

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lt. Col. John White

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	White, John A., 1924-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. John White,
Dates:	November 16, 2021
Bulk Dates:	2021
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:23:12).
Abstract:	Lieutenant Colonel John A. White (1924 -) became the first African American law officer in Georgia in 1947 as one of Savannah's "Original Nine." He also served in the South Pacific during WWII as a Montford Point Marine. White was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 16, 2021, in Savannah, GA. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2021_018
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lieutenant Colonel John A. White was born on October 27, 1924, in Savannah, Georgia, to Gussie and Bonaparte White. He graduated from Beach Cuyler High School and attended Georgia State College (later Savannah State University).

White enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1943 and received training at Montford Point, North Carolina. He served in the Marines during WWII until 1946 as part of the 51st Defense Battalion in the South Pacific. That same year, he was recruited by the Savannah Police Department, becoming the first African American law officer in Georgia in 1947 as one of "The Original Nine." He was promoted to corporal in 1956. In 1984, he retired. White also is a minister in the AME Church, pastoring at St. James AME Church in Savannah.

White has received commendations from J. Edgar Hoover, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton. In 2012, White and the other surviving Montford Point Marines received the Congressional Gold Medal. In 2018, White was recognized by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. In 2021, Bouhan Street at Waters Avenue, where White lived his entire life in Savannah, was officially designated Lieutenant John White Avenue.

White lives in Savannah, Georgia. He and his wife, Sallie Catherine Williams White, had five children.

Lieutenant Colonel John A. White was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 16, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lt. Col. John White was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 16, 2021, in Savannah, GA, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lieutenant Colonel John A. White

(1924 -) became the first African American law officer in Georgia in 1947 as one of Savannah's "Original Nine." He also served in the South Pacific during WWII as a Montford Point Marine.

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:

White, John A., 1924-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

White, John A., 1924---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Savannah Police Department

Occupations:

Police Officer

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 Lt. Col. John White, November 16, 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).

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 Lt. Col. John White, Section A2021_018_001_001, TRT: 1:28:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. John White, Section A2021_018_001_002, TRT: 2:30:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. John White, Section A2021_018_001_003, TRT: 3:28:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. John White, Section A2021_018_001_004, TRT: 4:32:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. John White, Section A2021_018_001_005, TRT:
5:22:34 ?