

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Philip L. Brown

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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>	Brown, Philip L., 1909-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Philip L. Brown,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 3, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:57:07).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Elementary school teacher Philip L. Brown (1909 - 2009 ) taught for four decades, and in his retirement has authored books documenting African American education and segregation, including, "A Century of Separate But Equal Education in Anne Arundel County." Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 3, 2004, in Annapolis, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_063
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Author, historian and educator Philip Lorenzo Brown was born on January 16, 1909, in Annapolis, Maryland. His father operated a grocery store and worked as a maintenance man at the U.S. Naval Academy and his mother was a homemaker. In 1926, he earned his diploma from Stanton High School in Annapolis. While in high school, Brown enjoyed attending movies, playing football and working in the family grocery store. He graduated from Bowie Normal School, now know as Bowie State University, in 1928, and began his teaching career when he was just

nineteen in the Anne Arundel County, Maryland school system.

In 1932, Brown married Rachel Hall, a teacher at the two-room school where he served as principal. Shortly after his marriage he and his wife attended classes at Morgan State University where both earned their bachelors degrees in education. After forming the *Colored Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County* in 1938, Brown led the effort to sue the Anne Arundel Board of Education for equal pay for African American teachers. The teachers were represented by former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. In 1955, Brown earned his master's degree in education from New York University.

During his tenure as a teacher in Anne Arundel County, he taught in several elementary schools and later at Bates High School, where he served as Vice Principal in 1966 when Anne Arundel County schools were finally integrated. In 1970, Brown retired from the school system.

Brown spent most of his retirement years researching and documenting local black history, especially that of black schools. In 1988, Brown published his first book *A Century of Separate But Equal Education in Anne Arundel County*. Six years later he published a pictorial book documenting the history of blacks in Anne Arundel County, *The Other Annapolis, the Life and Times of Blacks in Annapolis from 1900-1950*. In 2000, Brown put pen to paper again when he published *The Mount Moriah Story 1875-1973*, a book detailing the creation and rise of the first African Methodist Episcopal church in Annapolis. Finally in 2001 he published his latest book, *The Stanton Elementary School Story*, which was the first school in Annapolis for blacks and his alma mater.

Brown passed away on October 13, 2009 at age 100.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Philip L. Brown was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on June 3, 2004, in Annapolis, Maryland, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Elementary school teacher Philip L. Brown (1909 - 2009 ) taught for four decades, and in his retirement has authored books documenting African American education and segregation, including, "A Century of Separate But Equal Education in Anne Arundel County."

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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:**

Brown, Philip L., 1909-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Brown, Philip L., 1909---Interviews

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African American educators--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews

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African American school principals--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews

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Authors and publishers--Interviews

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African American families--Maryland--Annapolis

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Segregation in education--Maryland--Annapolis

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Bowie State University

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Educational equalization--Maryland--Anne Arundel County

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New York University

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School integration--Maryland--Anne Arundel County

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African Americans--Education--Maryland--Anne Arundel County

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African American history

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Middle class African Americans

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Manufacturing industries--United States

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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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## **Occupations:**

## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

EducationMakers

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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 Philip L. Brown, June 3, 2004. 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 Philip L. Brown, Section  
A2004\_063\_001\_001, TRT: 0:31:06 2004/06/03

Author, historian and educator Philip L. Brown, born in 1909, recalls growing up in a large working class family in Annapolis Maryland. He describes his parents, their close African American community, the all-black Stanton School, where he attended both elementary and high school, church activities, and recreation he enjoyed in his youth.

African American educators--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews.

African American school principals--Maryland--Anne Arundel County--Interviews.

Authors and publishers--Interviews.

African American families--Maryland--Annapolis.

Segregation in education--Maryland--Annapolis.

Bowie State University.

Educational equalization--Maryland--Anne Arundel County.

New York University.

School integration--Maryland--Anne Arundel County.

African Americans--Education--Maryland--Anne Arundel County.

Middle class African Americans.

Manufacturing industries--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Philip L. Brown, Section  
A2004\_063\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:35 2004/06/03

Philip L. Brown talks about his high school years at the Stanton School, the first school for African Americans in Annapolis, Maryland. He tells of his experiences at Bowie Normal School, playing football and socializing while studying to get a teaching certificate. He describes his early teaching assignments for Anne Arundel County, his marriage to another teacher, the formation of the Colored Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County and a lawsuit to protest inequality in salaries of black and white

teachers, his and his wife's graduate studies at New York University, and the integration of public schools in Anne Arundel County in 1966.

Video Oral History Interview with Philip L. Brown, Section  
A2004\_063\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:59 2004/06/03

Author, historian and educator Philip L. Brown continues to tell about the integration, beginning in 1966, of schools in Annapolis, Maryland, where he was a vice-principal. He shares his experience of education for African Americans in Anne Arundel County over the course of his forty-two year teaching career and gives his thoughts on integration, busing, test score bias and teaching methods. Mr. Brown also talks about his first two historical books, *A Century of "Separate but Equal" Education in Anne Arundel County, Maryland* and *The Other Annapolis: 1900-1950*.

Video Oral History Interview with Philip L. Brown, Section  
A2004\_063\_001\_004, TRT: 0:25:27 2004/06/03

Author, historian and educator Philip L. Brown reflects on his life, his career as a teacher and his seventy-two years of marriage to Rachel Hall Brown. One of his greatest worries is America's loss of manufacturing jobs that paid a good living wage to many black people. He gives advice for those wanting to teach and says it is important for young African Americans to study black history, to learn that "many extraordinary things are done by ordinary people."