

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alexine Jackson

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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>	Jackson, Alexine Clement, 1936-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Alexine Jackson,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 15, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:36:02).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civic volunteer and foundation chief executive Alexine Jackson (1936 - ) is a former YWCA national president. After a fifteen-year battle with breast cancer, Jackson served on the board of the Cancer Research Foundation of America and was the chairperson of the Intercultural Cancer Council. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 15, 2003, in Germantown, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_156
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Alexine Clement Jackson is active in volunteerism and community service for the African American community. Jackson was born in Sumter, South Carolina, on June 10, 1936. Jackson's mother, Josephine Clement, was active in North Carolina politics and business and volunteered her time to a number of civic organizations. Her father, William A. Clement, was an insurance executive who devoted great amounts of time to civic and fraternal organizations. Jackson earned her B.A. from Spelman College in Atlanta and an M.A. in speech pathology and audiology

from the University of Iowa.

Jackson has devoted her life to civic organizations. She is the former national president of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), and in that capacity she traveled to the Middle East as part of a fact-finding mission in 1996. Jackson led the American delegation to the 1999 World YWCA Council in Cairo and was a delegate in the 1995 Council in South Korea. Prior to that, she had been chosen as a development education consultant by the YWCA to explore issues relating to women in poverty, and traveled to the Philippines, Mexico and Kenya, as well as participating in the International Learning Center in Hawaii. The Taiwanese Minister of Foreign Affairs invited Jackson, along with six other leaders of women's organizations, to visit the country in 1985 and speak to different groups.

After a fifteen-year battle with breast cancer, Jackson served on the board of the Cancer Research Foundation of America and was the chairperson of the Intercultural Cancer Council, where she focused her energies on minority cancer education and prevention. In 2009, Jackson became the chair of the board of directors for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. With more than twenty-five years of work in civic organizations, Jackson has garnered numerous awards for her work. She has been awarded the 2001 Community Service Award by the Black Women's Agenda, the Woman of Courage and Distinction Award by the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and was named *Washingtonian* of the Year by *Washingtonian* magazine. Her husband, Aaron, is the chief of the Division of Urology at Howard University Hospital.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Alexine Jackson was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 15, 2003, in Germantown, Maryland, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civic volunteer and foundation chief executive Alexine Jackson (1936 - ) is a former YWCA national president. After a fifteen-year battle with breast cancer, Jackson served on the board of the Cancer Research Foundation of America and was the chairperson of the Intercultural Cancer Council.

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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:**

Jackson, Alexine Clement, 1936-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Katz, Ivan (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Jackson, Alexine Clement, 1936---Interviews

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African American executives--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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Young Women's Christian Association

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## **Occupations:**

Civic Volunteer

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Foundation Chief Executive

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

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 Alexine Jackson, July 15, 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).

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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 Alexine Jackson, Section  
A2003\_156\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:48 2003/07/15

Alexine Jackson was born on June 10, 1936 in South Carolina to Frances Lawson and William Clement. After her mother died in 1940, Jackson's father remarried Josephine Dobbs Clement, a daughter of civil rights activist John Wesley Dobbs. Jackson's paternal great-grandfather Rufus A. Clement donated land to build a school for black students in Cleveland, North Carolina. Her paternal grandfather attended Biddle Memorial Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina and worked for the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. Jackson's father later became the company's executive vice-president. Jackson lived in Charleston, South Carolina until the age of five when her family moved to Atlanta, Georgia. In Atlanta, Jackson skipped a grade. She remembers living in Atlanta around the extended Dobbs family. When Jackson was ten years old, her family moved to Durham, North Carolina where both of her parents were active in the civic community. Jackson describes the segregation and the black business community in the city.

African American executives--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexine Jackson, Section  
A2003\_156\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:34 2003/07/15

Alexine Jackson attended David T. Howard School and Oglethorpe Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia and until she moved to Durham, North Carolina at the age of ten. In Durham, she attended Whitted School and Hillside High School. As a child, Jackson played the piano and enjoyed reading. She recounts influential teachers and describes the advantages of attending segregated schools. However, she also reflects upon how segregation limited her experiences in Durham. After graduating first in her class from Hillside High School in 1952, Jackson enrolled at Spelman College in Atlanta. She lists Spelman's presidents from 1953 to 2003 and describes memorable college professors there. Jackson went on to earn a M.A. degree in speech pathology and audiology from the University of Iowa before marrying her husband, who was studying medicine at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Jackson became a stay-at-home mother in 1959 with the birth of her twins. In 1963, she and her family moved to Greenwood, Mississippi.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexine Jackson, Section  
A2003\_156\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:17 2003/07/15

Alexine Jackson moved to Greenwood, Mississippi in 1963 where her husband began his medical practice. There, she gave birth to two children, but the hospital was not integrated until the birth of her second child. In Greenwood, Jackson began a daycare with a group of white women, but was not allowed into their homes. She describes the used to intimidate black voters in Greenwood during the 1960s. The Jacksons then moved to Iowa City, Iowa where Dr. Jackson completed a residency and fellowship in urology. Jackson compares life in Iowa to life in Mississippi. The family then moved to Washington, D.C. where Dr. Jackson became chief of the Division of Urology at Howard University Hospital. In D.C., Jackson was actively involved in the YWCA, eventually becoming Chair of the Board of Directors of

YWCA USA. She describes her family's history in the organization and her involvement in the Intercultural Cancer Council, which works to address the disparity in cancer rates within marginalized communities.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexine Jackson, Section A2003\_156\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:30 2003/07/15

Alexine Jackson talks about the history of the YWCA USA, which began in the 1860s. The organization has a legacy of working to empower women, promote women's leadership and eliminate racism. During the late 1930s, HistoryMaker Dorothy Height worked to integrate YWCAs across the country and later opened YWCA's Office of Racial Justice. Jackson talks about the economic status of women in corporations, female entrepreneurs, and the disparity in women's access to economic resources. She also describes economic development initiatives by international organizations like World Bank and IMF to educate women. Jackson has served on the boards of many civic and non-profit organizations in the Washington, D.C. area including Black Women's Agenda and The Community Foundation for the YWCA National Capital Area. She remembers a conference on the issues facing day laborers hosted by the YWCA USA. Jackson describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community and begins to reflect upon her racial identity.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexine Jackson, Section A2003\_156\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:23 2003/07/15

Alexine Jackson continues to reflect upon her racial identity. She also talks about volunteerism and philanthropy within the African American community. She considers her legacy, what she would do differently in her life and how she would like to be remembered. Jackson concludes by narrating her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexine Jackson, Section A2003\_156\_001\_006, TRT: 0:09:30 2003/07/15

Alexine Jackson continues narrating her photographs.