

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Leonard Graham

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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>	Graham, Leonard, 1949-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 8, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:44:26).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Engineering executive Leonard J. Graham (1949- ) served as co-owner and president of land surveying and civil and structural engineering services firm Taliaferro and Browne, Inc. Graham was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 8, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_124
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Engineering executive Leonard J. Graham was born on December 12, 1949 in Kansas City, Kansas to Leonard A. and Alma James Graham. He attended Kansas City, Kansas public schools and graduated from Southeast High School in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1974, Graham earned his B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and his B.S. degree in civil engineering in 1975, from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He went on to obtain his M.A. degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1978.

While in college, Graham worked as an application engineer at Fairbanks Morse Pumps, in Kansas City. Following his undergraduate studies, he went to work as an engineer for the regional office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1976, Graham joined the Kansas City-based consulting engineering firm Schlup Becker & Brennan as an engineer. Named partner in 1984, he worked there for sixteen years. In 1992, Graham joined and purchased the land surveying and civil and structural engineering services firm Taliaferro and Browne, Inc. as co-owner. He has served as president for twenty-seven years, where his role and area of expertise has been general civil engineering and project management including site development, storm water and wastewater engineering, roadway and transportation planning and design. The firm has been recognized for “engineering excellence” to being “one of the top 25 largest engineering firms in Kansas City”.

From 2001 to 2002, Graham served as Honorary Chairman, Port Authority (now PortKC). In 2004, he received the Missouri Honor Award for Distinguished Service in Engineering, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City College of Engineering. Graham served as a member of the Mid-America Regional Council from 2012 to 2013, and board member for The Main Street Corridor Development Corporation from 2012 to 2018. He was the recipient of the Lucille H. Bluford Special Achievement Award from the Kansas City NAACP.

Graham has held memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi, Midwesterners and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was recognized as a member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni Members at the University of Missouri.

Leonard J. Graham was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 8, 2019.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Leonard Graham was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 8, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Engineering executive Leonard J. Graham (1949- ) served as co-owner and president of land surveying and civil and structural engineering services firm Taliaferro and Browne, Inc.

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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:

Graham, Leonard, 1949-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Graham, Leonard, 1949---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:

Engineer

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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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 Leonard Graham, November 8, 2019. 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 Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:44 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_004, TRT: 4:34:43 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_005, TRT: 5:34:02 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_006, TRT: 6:33:03 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_007, TRT: 7:30:48 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_008, TRT: 8:33:47 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Leonard Graham, Section A2019\_124\_001\_009, TRT: 9:27:43 ?