

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr.

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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>	Walker, George W.C., 1940-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 5, 2021
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2021
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:58:31).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Bishop George W. C. Walker, Sr., (1940 - ) was elected the eighty-first bishop of the AME Zion Church in 1988 and elevated to senior bishop in 2004. Walker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 5, 2021, in Flossmoor, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2021_001
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Bishop George W. C. Walker, Sr., was born on October 11, 1940, in Montgomery, Alabama, to Lemon Louise Pace Walker and Reverend Roosevelt Leon Walker. He attended public schools in Fair Hope, Greenville, and Luverne, Alabama. He received his A.A. degree from Clinton Junior College, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, his A.B. degree in 1970 from Benedict College, in Columbia, South Carolina, and his M.Div. degree in 1971 from Hood Theological Seminary, in Salisbury, North Carolina, but also attended Livingstone College, in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Between 1960 and 1972, Walker pastored Rock Hill AME Zion Church and Piney Grove AME Zion Church, in Pageland, South Carolina; St. James AME Zion Church and Mt. Airy AME Zion Church, in Chesterfield, South Carolina; Foundation AME Zion Church and Tabernacle AME Zion Church, in Rock Hill, South Carolina; and Jones Memorial AME Zion Church, in Columbia, South Carolina. From 1972 to 1988, he pastored Greater Walters AME Zion Church in Chicago, Illinois. In 1974, Walker led Greater Walters in relocating from 3800 S. Dearborn St. and acquired new property at 8400 S. Damen Ave, where he hosted the 1976 AME Zion General Conference. In 1988, Reverend Walker was elected the eighty-first bishop of the AME Zion Church. As bishop, he presided over the North Eastern, Piedmont, Western, and Southwestern Delta Episcopal Districts. In 1996, he served as chairperson of the AME Zion Church Bicentennial Historical Commission. In 2004, Bishop Walker was elevated to senior bishop of the AME Zion Church. In 2010, he helped organize the “Great Gathering” of the AME, AME Zion, and CME denominations in Columbia, South Carolina. Bishop Walker then retired as senior bishop of the AME Zion Church in 2012.

Walker has served in leadership positions on several boards of the AME Zion Church and with ecumenical and civic organizations, including as a member of the Publishing House Board and the Restructuring Committee of the AME Zion Church; a member of the Harriet Tubman Foundation and past president of the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.; a member of Balm in Gilead; chairman of the board of trustees of Livingstone College; a member of the

governing board of the National Council of Churches; and in various conference and connectional-level positions. He also has been actively involved with the World Methodist Council, the NAACP, and the World Council of Churches.

Walker has been the recipient of numerous awards and citations, including honorary doctorates from Livingstone College (DD) and Chicago Theological Seminary (DHL) and twice as one of *Ebony* magazine's "100+ Most Influential Black Americans."

Walker and his wife, Geraldine Jackson Walker, live in Flossmoor, Illinois. They have two daughters, Cynthia Lalita Walker Carr and Deborah Olivia Walker Richmond, and two sons who are pastors in the AME Zion Church, Reverend Dwayne Anthony Walker and Reverend George W. C. Walker, Jr.

Bishop George W. C. Walker, Sr., was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 5, 2021.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 5, 2021, in Flossmoor, Illinois, and was recorded on 12 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Bishop George W. C. Walker, Sr., (1940 - ) was elected the eighty-first bishop of the AME Zion Church in 1988 and elevated to senior bishop in 2004.

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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:

Walker, George W.C., 1940-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

**Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews  
Walker, George W.C., 1940---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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African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

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**Occupations:**

Bishop

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**HistoryMakers® Category:**

ReligionMakers

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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 Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., October 5, 2021. 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 Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_004, TRT: 4:31:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_008, TRT: 8:30:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_009, TRT: 9:29:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_010, TRT: 10:31:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_011, TRT: 11:29:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Section A2021\_001\_001\_012, TRT: 12:30:51 ?