



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Evans Crawford

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Evans Crawford
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Evans Crawford,
Dates:	September 23, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:07:59).
Abstract:	Theologian and academic administrator Evans Crawford (1923 -) served Howard University for almost fifty years in several positions, including professor of ministry and Dean of Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Crawford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 23, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_176
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Theologian and academic administrator Evans Edgar Crawford, Jr. was born on July 2, 1923 in Temple, Texas, to Mary Enge and Evans Edgar Crawford, Sr. A Methodist preacher, his father travelled often due to his job with the Santa Fe Railroad. Following the death of his mother, a former teacher, when he was just three years old, Crawford was raised by his paternal grandmother, Rosie Crawford. Religion was extremely important in his family, and Crawford was called to the ministry at the age of eleven. In 1939, Crawford graduated from Dunbar High School, where his extracurricular activities were devoted to speech and oratory competitions. In 1943, Crawford received his B.S. degree from Huston College (now Huston-Tillotson College). He continued his education at the Boston University School of Divinity, earning his bachelor's degree in sacred theology in 1946 and his Th.D. degree 1957. In 1949, Crawford married his wife Elizabeth.

Crawford spent his professional career at Howard University where he began in 1958 as a theology instructor and acting dean of the university chapel. For nearly fifty years, he served in a number of posts at Howard, including Dean of Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, Assistant Professor, Acting Associate Dean of the school of Divinity and Interim Vice President for University Advancement. He retired in 1991 as professor emeritus of social ethics but continues to teach courses on preaching and social ethics as an adjunct professor at the Howard University School of Divinity.

In 1996, Crawford served as president of the Academy of Homiletics, an international organization of instructors who teach preachers. He also served as president of the National Association of College and University Chaplains, as a Danforth Associate and a member of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is the author of several books about the African American church, including "The Hum: Call and Response in African American Preaching" (1995).

Evans Crawford, Jr. was interviewed by the The HistoryMakers on September 23, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Evans Crawford was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on September 23, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Theologian and academic administrator Evans Crawford (1923 -) served Howard University for almost fifty years in several positions, including professor of ministry and Dean of Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.

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:

Crawford, Evans E.

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.
Crawford, Evans E.--Interviews.

African American theologians--Washington, D.C.--Interviews.

African American college administrators--Washington, D.C.--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Howard University. School of Divinity

HistoryMakers® Category:

ReligionMakers

EducationMakers

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 Evans Crawford, September 23, 2004. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/9/2011 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, September 23, 2004

Video Oral History Interview with Evans Crawford, Section A2004_176_001_001, TRT: 0:29:42
2004/09/23

Evans Crawford discusses his family background and childhood in Temple, Texas. His father, Evans Edgar Crawford, Sr., was born in 1887 in Troy, Texas. In addition to being an employee of the Santa Fe Railroad, Crawford's father was also a Methodist minister. His mother, Mary Enge, grew up in western Texas. She attended Samuel Huston College, where she received her teacher's certificate. His mother died when he was three years old, leaving him to be raised primarily by his paternal grandmother, Rosie Crawford. Crawford reflects on the importance of religion to his family. Rosie Crawford was very active in the Wayman A.M.E. Chapel, often inviting ministers to her home. Crawford, his grandmother, and father often travelled to Methodist conferences throughout the country since his father could get railroad passes for them. Crawford describes Temple, which was a busy railroad town with jobs even in the midst of the Great Depression.

African American families--Texas.

African American railroad employees.

Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Company--Employees.

African Methodist Episcopal Church--Texas--Temple.

African American Methodists.

Methodist conferences.

African Americans--Religion.

Video Oral History Interview with Evans Crawford, Section A2004_176_001_002, TRT: 0:30:04
2004/09/23

Evans Crawford discusses family holidays. With railroad passes from his father's job, the family visited his aunt in Galveston, Texas to celebrate Juneteenth. Crawford next shares his childhood aspirations. Since the age of eleven, he knew that he wanted to be a preacher and would sometimes preach on the front steps of his home to the people passing by. Crawford then discusses his school years. Crawford attended Dunbar Elementary School. Because his home was full of books, he learned to read early and skipped two grades in school. In high school, Crawford became involved in speech and oratory societies, travelling to annual competitions at Prairie View A&M University. He graduated from high school in 1939 and attended Huston-Tillotson College where he received several scholarships from the Methodist church. His college president, Dr. Stanley Grannum, had gone to Boston University in Massachusetts and steered him to applying there for graduate school.

African Americans--Texas--Social life and customs.

Oratory--Competitions.

Samuel Huston College.

Huston-Tillotson College.

Grannum, Stanley E., 1891-1951.

African Americans--Education (Elementary)--Texas--Temple.

African American universities and colleges--Texas.

African Americans--Education (Higher)--Texas.

Methodist universities and colleges--Texas.

Vocational interests.

Video Oral History Interview with Evans Crawford, Section A2004_176_001_003, TRT: 0:29:09
2004/09/23

Evans Crawford describes his experiences at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts. He served as a pastor at the Goodwill Industries' Church of All Nations. He reflects on the differences between the North and the South. Boston's libraries and other public buildings were not formally segregated, and he was overjoyed to have access to so many books and original manuscripts. With advice from the university registrar and Dr. Howard Thurman, Boston University's Dean of Chapel, Crawford decided to pursue a Th.D. degree. He wrote his dissertation on the leadership role of the urban black minister. Crawford discusses the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a fellow student at Boston University. King wanted the divinity school curriculum to prepare students to work in the trenches of their communities. Crawford describes coming to Howard University as chaplain in 1958. Students were demanding more courses in black studies and greater representation of women. Boston University. School of Theology.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

Thurman, Howard, 1900-1981.

Howard University.

Student movements--Washington, D.C.

Church of All Nations (Boston, Mass.).

African Americans and libraries.

Theology--Study and teaching.

African American universities and colleges.

Video Oral History Interview with Evans Crawford, Section A2004_176_001_004, TRT: 0:30:53
2004/09/23

Evans Crawford shares the changing student views that he has witnessed at Howard University since he began in 1958. Although students always supported the university choir, they protested mandatory attendance at chapel. However, students began to relate more to local churches, especially as religious institutions became important centers of activism during the Civil Rights Movement. Since many students still value the black church for its approach to social justice issues, Crawford and others at Howard created new courses in black theology. Crawford discusses the current role of the black church, which he believes has an important economic and political influence on the black community. Crawford reflects on defining aspects of his life. He is grateful for people like his grandmother, who encouraged his educational pursuits. He hopes that his legacy will be a ministry that has created a place for priestly listening in speaking truth to power.

Howard University.

Theology--Study and teaching.

African American universities and colleges.

African Americans--Religion.

Theology--Study and teaching.

African American churches.

African American college teachers--Washington, D.C.

Video Oral History Interview with Evans Crawford, Section A2004_176_001_005, TRT: 0:08:11
2004/09/23

Evans Crawford narrates photographs of his personal and professional lives.