

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Keiffer Mitchell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Mitchell, Keiffer, 1941-2015
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Keiffer Mitchell,
Dates:	September 10, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:16:35).
Abstract:	Gastrointestinal surgeon Dr. Keiffer Mitchell (1941 - 2015) specializes in gastrointestinal surgery and is a healthcare advocate in Baltimore. Mitchell is the grandson of Lillie Jackson, one of Baltimore's prominent leaders in the 1930s. Mitchell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 10, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_244
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Born in Baltimore on November 4, 1941, Dr. Keiffer J. Mitchell, Sr. was born into a family that was well known and respected in Baltimore's African American community. The grandson of Lillie Jackson, one of Baltimore's prominent leaders in the 1930s and 1940s, Mitchell had an equally impressive parentage. His father, Clarence Mitchell, became known as the "101st senator" for his political influence as a civil rights adviser to President Lyndon B. Johnson. Mitchell's mother, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, was an NAACP activist. In childhood, Mitchell walked picket lines with his father during the civil rights movement.

Mitchell graduated from Baltimore City College High School in 1959. He attended Morgan State University before transferring to Lincoln State College, where he received his B.A. in 1963. As a child, Mitchell had been an artist, but in high school he developed an interest in the sciences. His fascination with the sciences led him to medicine and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he earned his M.D. He went on to practice medicine, specializing as a gastrointestinal surgeon.

With activism in his blood, Mitchell added his own chapter to his family's proud history by fighting to ensure equal access to healthcare to Baltimore's African American community. He made this his lifelong passion. His son, Keiffer Mitchell, Jr., a teacher and city councilman in Baltimore, entered the political arena as a rising star in the state Democratic Party.

Mitchell resided in Baltimore until he passed away on August 18, 2015.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Keiffer Mitchell was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 10, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Gastrointestinal surgeon Dr. Keiffer Mitchell (1941 - 2015) specializes in gastrointestinal surgery and is a healthcare advocate in Baltimore. Mitchell is the grandson of Lillie Jackson, one of Baltimore's prominent leaders in the 1930s.

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:

Mitchell, Keiffer, 1941-2015

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Mitchell, Keiffer, 1941-2015--Interviews

African American surgeons--Interviews

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore

African Americans--Genealogy

Mitchell, Juanita Jackson, 1913-

Education--Maryland--Baltimore

School integration--Maryland--Baltimore

Lincoln University (Pa.)

Civil rights movement

Meharry Medical College

Gastroenterology

African Americans--Nutrition

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Gastrointestinal Surgeon

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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 Dr. Keiffer Mitchell, September 10, 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 Dr. Keiffer Mitchell, Section A2003_244_001_001, TRT: 0:31:15 2003/09/10

Gastroenterologist Keiffer Mitchell details his family history as he gives names and background information of many of his ancestors. Then, he discusses how his parents set a positive example for him to follow with their volunteer efforts. Mitchell illustrates this by telling of his mother's involvement with the NAACP. Mitchell remembers his childhood as he tells of experiences from his community in Baltimore, Maryland, including his memories of attending newly integrated elementary and middle schools.

African American surgeons--Interviews.

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Mitchell, Juanita Jackson, 1913-.
Education--Maryland--Baltimore.
School integration--Maryland--Baltimore.
Lincoln University (Pa.).
Civil rights movements.
Meharry Medical College.
Gastroenterology.
African Americans--Nutrition.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Keiffer Mitchell, Section
A2003_244_001_002, TRT: 0:28:40 2003/09/10

Keiffer Mitchell remembers his high school years attending a predominantly white school, and tells of resistance to integration in the Baltimore community. He then names prominent African Americans that were friends of his family and whom he met as during his childhood. Mitchell recounts his undergraduate experience at Lincoln University, describing his participation in the Civil Rights Movement. He then discusses his time at Meharry Medical College and his internship in Baltimore, when he decided to focus on gastroenterology. Finally, Mitchell discusses health issues tied to race and dietary habits.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Keiffer Mitchell, Section
A2003_244_001_003, TRT: 0:16:40 2003/09/10

Keiffer Mitchell shares his opinions on the lack of African American physicians currently practicing. Then, he reflects on his life and career. Finally, Mitchell narrates his personal photographs as they are recorded on videotape. The photos depict his family members, colleagues and his own paintings.