

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sherman Beverly

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Beverly, Sherman, 1927-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sherman Beverly,
Dates:	August 25, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:52:18).
Abstract:	Education consultant and education professor Sherman Beverly (1927 -) is the senior consultant and owner of Making Schools Educational, Inc., and has had a long standing career as an educator, with eleven years of service with the Chicago Board of Education, and as a professor at Kendall College and Northeastern Illinois University. Beverly was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 25, 2003, in Deerfield, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_204
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor of history Sherman Beverly, Jr., was born in Port Arthur, Texas, on August 3, 1927. Beverly attended Bishop College in Texas, where he earned his B.A. in history and political science, and then attended the Chicago Teachers College to obtain teacher certification. He would later earn an M.A. from Illinois Teachers College and a Ph.D. in social studies education from Northwestern University.

After earning his bachelor's degree, Beverly began teaching adult education classes in Port Arthur in 1951 and remained there for two years. After relocating to Chicago, he began working for the Chicago Board of Education in 1957, and he would remain there for the next twelve years, with the exception of a single year off to work as an elementary teacher. In 1969, Beverly took a position with Malcolm X College in Chicago as an associate professor of history, as well as a position at Kendall College as an instructor in the African American Studies Department. He remained at Kendall for the next four years before taking a position with Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a part-time consulting faculty member and a full-time position with Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. Beverly remained at Northeastern until his retirement in 1992, teaching education courses in inner-city studies social studies. Today, he is the senior consultant and owner of Making Schools Educational, Inc.

Beverly is a prolific reader, and serves on the board of the Caxton Club, a group of book collectors. He directed the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity Men of the Future program for five years, where he met with young men from the Chicago area to encourage them to develop into well-rounded citizens. He is a founder of the Bluestem Festival of Arts and Humanities and a board member of the Society for Values in Higher Education. He has written numerous articles and continues to be involved in speaking engagements on diverse topics. Beverly and his wife, Eve, live near Chicago. They have three children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sherman Beverly was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 25, 2003, in Deerfield, Illinois, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Education consultant and education professor Sherman Beverly (1927 -) is the senior consultant and owner of Making Schools Educational, Inc., and has had a long standing career as an educator, with eleven years of service with the Chicago Board of Education, and as a professor at Kendall College and Northeastern Illinois University.

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:

Beverly, Sherman, 1927-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Beverly, Sherman, 1927- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Northeastern Illinois University

Occupations:

Education Consultant

Education Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

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 Sherman Beverly, August 25, 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 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 Sherman Beverly, Section A2003_204_001_001, TRT: 0:30:20
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Sherman Beverly was born on August 3, 1927 in Port Arthur, Texas. His mother, Katie Smart Beverly, was born in 1890 and raised in Morrow, Louisiana where her parents were sharecroppers. Beverly remembers visiting his maternal grandparents' home as a child and having cotton picking races with his cousins. Beverly's father, Sherman Beverly, Sr., was born in 1891 in Morrow. He was on his way to California when he was hired as a laborer for Gulf Oil in Port Arthur—the job he held the rest of his life. In addition to his work at the refinery, Beverly, Sr. was a barber and painter. Beverly recalls his father as stoic, yet caring and remembers his mother, who was primarily a homemaker, as accommodating, supportive and protective of her three children. Beverly's family regularly attended church together where his mother sang in the choir. One of Beverly's earliest memories is of a white store clerk cursing at his mother when she refused to buy sunhats at a pawn shop in Port Arthur.

Video Oral History Interview with Sherman Beverly, Section A2003_204_001_002, TRT: 0:29:20
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Sherman Beverly was raised in the African American community on the west side of Port Arthur, Texas. The town was an international port, dominated by oil refineries and fisheries, which gave the city a strong smell. One of Beverly's earliest memories was watching his mother be disrespected by a white store clerk, when the family went shopping in downtown Port Arthur. Beverly was close to his godfather who had a large vegetable garden and started the first black Boy Scout troop in Port Arthur. Beverly and his siblings were baptized at Rock Island Baptist Church where his father was a deacon and his mother was in the choir. He describes the experience of going to church, which began Saturday night shining shoes and ended Sunday evening. Beverly attended the same segregated school, Abraham Lincoln High School in Port Arthur, for elementary through high school. The school had a great football team and a highlight of his childhood was attending the football games. Beverly enjoyed playing tennis as a teenager.

Video Oral History Interview with Sherman Beverly, Section A2003_204_001_003, TRT: 0:29:50
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Sherman Beverly attended Abraham Lincoln High School in Port Arthur, Texas where he was one of only seven boys in his graduating class in 1945 due to the draft for World War II. He recalls some funny experiences in his high school chemistry and algebra classes. In high school Beverly sang in multiple choirs; participated in school plays; and engaged in poetry readings. One of his teachers, Mr. Alton, consistently incorporated black history into the class. Beverly attended Prairie View Normal and Industrial College in Texas until he was drafted to serve in World War II. Beverly chose to serve in the U.S. Army Air Forces and was stationed in San Antonio, Texas for twelve months and the Philippines for six months. When he returned from the Army Air Force, he went back to Prairie View for a semester, then dropped out to work for a semester in Port Arthur, and finally, returned to college and completed his degree at Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. Beverly talks about the evolution of his religious beliefs.

Video Oral History Interview with Sherman Beverly, Section A2003_204_001_004, TRT: 0:29:45
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Sherman Beverly graduated from Bishop College in 1954. He returned to Port Arthur, Texas and taught adults. Then he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he worked as a motorman for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). In 1957, he began his teaching career teaching second grade at Brown W. Elementary School on Chicago's West Side. He taught in the Chicago public schools for ten

years before transferring to an elementary school closer to his home in Deerfield, Illinois, an overwhelmingly white community. In 1959, the town successfully defeated efforts to build an integrated subdivision in community. When Beverly and his wife moved to Deerfield in 1967, they were the first African American family to buy a home there and the man who sold them the house faced threats from his neighbors. In the 1969 Beverly took a position at Malcolm X College in Chicago; and, then worked in the new black studies department at Kendall College in Evanston, Illinois where he taught alongside HistoryMaker Iva Carruthers.

Video Oral History Interview with Sherman Beverly, Section A2003_204_001_005, TRT: 0:30:10
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Sherman Beverly left Kendall College in Evanston, Illinois in the early 1970s, due to budget cuts at the school. He then began teaching full-time at Northeastern Illinois University Center for Inner City Studies in Chicago, which was a teacher training program for future inner city educators. While at Northeastern, Beverly taught a variety of courses in black history, including courses on West African history, education, and human relations; as well as a course on the history of the black church. Beverly taught at Northeastern from the early 1970s, through his retirement in 1992. Beverly describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with Sherman Beverly, Section A2003_204_001_006, TRT: 0:22:53
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Sherman Beverly reflects upon his legacy and describes how he would like to be remembered. He concludes by narrating his photographs.