

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gregory Jackson

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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>	Jackson, Gregory, 1957-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 12, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:09:55).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Auto sales entrepreneur Gregory Jackson (1957 - ) owned a total of eighteen automobile dealerships in Michigan, including Mercedes-Benz of St. Clair Shores and Prestige Cadillac in Warren as well as real estate and other businesses. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 12, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_113
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Automobile sales entrepreneur Gregory Jackson was born on July 12, 1957 in Detroit, Michigan to Doris Hood and Roy Jackson. Jackson graduated from Central High School in 1975. He earned his B.S. degree in accounting from Morris Brown College in 1980; and his M.S. degree in finance and marketing from Atlanta University in 1981.

Jackson began working as an accountant for Arthur Andersen & Company. He then left in 1984 and was hired as a controller for Stroh's Transportation. While at Stroh's, he launched The Kastelton Company, a gourmet cookies venture. Jackson then pursued a career in automotive sales, completing the General Motors Minority Dealer Training program in 1989. He launched the Prestige Automotive Group and purchased his first dealership, Prestige Pontiac-Oldsmobile, in 1993. Under Jackson's leadership, the company grossed \$1.67 billion in sales in 2005. In addition to automotive sales, Jackson also purchased The Lafayette Towers in the Mies van der Rohe residential district of Detroit in 2012. Over time, Jackson operated a total of eighteen automobile dealerships, selling all but four: Mercedes-Benz of St. Clair Shores, Toyota of Warren, Courtesy Ford of Okemos and Prestige Cadillac in Warren He was owner and served as a board member of two separate Chinese-American joint venture corporations based in Beijing and Wuhu, China. He also acquired The Lafayette Towers in Detroit in 2012.

For over a decade, Prestige Automotive Group received top rankings on *Black Enterprise's* "Auto Dealer 100" list and held the #1 position for six years. The company also received Mercedes-Benz's Best of The Best Award and the *Michigan Chronicle's* Men of Excellence Award. Jackson was named *Black Enterprise's* Dealer of the Year and was featured in *Crain's Detroit Business's* "Largest Minority-Owned Business" publication.

Jackson served as president of the General Motors Minority Dealers Association and on its Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Automotive Hall of Fame, was the first vice chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers, and served as a council member for the General Motors Minority Dealer Advisory Council. Jackson was also an active member of the National

Association of Black Accountants, the NAACP, and Fellowship Chapel Church in Detroit.

Jackson has two children.

Gregory Jackson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 12, 2017.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gregory Jackson was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 12, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Auto sales entrepreneur Gregory Jackson (1957 - ) owned a total of eighteen automobile dealerships in Michigan, including Mercedes-Benz of St. Clair Shores and Prestige Cadillac in Warren as well as real estate and other businesses.

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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:

Jackson, Gregory, 1957-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jackson, Gregory, 1957- --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:

Auto Sales Entrepreneur

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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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 Gregory Jackson, August 12, 2017. 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 Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_003, TRT: 3:25:00 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:27 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:20 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:34 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_007, TRT: 7:27:50 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_008, TRT: 8:30:18 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Gregory Jackson, Section A2017\_113\_001\_009, TRT: 9:19:18 ?