

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard I. McKinney

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	McKinney, Richard I. (Richard Ishmael), 1906-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richard I. McKinney,
Dates:	June 5, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:44:18).
Abstract:	College president and theologian Richard I. McKinney (1906 - 2005) was the first African American president of Storer College. McKinney was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 5, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_119
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Scholar and minister Richard McKinney was born on August 8, 1906, in Live Oak, Florida. McKinney graduated as valedictorian of his high school class at Morehouse Academy in 1927, and went on to attend Morehouse College. In 1931, McKinney received his A.B. degree in religion and philosophy; from there, he attended Andover Newton Theological School, where he earned his B.D. degree in 1934 and his S.T.M degree in 1937 in philosophy of religion. From Andover, McKinney went on to Yale University to earn his Ph.D. in 1942 with a focus on religion in higher education; he did his post-doctoral research at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and the University of Paris.

While attending Andover, McKinney began his ministry in 1934, preaching at Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1935, McKinney left Pond Street Church to join Virginia Union University as the director of religious activities and an assistant professor. McKinney remained at Virginia Union until 1944, eventually rising to the rank of dean of the School of Religion in 1942. Hired in 1944 by Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, McKinney became the first African American president of the school. In 1951, McKinney was recruited by Morgan State University to work as a professor and to chair the Department of Philosophy and the Division of the Humanities. McKinney remained at Morgan State University until 1978, rising to the position of acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

After leaving Morgan State University, McKinney returned to Virginia Union for a year, where he served as acting vice president for academic affairs. After leaving that position, McKinney continued his own research, writing, and lecturing, independently.

McKinney was listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Black America* and in the *Dictionary of International Biography*. McKinney served as the chairman of the Board of Union Baptist Church, and on the Board of Trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore.

Richard McKinney, the father of two, grandfather of five, and great-grandfather of six, passed away on October 28, 2005 at the age of ninety-nine.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Richard I. McKinney was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 5, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. College president and theologian Richard I. McKinney (1906 - 2005) was the first African American president of Storer College.

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:

McKinney, Richard I. (Richard Ishmael), 1906-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McKinney, Richard I. (Richard Ishmael), 1906- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

Storer College

Occupations:

Theologian

College President

HistoryMakers® Category:

ReligionMakers|EducationMakers

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 Richard I. McKinney, June 5, 2003. 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 Richard I. McKinney, Section A2003_119_001_001, TRT: 0:29:21 2003/06/05

Theologian and college president Richard I. McKinney describes his ancestry tracing his roots back to the African colony of the Gold Coast. McKinney then details his father's and mother's backgrounds and personalities, explaining how they emphasized education to their eight children. McKinney then shares memories from his childhood, and discusses his education.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard I. McKinney, Section A2003_119_001_002, TRT: 0:31:14 2003/06/05

Theologian and college president Richard I. McKinney details his high school and college years at Morehouse Academy and Morehouse College. McKinney remembers some of his influential mentors and administrators, including John Hope, Howard Thurman, and Samuel Howard Archer. He explains how his time in college helped him to broaden his horizons and increase his ability to think independently. McKinney also talks about his fellowship to a Quaker religious center in Pennsylvania, where he spent significant time learning with white people for the first time.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard I. McKinney, Section A2003_119_001_003, TRT: 0:30:04 2003/06/05

Theologian and college president Richard I. McKinney details his time at Andover Newton Theological School, where he earned his divinity degree. McKinney explains how attending school in an all-white environment helped to develop his own racial tolerance, and exposed him to

new ideas. McKinney discusses the main ideas of the classic Greek philosophers, whose teachings he applied to his own outlook. McKinney also shares his views on styles of worship in black churches.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard I. McKinney, Section A2003_119_001_004, TRT: 0:30:29 2003/06/05

Theologian and college president Richard I. McKinney discusses some influential theologians and religious figures who influenced him, and offers an evaluation of modern day "mega-churches". McKinney then explains his decision to attend graduate school at Yale University, and lists professors there who influenced him. McKinney gives the history of Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and details his six years there as president of the college.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard I. McKinney, Section A2003_119_001_005, TRT: 0:30:06 2003/06/05

Theologian and college president Richard I. McKinney discusses many historically black colleges that have closed their doors over the years. McKinney then details his many encounters with W. E. B. DuBois, and talks about DuBois's stance on religion and education. McKinney shares his hopes and concerns for African Americans, stressing the need for community and family involvement in the lives of young people. He also considers his legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard I. McKinney, Section A2003_119_001_006, TRT: 0:13:04 2003/06/05

Theologian and college president Richard I. McKinney explains his longevity, discusses book projects he has undertaken over the years, and shares how he would like to be remembered.