was also a practicing therapist with her own mental health, counseling and consulting firm.

Brown then served as Director of Academic Support and Director of Reform for the Howard County, Maryland Public School System. She also served on the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet and directed Family and Community Academic Involvement Services. In 2002, Brown became chief administrative officer for Prince George's County, Maryland, becoming the first woman to hold this position. In 2006, Brown was elected president

of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Corporation. She was later named executive director of Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center.

Brown lives in Maryland with her husband, William A. Brown, Executive Vice President of Page Southerland Page, LLP.

Brown was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 26, 2007.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown was conducted by Cheryl Butler on April 26, 2007 and September 24, 2007, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and was recorded on 9 Betacame SP videocassettes. County government administrator and education administrator Jacqueline Finney Brown (1944 - ) is the former chairperson of the Maryland State Board of Examiners for Professional Counselors. She served as Director of Academic Support and Director of Reform for the Howard County, Maryland Public School System. She also became Chief Administrative Officer for Prince George's County, Maryland and Executive Director of the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center.

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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:

Brown, Jacqueline Finney

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Brown, Jacqueline Finney--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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Prince George's County (Md.)

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## Occupations:

County Government Administrator

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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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 Jacqueline Finney Brown, April 26, 2007 and September 24, 2007. 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 Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown was born on September 4, 1944 in Baltimore Maryland. Brown's maternal grandmother was a homemaker and domestic worker; her maternal grandfather was a tradesman and a Seventh Day Adventist. Brown explains the origin of her mother's name: James Henry Amos Finney LaForest. She also talks about her mother's siblings, including Irene Morgan, the appellant in the Supreme Court's landmark 1946 decision, *Morgan v. Virginia*, which ruled against racial segregation on interstate travel. Morgan was represented by Thurgood Marshall. Brown's paternal grandfather was a minister; her paternal grandmother was Edna Waters (ph.) Finney. Brown's father, James Finney was a college professor at Tennessee State University in Nashville and later, the University of Pennsylvania in Cheyney. Brown recalls memories from her childhood in Baltimore, Maryland, including the city's segregation. As a girl, she learned German from an aunt and attended Coppin Demonstration School 132 in Baltimore.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown traces the history of the black Tabb family on the White Marsh Plantation in Virginia from whom her great grandmother, Martha Tabb Smith, was a descendant. Brown attended Coppin Demonstration School 132 in Baltimore, Maryland where she received instruction from black teachers in training. Her parents divorced when she was a young girl, but maintained an amicable relationship. During her childhood, Brown's mother and stepfather, a Trinidadian American, hosted black entertainers like Leslie Uggams, Duke Ellington, and the Ebony Fashion Fair during the days of segregation. Brown talks about her experiences of segregation in Baltimore and being selected to help desegregate Pimlico Junior High in the city. She also describes the sights, sounds, and smells of her childhood along with her childhood personality and neighborhood.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown was selected to desegregate Pimlico Junior High School with classmates from Coppin Demonstration School 132 in Baltimore, Maryland. She remembers her first experience of feeling like a minority, and the racial discrimination at Pimlico. The discrimination continued after Brown entered Western High School, a public school for girls. At Western, Brown excelled academically, participated in drama club, and became vice president of the senior class before graduating in 1961. She then enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C where she met Stokely Carmichael, and watched her peers become Freedom Riders and make the decision to be part of the bourgeoisie or be "black". In college, Brown discovered the field of social psychology and majored in sociology. At age eighteen, she eloped with William A. Brown. Brown also talks about the events leading up to her Aunt Irene Morgan's 1946 Supreme Court case, *Morgan v. Virginia*.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown left Howard University in Washington, D.C. after marrying her husband, William A. Brown, Sr. She describes the early years of their marriage and returning to Howard to complete her junior year. Brown ultimately graduated from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio in 1967. Between 1964 and 1971, Brown had three children. While raising her children, she pursued a master's degree in psychotherapy at Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland, graduating in 1974. At Bowie State, Brown became involved with the Adler-Dreikurs Institute and the institute sent her abroad to teach Adlerian psychology in Holland and England. Brown then entered private practice as a psychotherapist and mental health counselor and taught at Bowie State, before a certification course in divorce mediation drew her into doctoral studies at the University of Maryland, College Park in 1986. She talks about balancing her personal and professional life as well as her discovery of Ericksonian hypnotherapy.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_002\_005, TRT: 0:28:52 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown had her first two children before completing her bachelor's degree at the University of Cincinnati in 1967. After graduation, Brown worked for Seven Hills Neighborhood House, a settlement house along the Ohio River. Brown describes the contributions of settlement houses and helping to combat discrimination against Appalachian white migrants in Cincinnati by designing the first Appalachian American Cultural Center. After her family moved to Dayton, Ohio, Brown joined the Welfare Rights Organization where she learned about community organizing from Saul Alinsky. Brown also talks about the distinction between matrilineal descent and matriarchy in the African American community and remembers the Avondale Riots of 1968 after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. She and her husband, William A. Brown, Sr., had their third child before Brown completed her master's degree in psychotherapy at Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland in 1974.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_002\_006, TRT: 0:29:41 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown remembers the Avondale Riots of 1968 which erupted in Cincinnati, Ohio after the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After her third child was born in 1971, Brown's family moved to Prince George's County in Maryland where her husband, William A. Brown, Sr., became the Deputy Director of Military Programs in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Brown describes the history of desegregation and restrictive covenants in Prince George's County. In Prince George's County, Brown's children all attended the Science and Technology Center at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Brown herself was mentored by members of the local NAACP like Bonnie Johns, Cora Rice, and Lucille Johnson. Brown recounts her study of Adlerian psychotherapy at Bowie State College in Bowie, Maryland, her interest in social equity, and her master's thesis. She graduated from Bowie State in 1974 and taught as an adjunct at the university for eleven years.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_002\_007, TRT: 0:29:03 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown talks about why the feminist movement failed to resonate with African American women and her support for the womanist movement. Brown remembers her Aunt Irene Morgan's role in breaking down

Jim Crow laws in the Supreme Court's landmark 1946 decision against segregated interstate travel in *Morgan v. Virginia*. Brown talks about embracing dual identities as African American and American, but also distinguishes between African American and African cultures. She also talks about the Adlerian institute at Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland where she was an adjunct professor. Her position took her on a trip to the Netherlands where she taught drug counseling therapy. Brown describes the difference between equity and equality, and recounts Kenneth and Mamie Clark's doll experiments. Brown received tenure as an associate professor at Bowie State after completing her doctorate in human development at the University of Maryland, College Park in 1991.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_002\_008, TRT: 0:29:01 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown was mentored by Joanne Hunt and Liz Copeman while pursuing a divorce mediation certificate at the University of Maryland, College Park. The women successfully encouraged Brown to pursue a doctorate, and Brown completed her Ph.D. in human development in 1986. While pursuing her doctorate, Brown was also teaching at Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland, and running a private counseling practice. She was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and The Links. Brown was then hired by the Howard County Public School System in Maryland as the head of human relations. She later focused on improving academic equity in the school system. On the verge of retirement in 2002, Brown was appointed as the Chief Administrative Officer for Prince George's County, Maryland by HistoryMaker Jack Johnson. Her contributions as the county's first female Chief Administrative Officer include the cultivation of interagency collaboration.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Finney Brown, Section A2007\_166\_002\_009, TRT: 0:14:48 ?

Jacqueline Finney Brown served as the Chief Administrative Officer of Prince George's County under the County's Executive, HistoryMaker Jack Johnson. She talks about their work to bring economic vibrancy to the county by creating "livable communities." Brown also describes the demographics of Prince George's County, which was the most affluent African American majority county in the nation. She talks about her work on education reform, reflects upon her legacy and shares her advice with students.