

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Robert G. Clark

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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>	Clark, Robert George, 1929-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 26, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:26:06).
<b>Abstract:</b>	State representative Robert G. Clark (1928 - ) was the first African American elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives since the Reconstruction era, and served as House Speaker Pro Tem. Clark was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 26, 2017, in Jackson, Mississippi. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_106
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

State representative Robert G. Clark was born on October 3, 1929 in Ebenezer, Mississippi to Robert G. Clark, Sr. and Julia Ann Clark. Clark attended Holmes County Training School in Durant, Mississippi. Clark received his B.A. degree from Jackson State College in Jackson, Mississippi in 1952, and his M.S. degree in administration and educational services from Michigan State University in East, Lansing, Michigan in 1959.

Clark served as a teacher in the Holmes County public school system and area private schools for fifteen years. In 1966, Clark was elected to a position in the Holmes County Community Action Program. The following year, he was elected to the State of Mississippi House of Representatives as the first African American representative in the twentieth century. While serving in the Mississippi House of Representatives, Clark became the first black committee chairman in 1977 and served as chair of the House Education Committee, the House Management Committee, the House Ethics Committee and has held a seat on the House Rules Committee. He has also served as vice chairman for the Apportionment and Elections Committee. In 1979, in addition to serving in the Mississippi House of Representatives, he served as a teaching fellow of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Clark worked on 1982 Education Reform Act for education reform in Mississippi. In 1992, he was elected as Mississippi House of Representatives Speaker Pro Tem, and reelected in 1996 and 2000. Clark was also a senior ranking member of Mississippi's Legislative Black Caucus. In 2003, Clark retired from the Mississippi House of Representatives and began lecturing at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Clark has been honored by the State of Mississippi for his years of service. In 2003, June 27, was dedicated as Robert G. Clark, Jr. day by an official State of Mississippi proclamation. Clark also has a state government building in Jackson, Mississippi named in his honor.

Robert and his wife, JoAnn Ross Clark, have three children, Robert G. Clark, III, Bryant Clark and LaLeche.

Robert G. Clark was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 26, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark was conducted by Denise Gines on May 26, 2017, in Jackson, Mississippi, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. State representative Robert G. Clark (1928 - ) was the first African American elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives since the Reconstruction era, and served as House Speaker Pro Tem.

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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:

Clark, Robert George, 1929-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Clark, Robert George, 1929- --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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## Occupations:

State Representative

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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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 The Honorable Robert G. Clark, May 26, 2017. 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 The Honorable Robert G. Clark, Section A2017\_106\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark, Section A2017\_106\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark, Section A2017\_106\_001\_003,  
TRT: 3:28:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark, Section A2017\_106\_001\_004,  
TRT: 4:29:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark, Section A2017\_106\_001\_005,  
TRT: 5:29:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark, Section A2017\_106\_001\_006,  
TRT: 6:30:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Robert G. Clark, Section A2017\_106\_001\_007,  
TRT: 7:29:47 ?