

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jacquelyn Shropshire

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Shropshire, Jacquelyn
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyn Shropshire,
Dates:	November 25, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:38:29).
Abstract:	Civic leader and non-profit executive Jacquelyn Shropshire (1935 -) served as executive director of the Milwaukee Urban League. In Las Vegas, Nevada she founded the Las Vegas Urban League; and was a founding board member of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. Shropshire was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 25, 2013, in Las Vegas, Nevada. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_349
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader and non-profit executive Jacquelyn Shropshire was born on September 15, 1935 in Kansas City, Missouri. She was the first member of her family to attend college, and graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri in 1957 with her B.S. degree in business and economics.

Upon graduation, Shropshire was hired by Trans World Airlines, where she became the company's first African American employee in an administrative position. Shropshire then worked as a teacher in the Kansas City public school system until 1961, when she married Thomas B. Shropshire and moved to New York. She went on to receive her M.A. degree in education from Hunter College, and was hired as a teacher in the New York City public school system. Then, in 1968, Shropshire moved with her husband to Lagos, Nigeria, where she helped organize the first American Women's Club, and also founded *Fancy That*, a newsletter for women.

In 1972, Shropshire's family moved from Nigeria to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she began thirty years of service with the Milwaukee Urban League, first as a volunteer, and then as executive director. Shropshire also founded and served as president of Momentum Unlimited of Milwaukee, a firm specializing in management development, public relations and special event planning. In 2003, she organized and became board chairman of the Las Vegas Urban League, and, in 2012, she helped establish The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Shropshire has served on the boards of the Milwaukee Urban League, University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee); Women's Business Initiative Corporation (YWCA); The Next Door Foundation; American Red Cross; National Endowment for the Arts Advisory Committee; Milwaukee Historical Society; Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau; African World Festival; Inner City Arts Council; The Curative Workshop of Milwaukee; the Joint Center of Political Studies in Washington, D.C.; and The Smith Center for the Performing Arts. She also organized

the first African American debutante cotillion with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and was the first African American female corporate chairman of Wisconsin for the United Negro College Fund.

Shropshire has received numerous awards for her civic work, including the Caucus of African Americans Trailblazer Award; the Alpha Kappa Alpha Outstanding Contributions to the Black Family Award; the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (The Boulé) Judge William “Turk” Thompson Legacy Award; the Las Vegas–Clark County Black History Visionary Award; and the E-Vibe Phenomenal Woman Award. She was also named “A Woman of Excellence” by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation. In 2001, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee passed a resolution naming a Jacquelyn C. Shropshire Family Literacy Center in Memphis, Tennessee at the Goodwill International School for Boys and Girls.

Jacquelyn Shropshire was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 25, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jacquelyn Shropshire was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on November 25, 2013, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader and non-profit executive Jacquelyn Shropshire (1935 -) served as executive director of the Milwaukee Urban League. In Las Vegas, Nevada she founded the Las Vegas Urban League; and was a founding board member of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

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:

Shropshire, Jacquelyn

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Shropshire, Jacquelyn --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

Non-profit Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Jacquelyn Shropshire, November 25, 2013. 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 Jacquelyn Shropshire, Section A2013_349_001_001, TRT: 1:30:37 ?

Jacquelyn Shropshire was born on September 15, 1935 in Kansas City, Missouri to Bernice Thurman Goodwin and Lamar Calloway, Sr. Both her maternal and paternal grandparents migrated north from Cedartown, Georgia. Her mother's family settled in Kansas City, while her father's family continued on to Cleveland, Ohio. In Kansas City, Shropshire's maternal grandfather became a foundry worker and political organizer, and her mother helped found the Urban League of Kansas City. Shropshire's mother was also a talented singer, and aspired to an operatic career. They raised Shropshire in the Bottoms of Kansas City, where they attended an African Methodist Episcopal church. Shropshire began her education at Kansas City's Garrison School, and participated in activities at the Garrison Community Center after class. During the summers, she traveled alone by train to visit her great aunts in Cedartown. Shropshire also talks about her two brothers, and her maternal family's relation to Senator Strom Thurmond.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyn Shropshire, Section A2013_349_001_002, TRT: 2:31:25 ?

Jacquelyn Shropshire's mother, Bernice Thurman Goodwin, was a founding member of the Urban League of Kansas City, Missouri. Shropshire was assigned to the college track at Kansas City's Lincoln High School; and, with help from a wealthy neighbor, she went on to attend Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. She studied business and joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. After graduating in 1957, Shropshire was hired as a typist at Trans World Airlines, and then worked as a teacher at the Booker T. Washington School. Around this time, she met her future husband, tobacco executive Thomas B. Shropshire, at an Ebony Fashion Fair event. He courted her via letters, and eventually sent her an engagement ring by mail. After marrying, Shropshire joined her husband in New York City, where she taught at a school in Brooklyn. Around 1964, she moved to Lagos, Nigeria, where her husband supervised operations for Philip Morris Inc. There, Shropshire served as her husband's secretary, and founded a women's club.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyn Shropshire, Section A2013_349_001_003, TRT: 3:29:58 ?

Jacquelyn Shropshire moved with her husband, tobacco executive Thomas B. Shropshire, to Lagos, Nigeria during the mid-1960s. There, her husband supervised tobacco production for Philip Morris Inc., and Shropshire served as his confidential secretary. At this point in the interview, Shropshire remembers their friendship with the former National Urban League Director Whitney Young, who was attending a symposium in Lagos at the time of his death in 1971. The following year, Shropshire and her husband returned to New York City. Soon afterwards, the Miller Brewing Company was acquired by Phillip Morris Inc., and Shropshire's husband was assigned to serve as its vice president. Shropshire moved with her husband to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she joined the Milwaukee Urban League. She went on to become the

organization's first female executive director. Shropshire also partnered with her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorors, including Terri Embry, to found a debutante cotillion for underprivileged girls in Milwaukee.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyn Shropshire, Section A2013_349_001_004, TRT: 4:28:22 ?

Jacquelyn Shropshire lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1972 to 2000. During this period, she served as the first female executive director of the Milwaukee Urban League. She also created the city's annual African World Festival, and founded a strategic planning company called Momentum Unlimited, Inc. After her husband, Thomas B. Shropshire, retired from the Miller Brewing Company, they moved with their two children to Southern California. Shortly afterwards, Shropshire returned with her son to Milwaukee, where he finished high school. Shropshire and her husband eventually relocated from Los Angeles, California to Las Vegas, Nevada, where she founded the Las Vegas Urban League. With the encouragement of her children, she also served as a founding board member of Las Vegas' Smith Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in 2009. Shropshire's daughter, Terilyn Shropshire, went on to become a cinematographer; and her son, Thomas B. Shropshire, Jr., joined the international law firm of Linklaters LLP.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyn Shropshire, Section A2013_349_001_005, TRT: 5:29:51 ?

Jacquelyn Shropshire's maternal family originated in Cedartown, Georgia, where her ancestors worked in the cotton industry. When she was young, Shropshire's parents often sent her to stay with her great aunts in Cedartown. At this point in the interview, Shropshire talks about her maternal family's relation to Senator Strom Thurmond. She also reflect upon her interest in philanthropy and the influence of her mother, Bernice Thurman Goodwin, who was a founding member of the Urban League of Kansas City, Missouri. In Las Vegas, Nevada, Shropshire worked with Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates to develop the Dr. William U. Pearson Community Center, which provide an alternative activity space for the city's youth. Shropshire reflects upon her hopes and concerns for the Las Vegas community, and her family's legacy. She concludes this part of the interview by narrating her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyn Shropshire, Section A2013_349_001_006, TRT: 6:08:16 ?

Jacquelyn Shropshire narrates her photographs.