



# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. John Cashin

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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>	Cashin, John Dr.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. John Cashin,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 24, 2007
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:12:35).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Dentist and political activist Dr. John Cashin (1928 - 2011 ) helped found the National Democratic Party of Alabama and led a delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968. Cashin also served as Chief of Dental Services for U.S. Army soldiers stationed in France in the 1950s. Cashin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 24, 2007 in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2007_158
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dentist and political activist Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. was born on April 16, 1928 in Huntsville, Alabama to Grace Brandon Cashin, a school principal, and Dr. John Logan Cashin, Sr., a dentist. He and his older brother, Hershell, who were always in the same year at school, were co-valedictorians of their Alabama A&M High School graduating class. He spent two years at Fisk University and then attended Tennessee State University, both located in Nashville, Tennessee. Cashin then received his D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee in 1952.

Immediately after Cashin graduated from medical school, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he was made a first lieutenant and Chief of Dental Services for soldiers stationed near Fountainebleau, France. While in France, Cashin became familiar with a number of African American expatriates, including writer Richard Wright and Ollie Stewart, from the "Chicago Defender."

After two years in the U.S. Army, Cashin returned to the United States, where he became active in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1967, he helped found the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) and was elected as the organization's first party chairman. He led a delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968, challenging the representative nature of the regular delegation and its loyalty to the national Democratic Party.

Cashin ran for Mayor of Huntsville, and in 1970, he was the NDPA's candidate for governor, where he ran against George Wallace. He received more than sixteen-percent of the votes in that election. Between 1968 and 1974, the NDPA facilitated the election of more than a hundred African Americans to public office in Alabama. In 1974, the Alabama Democratic Party surrendered and integrated their ballot.

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. passed away on March 23, 2011.

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 24, 2007.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. John Cashin was conducted by Denise Gines on April 24, 2007, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Dentist and political activist Dr. John Cashin (1928 - 2011 ) helped found the National Democratic Party of Alabama and led a delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968. Cashin also served as Chief of Dental Services for U.S. Army soldiers stationed in France in the 1950s.

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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:

Cashin, John L. (John Logan), 1928-.

Gines, Denise (Interviewer).

Stearns, Scott (Videographer).

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Cashin, John L. (John Logan), 1928---Interviews.

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African American dentists--Interviews.

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African American political activists--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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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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CivicMakers

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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 Dr. John Cashin, April 24, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/25/2011 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, April 24, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. John Cashin, Section A2007\_158\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:30  
2007/04/24

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. slates the interview and lists his favorites. He talks about his parents, Grace Romania Brandon and Dr. John Logan Cashin, Sr. Grace, a graduate of Alabama A&M University was a school principal and John, attended Fisk University and was a dentist. Cashin provides information about his grandparents' history. His paternal grandfather, Hershell B. Cashin, was an early graduate of Cheyney University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania and the first African American lawyer in Alabama. Cashin remembers that his maternal grandfather, Samuel Brandon, gave him his first job carrying buckets of mortar. His surname, Cashin, originates from Isle of Man (in the Irish Sea).

African American families--Alabama.

African Americans--Education (Higher).

Alabama A & M University.

Fisk University.

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

Grandparents.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. John Cashin, Section A2007\_158\_001\_002, TRT: 0:27:40  
2007/04/24

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. provides information about his educational experiences at Miss Annie's school for kindergarten and at Alabama A&M High School, where both he and his brother, Hershell, were valedictorians. He grew up in Huntsville, Alabama and recalls that the African American community was close-knit and supportive of one another. Cashin had an interracial group of friends and remembers a time when the African American boys were instructed by one of his Caucasian friend's family members to use the title "Mr." when talking to the Caucasian boys. In high school, he was very active in extracurricular activities, including the Eagle Scouts. When Cashin was younger he wanted to be a lawyer, not a doctor, but due to family pressures he decided to go to medical school, while Hershell went to law school.

African Americans--Education (Elementary).

African Americans--Education (Secondary).

Race relations--Alabama--Huntsville.

African Americans--Huntsville (Ala.)--Social life and customs.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. John Cashin, Section A2007\_158\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:50  
2007/04/24

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. reflects on hearing about adults in his community discussing the 1901 Alabama constitution and how they wanted to improve it. Cashin was highly involved in extracurricular activities at Alabama A&M High School. Cashin notes that he is not religious, like his father, but he attended the African Methodist Episcopal church and sang in the choir because his mother wanted him too. Cashin tells a story about the local YMCA, which was segregated. He attended Fisk University for his undergraduate degree, but had to transfer to Tennessee State University once he got into trouble. At both universities Cashin played the trumpet and was involved in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

YMCA of the USA .

African American churches--Alabama--Huntsville.

African American college and universities.

African Americans--Education (Higher).  
African American college students--Conduct of life.  
African Methodist Episcopal Church.  
Fisk University.  
Tennessee State University.  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.  
African Americans--Education (Secondary).

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. John Cashin, Section A2007\_158\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:20  
2007/04/24

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. discusses his involvement in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on Fisk University and Tennessee State campuses, and his pledge in the spring of 1942. Cashin provides information about how he completed his degree by taking classes at both Fisk and Tennessee; and the circumstances that led him to pursue a medical degree. He attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee for his D.D.S. degree and graduated in 1952. He was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as Chief of Dental Services for the troops in Fontainebleau, France. Cashin talks about meeting African American expatriates in France including writer Richard Wright and WW II correspondent for the "Chicago Defender" Ollie Stewart.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.  
World War, 1939-1945.  
African American dentists.  
Dentistry--Study and teaching--Tennessee.  
African Americans--Education (Higher).  
Meharry Medical College.  
Wright, Richard, 1908-1960.  
Stewart, Ollie Anderson, 1906-1977.  
Chicago defender.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. John Cashin, Section A2007\_158\_001\_005, TRT: 0:17:15  
2007/04/24

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. comments that he was offered another commission to be in the U.S. Army, but he decided to return home to Alabama instead to be a part of the Civil Rights Movement. Returning to the United States was a culture shock for Cashin because he was coming from a society where one's race did not matter as much. Cashin talks about meeting and marrying his first wife, Joan and getting more involved in the movement.

African Americans--Alabama--Social conditions.  
African Americans--Civil rights--Alabama.  
Civil rights movements.  
African American couples--Alabama.