



# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carter Bowman

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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>	Carter Bowman
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carter Bowman,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 10, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:08:28).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Church historian and graphic arts teacher Carter Bowman (1922 - ) is the historian for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, one of the oldest African American churches in Washington, D.C. He taught graphic arts in the Washington, D.C. public school system for more than thirty-five years. Bowman was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 10, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_255
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Church historian and graphic arts teacher Carter Bowman, Jr. was born on February 28, 1922 in Washington, D.C. to Eudora McDaniel and Carter Bowman, Sr. His mother was a homemaker while his father was a sanitation worker in Washington, D.C. Bowman was raised in the Georgetown area where his family attended Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, one of the oldest African American churches in Washington, D.C. In 1939, Bowman earned his high school diploma in printing from Armstrong Technical School where he was a member of the Reserved Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He also played on the basketball and football teams. Bowman earned his B.S. degree in graphics arts from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1944 and his M.Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania in 1974.

During World War II, he worked as a clerk for the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. In 1946, Bowman began his teaching career in printing at Brown Junior High School in Washington, D.C. Between 1948 and 1952, he took a brief hiatus from teaching and worked for Metro Printing, an African American-owned publishing company. Metro struggled to make a profit because they could not attract major clients due to the exclusion of African Americans from the printers' union. As a result, in 1952, Bowman returned to the Washington, D.C. public school system where he taught printing and graphic arts until retiring in 1982.

After his retirement, Bowman became the historian and archivist for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, which is on the National Register of Historical Places, and helped the church receive several grants to preserve their records, which date to the 1830s. Bowman is an active member of numerous civic and historical organizations, including the Washington-Tuskegee Alumni Club, the Montgomery County Historical Society, and the Washington, D.C. Genealogical Society.

Bowman and his wife Mamie have an adult son, Carter Bowman, III.

Carter Bowman, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 10, 2004.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carter Bowman was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on December 10, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Church historian and graphic arts teacher Carter Bowman (1922 - ) is the historian for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, one of the oldest African American churches in Washington, D.C. He taught graphic arts in the Washington, D.C. public school system for more than thirty-five 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:

Bowman, Carter

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Bowman, Carter--Interviews.

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African American teachers--Washington (D.C)--Interviews.

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African American church historians--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews.

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African American printers--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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Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Washington, D.C.)

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Public Schools of the District of Columbia

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

ReligionMakers

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EducationMakers

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ArtMakers

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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 Carter Bowman, December 10, 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 8/23/2011 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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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, December 10, 2004

Video Oral History Interview with Carter Bowman, Section A2004\_255\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:56  
2004/12/10

Carter Bowman describes his family background. His father, Carter Bowman, Sr., was born on June 24, 1894 in Cropley, Maryland to Elizabeth Toney and Jarrett Bowman. Orphaned at the age of twelve, Bowman, Sr. worked at Washington, D.C.'s port before getting a job with the city's sanitation department. An avid reader, Bowman, Sr. was also a good mechanic, repairing the family cars. His maternal family lived in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. for generations, and his mother, Eudora McDaniel, was born on October 30, 1895 in Washington, D.C. to Bertha Dorsey and Cleon McDaniel. A lifelong member of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Eudora also served as secretary for the Society of Christian Service. Carter Bowman, Jr. was born and raised in Washington, D.C. where he attended Phillips Elementary School. He had many neighborhood friends, often playing games in the Rose Park playground near his home.

African American families--Washington (D.C.).

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Washington, D.C.).

African American churches--Washington (D.C.).

African Americans--Education (Elementary)--Washington (D.C.).

African American children--Washington (D.C.).

African American neighborhoods--Washington (D.C.).

Georgetown (Washington, D.C.).

Video Oral History Interview with Carter Bowman, Section A2004\_255\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:00  
2004/12/10

Carter Bowman discusses his childhood in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Active members of Georgetown's Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, the children attended Sunday school and were involved in the church's youth club. The only boy in the family, his five sisters taught him how to dance and organized fun activities for the entire neighborhood. Bowman attended the nearby Phillips Elementary School, where he was an average student but served as captain of the schoolboy patrol during his final year. As a student at Francis Junior High School, he took his first print shop class, a life changing experience which made him decide to specialize in printing. A dedicated student and a good citizen in junior high school, he was the first recipient of a student award bestowed by the American Legion. He reflects on his classmates, many of whom were excellent athletes but never finished school.

African American children--Washington (D.C.).

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Washington, D.C.).

African American families--Washington (D.C.).

African American neighborhoods--Washington (D.C.).

African Americans--Education (Elementary)--Washington (D.C.).

Printing--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Carter Bowman, Section A2004\_255\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:54  
2004/12/10

Carter Bowman discusses the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown neighborhood. After 1945, many African Americans, most of whom were renters, were forced out of their homes due to gentrification. Bowman then talks about his high school years at Armstrong Technical School, where he played basketball and football, majored in printing and joined the ROTC (Reserved Officers' Training Corps). Inspired by Paul Robeson's college football career, for the first time, Bowman considered attending a university and playing college football. On the advice of a family friend, Bowman entered Tuskegee Institute, which he describes as an inspirational utopia. He majored in graphic arts and was a member of the football team and Kiyi Club, a coeducational social club for honors students. In 1941, he met his future wife Mamie Lou Johnson at the Tuskegee Library and they married six years later.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Washington, D.C.).

Georgetown (Washington, D.C.).

African Americans--Washington, D.C.

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--Washington (D.C.).

Tuskegee Institute.

African American college students--Alabama--Tuskegee.

African American universities and colleges--Alabama--Tuskegee.

College athletes.

Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976.

African Americans--Marriage.

Graphic arts--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Carter Bowman, Section A2004\_255\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:00  
2004/12/10

Carter Bowman talks about working as a clerk in the U.S. Department of Commerce during World War II. After the war, he sought a job in the heavily unionized commercial printing industry of Washington, D.C. but was unable to find employment because blacks were denied membership in the printers' union. In 1946, he took a two year post as a printing teacher at Brown Junior High School in Washington, D.C. He then worked at Metro Printing, an African American-owned printing and publishing company, which struggled to make a profit because of its exclusion from the printers' union. In 1952, Bowman was hired as a printing and graphic arts teacher at Garnet-Patterson Middle School. After retiring from teaching in 1982, Bowman became the historian and archivist for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. He would like to be remembered as a person who cared about people and helped to preserve African American heritage.

African American printers.

Graphic arts--Study and teaching.

Printing--Study and teaching.

African American teachers--Washington (D.C.).

Church archives--Washington (D.C.).

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Washington, D.C.).

African American churches--Washington (D.C.).

Labor unions.

Video Oral History Interview with Carter Bowman, Section A2004\_255\_001\_005, TRT: 0:06:38  
2004/12/10

Carter Bowman narrates family photographs.