

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Garth Reeves

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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>	Reeves, Garth C., 1919-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Garth Reeves,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 5, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:27:36).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Newspaper publishing chief executive Garth Reeves (1919 - 2019) former president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, served as publisher and chief executive officer of the <i>Miami Times</i> for over twenty years. Reeves was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 5, 2013, in North Miami, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_183
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Newspaper publishing chief executive Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was born on February 12, 1919 in Nassau, Bahamas. His family moved to Miami, Florida four months after he was born. His father, Harry Ethelbert Sigismund Reeves, was a partner in The Magic Printing Company and founder of the *Miami Times*; his mother, a homemaker. His daughter, Rachel J. Reeves, became publisher and chief executive officer of the *Miami Times* in 1994 following the untimely death of her brother, Garth C. Reeves, Jr. After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in Miami in 1936, Reeves enrolled in Florida A & M University where he earned his B.A. degree in printing in 1940.

Reeves served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1942 to 1946 in both the European and Pacific theaters. He then returned to Miami to work under his father Harry Ethelbert Sigismund Reeves, who founded the *Miami Times* newspaper in 1923. In 1970, Reeves was named publisher and chief executive officer of the *Miami Times* when his father passed. Reeves went on to become the first African American to serve on the governing boards of the Miami-Dade Community College, Barry University, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way of Dade County. He also served as organizing chairman of the board for National Industrial Bank, which was the first integrated bank in the State of Florida. During the 1950s, Reeves worked to integrate the local beaches, parks, and golf courses. Reeves served for ten years as president of the Amalgamated Publishers of New York City, which represents over one hundred African American-owned newspapers throughout the United States. He was also elected to serve two terms as president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Reeves is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and a founding member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Miami, Florida. He was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of Miami, Barry University and Florida Memorial University.

Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 5, 2013.

Reeves passed away on November 25, 2019.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Garth Reeves was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 5, 2013, in North Miami, Florida, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Newspaper publishing chief executive Garth Reeves (1919 - 2019) former president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, served as publisher and chief executive officer of the Miami Times for over twenty years.

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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:

Reeves, Garth C., 1919-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Reeves, Garth C., 1919- --Interviews

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African American chief executive officers--Florida--Interviews

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African American--Publishers and publishing--Florida--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:

Newspaper Publishing Chief Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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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 Garth Reeves, June 5, 2013. 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 Garth Reeves, Section A2013\_183\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:39 ?

Garth Reeves slates the interview and describes his favorites. He then shares his

mother's family background and his maternal grandfather's experience as an Anglican priest. He discusses his mother's role as a homemaker and her interest in Mahatma Gandhi and non-violent direct action. Reeves describes his father's family background. His paternal grandfather was a magistrate in the Bahamas. He discusses his father's occupation as a printer and his time as an employee of 'The Nassau Guardian' in Nassau, Bahamas. Reeves's father moved the family to the United States in 1919 and opened a print shop. His father started a printing business and a newspaper before starting the successful 'Miami Times'. Reeves describes the history of Overtown, Miami, Florida where his family settled. He closes with a discussion of racial tension, and the presence of the Ku Klux Klan in Overtown.

Video Oral History Interview with Garth Reeves, Section A2013\_183\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:20 ?

Garth Reeves discusses the tourism industry in Miami, Florida. He then details the history of African Americans in Miami, emphasizing D. A. Dorsey's contributions. Reeves relates his earliest memories of grade school. He recalls the discrimination that his father faced from the police. He goes on to discuss the entertainment industry in Miami, and the process of desegregation in the theaters.

Video Oral History Interview with Garth Reeves, Section A2013\_183\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:24 ?

Garth Reeves discusses his first job as a copyboy at his father's paper, 'The Miami Times'. He talks about type setting one letter at a time and how technology has changed since then. He also discusses the paper's coverage of the lynching of black Americans. Reeves talks about his high school activities and how he sold candy bars to his classmates for a profit during the Great Depression. His father used money to motivate him to do well in school and to make As. Reeves talks about the famous people like Joe Louis that he met as a reporter. He describes other important events during his life, such as the 1936 Summer Olympics and the first time Jackie Robinson played in the National Leagues. He also talks about his mentor at Florida A&M University.

Video Oral History Interview with Garth Reeves, Section A2013\_183\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:21 ?

Garth Reeves describes Pearl Harbor and his entry into military service. He did not receive basic training because of his ability to type. He describes his first trip overseas, his promotion to technical sergeant, the U-boat attacks, feeling homesick during his military service and applying to be restationed in the United States. Reeves was to be originally sent to Fort Belleville, Virginia, but because of discrimination, he was transferred to Camp Davis, North Carolina instead. He describes what he liked and did not like about the U.S. Army, and his mother's advice for him after his military service.

Video Oral History Interview with Garth Reeves, Section A2013\_183\_001\_005, TRT: 5:32:52 ?

Garth Reeves talks about working with his father at the Miami Times after his military service during World War II and the paper's coverage of the Civil Rights Movement. Reeves joins the NAACP and gets involved in non-violent direct action. He describes his role in desegregating Miami's beaches and golf courses. Reeves reflects upon Thurgood Marshall's influence and describes his own use of the judicial system to desegregate his community.