

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alfred Brothers, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Brothers, Alfred, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Alfred Brothers, Jr.,
Dates:	July 30, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:32:00).
Abstract:	Engineer and airplane pilot Alfred Brothers, Jr. (1942 -) was an officer in the United States Air Force for twenty-two years, serving as a pilot and wing commander in the Air Force ROTC, before working as an engineer program manager for Magnavox. Brothers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 30, 2002, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_130
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Engineer and airplane pilot Alfred Brothers was born on December 14, 1942 in Boston, Massachusetts to Alfred S. Brothers, Senior and Edith Irene Yates. His father served as a combat engineer in the black 366th Infantry Regiment during World War II while his mother stayed home to care for the family. Brothers graduated from Boston Latin School in 1960 and enrolled in Boston University's College of Engineering. While at Boston University, Brothers became a cadet in the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps. After graduating in 1964 with a B.S. degree in engineering and the rank of second lieutenant, Brothers joined the

United States Air Force, where he served for the next twenty-two years. Brothers began his Air Force career flying B-52 planes in the Vietnam War and became one of the youngest aircraft commanders in the strategic air command.

In 1972, Brothers used his engineering education and served in the foreign technology division of the Air Force at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Brothers was then assigned as a detachment commander to a new ROTC program at Wright State University in Dayton. Brothers focused on encouraging the development of African American engineering students and pilot candidates. During his tenure, the graduation and commission rates for students in the Air Force ROTC increased by 90%. After retiring from the Air Force in 1986, Brothers moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana to work as an engineer for Magnavox, now the Raytheon Company. Brothers was promoted from engineer to program manager where he was responsible for the technical direction and management of a program. He was in charge of attaining financial and schedule goals for particular government programs. Always interested in continuing his education, Brothers obtained his Ph.D. degree in business administration at age sixty from Century University.

In addition to his professional activities, Brothers was an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America and became president of the Boy Scouts Council, the first African American to be council president. The council involved eleven counties and about 14,000 kids and 4,000 adults. Brothers sat on numerous boards including the board of the African/African American Museum and Historical Society in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Alfred S. Brothers, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 30, 2002.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Alfred Brothers, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 30, 2002, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Engineer and airplane pilot Alfred Brothers, Jr. (1942 -) was an officer in the United States Air Force for twenty-two years, serving as a pilot and wing commander in the Air Force ROTC, before working as an engineer program manager for Magnavox.

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:

Brothers, Alfred, 1942-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brothers, Alfred, 1942---Interviews

African American fighter pilots--Indiana--Interviews..

African American engineers--Indiana--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Engineer

Airplane Pilot

HistoryMakers® Category:

MilitaryMakers|MilitaryMakers

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 Alfred Brothers, Jr., July 30, 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).

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

Video Oral History Interview with Alfred Brothers, Jr., Section A2002_130_001_001, TRT: 0:28:10 2002/07/30

Alfred Brothers talks about his family. He was born on December 13, 1942 in Boston, Massachusetts to Alfred S. Brothers, Sr. and Edith Irene Yates. His paternal great-grandmother, Mary Jane Hazard, married James Monroe, becoming one of the first interracial marriages in Massachusetts. His father was a combat engineer in the black 366th Infantry Regiment during World War II. After the war, his father eventually worked as an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) manager at a government office and served as a state representative. His mother was a homemaker and she was the supporting arm of the family, taking care of him and his sister, Donna Edith. Brothers attended the Boston Latin School for junior high and high school. He loved math and science, museums, was active in clubs, like the Esperanto Club and the Boy Scouts. His father, Edward Brooke, and Harry Elam were Brothers' mentors.

African American families--Massachusetts--Boston.

Interracial marriages--Massachusetts.

Military engineers--United States.

African American soldiers--World War, 1939-1945.

United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 336th.

African American parents--Massachusetts--Boston.

Boston Latin School (Mass.)--Students.

African American children--Education (Secondary)--Massachusetts--Boston.

Boy Scouts of America.

Brooke, Edward William, 1919-.

Elam, Harry Justin.

Video Oral History Interview with Alfred Brothers, Jr., Section
A2002_130_001_002, TRT: 0:29:40 2002/07/30

Alfred Brothers studied engineering at Boston University where he had excellent professors. An Air Force ROTC cadet, Brothers graduated from Boston University as a second lieutenant and went to pilot training in Arizona. He was the first black to pass the swimming test at pilot training. Brothers became one of the youngest aircraft commanders in strategic air command and was the youngest minority commander at that time. Brothers flew B-52 planes in Vietnam and B-57 planes in Thailand. He flew F-111 planes in New Hampshire and New York. Stationed twice in Dayton, Ohio, Brothers was in the foreign technology division and served as wing commander of the Air Force ROTC at Wright State University. After his twenty-two years of military service, Brothers went to Fort Wayne, Indiana to work as an engineer at Magnavox, now the Raytheon Company. He has been very active in the community of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Boston University--Students.

Engineering students--Massachusetts--Boston.

United States. Air Force ROTC.

African American air pilots.

United States. Air Force--African Americans.

United States. Air Force--Officers.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--African Americans.

Wright State University. Air Force ROTC.

United States. Air Force. Systems Command. Foreign Technology Division.

African American engineers--Indiana--Fort Wayne.
Raytheon Company--Employees.
Magnavox Government and Industrial Electronics
Company--Employees.

Video Oral History Interview with Alfred Brothers, Jr., Section
A2002_130_001_003, TRT: 0:30:08 2002/07/30

Alfred Brothers became the first African American to be president of the Boy Scouts Council in Indiana and the country. He has been an active volunteer in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Working with Hana Stith, Brothers served on the board of the African/African American Historical Museum and Historical Society. A member of the Back Forty Flying Club, he flew propeller driven aircraft. Brothers has loved being an engineer. He believes learning is a lifelong process, as he obtained his Ph.D. degree at age sixty. He feels that scientific aptitude in the black community could be increased by industry partnering with schools and creating mentorship programs. Brothers hopes his legacy will be volunteerism. He wants to be remembered as someone who was positive, had a vision, and had the drive and commitment to accomplish that vision.

Boy Scouts of America.

Scout leaders--Indiana--Fort Wayne.

African American air pilots--Indiana--Fort Wayne.

African American engineers--Indiana--Fort Wayne.

Science--Study and teaching.

Mentoring in education--United States.

Motivation in education--United States.

African Americans--Conduct of life.

Video Oral History Interview with Alfred Brothers, Jr., Section
A2002_130_001_004, TRT: 0:04:02 2002/07/30

Photographs