

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Anderson Jackson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jackson, Anderson, 1933-2012
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Anderson Jackson,
Dates:	August 30, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:00:36).
Abstract:	Mortuary owner and civic activist Anderson Jackson (1933 - 2012) is the co-owner of Jackson's Mortuary in Wichita, Kansas. Founded in 1926, by his grandfather, Jackson Mortuary was opened to serve Wichita's African American community and under Jackson's leadership, continues to do so today. He formerly served as president of the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 30, 2002, in Wichita, Kansas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_165
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Businessman and community leader Anderson "Gene" Jackson has taken the family business, Jackson Mortuary, to new levels. Founded in 1926 by his grandfather, Jackson Mortuary was opened to serve Wichita's African American community and under Jackson's leadership, continues to do so today. Born on April 22, 1933, to Janett and Abner Jackson, Jr., Jackson's commitment to maintaining the family tradition has resulted in national recognition, growth, and commitment to service.

Jackson has spent the majority of his life in the family business. After returning from military service in 1955, he began work at Jackson Mortuary. In 1968, Jackson received his mortician's license from California Mortuary of Science. In 1982, after the death of his father, Abner Jackson, Jr., he became president of Jackson Mortuary and has grown the business significantly.

In addition to being a successful mortician, Jackson is extremely active in the Wichita community in both business and civic capacities. Jackson sits on the boards of many organizations committed to community economic development, including the Private Industry Council and the Kansas Department of Commerce. Additionally, Jackson was elected to the Kansas Gas and Electric Company's Board of Directors in March 1994 and he serves as president of the Wichita Chapter of the National Business League. He formerly served as president of the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts.

Jackson's business leadership and the commitment of the Jackson Mortuary to family service continues into a fifth generation. Jackson is married to Barbara Jackson and they are the parents of two daughters, Debra Dudley and Timna Jackson, and the grandparents of three.

Anderson Jackson passed away on September 9, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Anderson Jackson was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 30, 2002, in Wichita, Kansas, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Mortuary owner and civic activist Anderson Jackson (1933 - 2012) is the co-owner of Jackson's Mortuary in Wichita, Kansas. Founded in 1926, by his grandfather, Jackson Mortuary was opened to serve Wichita's African American community and under Jackson's leadership, continues to do so today. He formerly served as president of the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts.

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:

Jackson, Anderson, 1933-2012

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jackson, Anderson, 1933-2012--Interviews

Undertakers and undertaking--Kansas--Wichita

Funeral homes--Kansas--Wichita

African American business enterprises--Kansas--Wichita

African American families--Kansas--Wichita

African Americans--Genealogy

Twins--Interviews

United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Undertakers and undertaking--Study and teaching--California

Embalming--Kansas--Wichita

Funeral rites and ceremonies--Psychological aspects

Empathy

Kansas. State Board of Mortuary Arts

National Business League (U.S.)

Community activists--Kansas--Wichita--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Mortuary Owner

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Anderson Jackson, August 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 5/30/2023 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 Anderson Jackson, Section A2002_165_001_001, TRT: 0:30:51
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Businessman and community leader Anderson Jackson talks about his family history and his parents' backgrounds. He remembers growing up in Wichita, Kansas and describes his small, unified African American neighborhood. Jackson tells of his childhood personality before detailing home life for the Jackson family. Jackson discusses the birth of himself and his twin brother, Abner "Val" Jackson.

Undertakers and undertaking--Kansas--Wichita.

Funeral homes--Kansas--Wichita.

African American business enterprises--Kansas--Wichita.

African American families--Kansas--Wichita.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Twins--Interviews.

United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Undertakers and undertaking--Study and teaching--California.

Embalming--Kansas--Wichita.

Funeral rites and ceremonies--Psychological aspects.

Empathy.

Kansas. State Board of Mortuary Arts.

National Business League (U.S.).

Community activists--Kansas--Wichita--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Anderson Jackson, Section A2002_165_001_002, TRT: 0:30:48 ?

Businessman and community leader Anderson Jackson details his relationship with his twin brother, Abner "Val" Jackson. Then he discusses his family's values and recalls his educational and career pursuits in the 1950s and 1960s, when he joined the military after participating in ROTC, and attended embalming school at the California College of Mortuary Science. Anderson Jackson describes his family relations and then talks about the philosophy behind his family's funeral home.

Video Oral History Interview with Anderson Jackson, Section A2002_165_001_003, TRT: 0:30:01 ?

Businessman and community leader Anderson Jackson discusses trends in the mortuary services industry and then describes the many funerals he has arranged. He talks about the role of empathy in the mortuary services industry before recalling his tenure on the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts. Jackson explains the vision of the National Business League of Wichita, Kansas and considers successors to his family's business.

Video Oral History Interview with Anderson Jackson, Section A2002_165_001_004, TRT: 0:28:56 ?

Businessman and community leader Anderson Jackson discusses his civic involvement in Wichita, Kansas. He then reflects on the economic prospects of young African Americans, stressing the need to maintain a vital African American community. Jackson then shares his personal and spiritual philosophy before describing how he'd like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Anderson Jackson, Section A2002_165_001_005, TRT: ?
Anderson Jackson narrates his photographs.