

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Clinton Warner

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Warner, Clinton, 1924-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clinton Warner,
Dates:	August 12, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:24:05).
Abstract:	Surgeon Dr. Clinton Warner (1924 - 2012) served in the U.S. Military, facing action in World War II's D-Day invasion, and was active in the Civil Rights Movement. Warner was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 12, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_181
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. Clinton E. Warner, Jr. saw action on the front lines of two of the twentieth century's most transformative struggles. Born in Atlanta on July 11, 1924, Warner fought in World War II and became an active civil rights participant.

Warner's post-secondary education was interrupted by the onset of World War II. From 1942 to 1946, he served in the U.S. Army and participated in the D-Day invasion of France that turned the tide of the war in Europe. Warner then returned home to study at Morehouse College, where he received his M.A. in 1948. He earned his medical degree from Meharry Medical School in Nashville, graduating summa cum laude in 1951. Following an internship in Chicago and surgical training in St. Louis, Warner entered private practice in Atlanta as a surgeon specializing in breast diseases.

Warner also became heavily involved in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. He purchased his first home on Fielding Lane in Southwest Atlanta, defying the Berlin Wall-like Peyton Road Barricades erected in 1962 by Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. to segregate the community. Warner's act of resistance initiated a campaign for fair housing that opened housing in Southwest Atlanta to African Americans. Warner was also a plaintiff in a 1963 lawsuit that desegregated Emory University and the Fulton County Medical and Dental Society. As the civil rights movement gained momentum, Warner contributed medical and financial services to student activists and was jailed twice in hotel protests in Atlanta. In 1967, he founded the first minority medical surgical group, the Atlanta Surgical Professional Association.

An active member of several medical and civic organizations, Warner has been recognized several times for his contributions to medicine and the community. He served as honorary co-chairman of the Medical Support Group for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and serves on the board of trustees of Morehouse College. Warner retired from medicine in 1996. He and his wife, Sally Johnson, have one son, Clinton E. Warner, III, and live in Atlanta.

Dr. Clinton Warner passed away on June 30, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Clinton Warner was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 12, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Surgeon Dr. Clinton Warner (1924 - 2012) served in the U.S. Military, facing action in World War II's D-Day invasion, and was active in the Civil Rights Movement.

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:

Warner, Clinton, 1924-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Versfelt, Porter (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Warner, Clinton, 1924---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Surgeon

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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 Dr. Clinton Warner, August 12, 2003. 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 Dr. Clinton Warner, Section A2003_181_001_001, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Clinton Warner was born on July 11, 1924. His mother, Mable Hubert Warner, was born in 1900 in Hancock County, Georgia to Zachary and Camilla Hubert. His maternal grandparents, both formerly enslaved in Georgia, were landowners and had twelve children who were all college educated and went on to successful careers as college presidents, businesspeople, and landowners.

Warner's maternal family operates a family foundation named after his grandparents and still owns the Hubert farm. Warner's mother attended Jackson State University and what is now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She later earned a M.A. degree in English from Columbia University, in New York, and went on to work as a teacher and supervisor with the Jeanes Foundation. Warner's father, Clinton E. Warner, Sr., was born in 1889 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Arkansas State College and Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia before becoming the principal of a black high school in LaGrange, Georgia.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clinton Warner, Section A2003_181_001_002, TRT: 0:28:10 ?

Clinton Warner was born in a dormitory on the campus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where his father was a professor of manual arts. When he was young, his family moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, there his father operated a college inn. He recalls the segregated community of Pine Bluffs and remembers the principal the school he attended in Pine Bluff. When he was ten years old, the family moved to LaGrange, Georgia. Warner's earliest memories are of the driving trips between Georgia and Arkansas and attending the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933. Warner attend East Depot High School in LaGrange, where his father was principal. He developed his racial consciousness reading the black newspapers his parents subscribes to like the Pittsburgh Courier and enjoyed playing the piano. He entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1940, but dropped out to work for the war department and was drafted by the U.S. Military in 1942. Warner decided to be a physician after leaving the army.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clinton Warner, Section A2003_181_001_003, TRT: 0:29:05 ?

Clinton Warner enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and fought in World War II. He describes the segregation within the military; there were few African Americans officers and Warner remembers traveling in the bottom of the ship on the trip to Europe. Warner was never assigned to combat duty, but was in on the beach in Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Warner was discharged from the Army in 1946. He finished his undergraduate degree at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and in 1947, matriculated at Meharry Medical College in Nashville Tennessee, where he graduated summa cum laude. Warner completed his internship at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, Illinois; he encountered racial segregation inside and outside of the hospital. He did his surgical residency in St. Louis, Missouri. He was administered his oral exams by Michael DeBakey and Alton Ochsner in New Orleans, Louisiana. When he returned to Atlanta he found that African Americans were unfamiliar with the idea of an African American surgeon.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clinton Warner, Section A2003_181_001_004, TRT: 0:28:10 ?

Clinton Warner organized for higher wages for black farm workers during college and higher wages for the medical residents of the segregated hospital where he worked in St. Louis, Missouri. Warner was involved in the Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta, Georgia. He was arrested for picketing and remembers being asked to provide medical aid for other activists. Warner describes the intimidating phone calls he received for buying a house in a white neighborhood in Southwest Atlanta. Warner was denied opportunities to fulfill requirements to enter the American College of Surgeons by white peers until 1964, when he was finally inducted. In 1962, Warner was involved in a lawsuit against segregation in the medical field in Georgia, which was eventually

settled. Warner talks about the small number of black surgeons, as detailed in a book called 'A Century of Black Surgeons: the U.S.A. Experience' by Claude Organ and laments the changes in the medical profession.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clinton Warner, Section A2003_181_001_005, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Clinton Warner describes being harassed by police at a traffic stop while driving from Missouri to Georgia. Warner purchased his first home in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia, a white neighborhood. In response, Mayor Ivan Allen built a wall to prevent other African Americans from moving into the area, so-called blockbusting. The wall made it difficult for Warner to get home and he received false phone calls saying that his house had been burned down. Warner knew Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from his years at Morehouse College in Atlanta, and describes the opposition King faced from the African American community in Atlanta. Warner helped form the Atlanta Surgical Professional Association, the first minority medical group, and is a member of Sigma Pi Phi (the Boule) and a black bank. He was the first chairman of the board of trustees at Morehouse School of Medicine and talks about HistoryMaker Dr. Louis Sullivan the first president of the Morehouse school of Medicine.