

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Clarence Love

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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>	Love, Clarence, 1929-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Clarence Love,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 23, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:28:25).
<b>Abstract:</b>	City commissioner Clarence Love (1929 - ) served one term as the Bradenton, Florida city commissioner and was responsible for a number of Section VIII programs and community redevelopment initiatives. Love was also instrumental in getting sidewalks and streetlights installed in some of the city's poorest communities. Love was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 23, 2002, in Palmetto , Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_060
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Clarence Love was born in Florida on March 20, 1929. His father, Ben, worked as a farmer in the Florida groves, and his mother, Alberta, worked as a domestic to support their large family of six children. The outbreak of World War II compelled Love to drop out of school and search for work to help support his family. During the next four years, he took a series of odd jobs and sent his paychecks home to his parents. Following the end of the war, he returned to school, at the age of sixteen, continuing where he left off in the seventh grade.

Following graduation, Love married and settled in Bradenton, Florida. In Bradenton, he continued to work a series of odd jobs from cleaning buildings to delivering papers. In 1960, he began collecting rent for a local property owner who rented nearly eighty apartment units throughout the city. He continued to serve as rent collector until 1973, when he purchased the apartments.

Love ran successfully for city commissioner, winning the election by eighteen votes. As city commissioner, he was responsible for a number of Section VIII programs and community redevelopment initiatives. Love was also instrumental in getting sidewalks and streetlights installed in some of the city's poorest communities. Love, now retired, has turned his property management business over to his son.

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## **Scope and Content**

This life oral history interview with Clarence Love was conducted by Samuel Adams on April 23, 2002, in Palmetto, Florida, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. City commissioner Clarence Love (1929 - ) served one term as the Bradenton, Florida city commissioner and was responsible for a number of Section VIII programs and community redevelopment initiatives. Love was also instrumental in getting sidewalks and streetlights installed in some of the city's poorest communities.

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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:**

Love, Clarence, 1929-

Adams, Samuel (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Love, Clarence, 1929---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:**

City Commissioner

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

## **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 Clarence Love, April 23, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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 Clarence Love, Section  
A2002\_060\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:30 2002/04/23

Clarence Love talks about his family history. His mother,

Alberta Love, was born in Georgia where she witnessed the Ku Klux Klan burning churches and violence against black sharecroppers. His father, Ben Love, was born out of wedlock in Alabama, and his stepfather changed his last from Davis to Love. Although Love's parents had little education, they worked hard to provide for their family. Love's father went to jail for eighteen months when he was a young child after being falsely accused of stealing. Love remembers growing up in poverty and being teased for wearing pants with holes in them. In 1938, he began working in seedbeds at the age of nine and remembers catching turtles and fish in order to supplement his family's food supply. Love describes his neighborhood in Palmetto, Florida as a place where people hustled and sold moonshine and bolita, the Cuban lottery game. Love also recalls dedicated teachers and raising money to buy a bus for the school district.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence Love, Section  
A2002\_060\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:10 2002/04/23

Clarence Love discusses his employment and marriage. During World War II, Love left school at the age of twelve to work. After the war attended in 1945, he returned to seventh grade at the age of sixteen. Love graduated from high school at age twenty and briefly attended Florida A&M University. Motivated by personal responsibility, Love read widely to improve his vocabulary and consciously changed his manner of speaking in order to sound less southern. In 1973, Love purchased an apartment building from an acquaintance by refinancing his home. Despite financial struggles and members of the black community boycotting his apartments, Love was able maintain ownership of the apartments and collect rent.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence Love, Section  
A2002\_060\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:45 2002/04/23

Clarence Love talks about his one term as city commissioner in Bradenton, Florida. Love was responsible for a number of Section VIII programs and community redevelopment initiatives. Love was also instrumental in getting sidewalks and streetlights installed in some of the city's poorest communities. Love talks

about the evening when he was robbed and shot at his home in November 1993. The shooter and his accomplice were arrested a week later. Love advises black business owners to be productive, and he encourages the black community to support one another. Love wants to be remembered as a good family person. Love concludes by narrating his photographs.