

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Strudwick, Warren James, 1923-2008
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr.,
Dates:	June 17, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:53:20).
Abstract:	Surgeon Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr. (1923 - 2008) helped to integrate Washington, D.C. hospitals and has taught at Howard University Medical School. Strudwick also had a successful private practice in Washington. Strudwick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 17, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_084
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. Warren James Strudwick was born on December 23, 1923, in Durham, North Carolina. His mother was a teacher and his father a physician. As a child, he enjoyed a privileged life until his father's death in 1931, when he was eight years old. Strudwick attended Whitted Elementary School and as a young boy enjoyed building model airplanes and was a member of the safety patrol. He received his diploma from Hillside High School in 1940.

Strudwick attended North Carolina College for Negroes in 1940, where he studied

chemistry until he transferred to West Virginia State College in 1942. That same year, he was drafted into the United States Marine Corps where he served in a combat unit during World War II. In 1943, he attended Purdue University to complete Officers Training School. In 1946, Strudwick entered Howard University, receiving his B.S. degree in biology and chemistry in 1948. He went on to attend Howard University Medical School and while a student met and married his wife, Dr. Bette Catoe. He graduated from medical school in 1952.

In 1958, Strudwick helped to integrate Washington, D.C. hospitals. From 1961 to 2000, he taught surgery at Howard University Medical School. While teaching, he also operated a successful private practice in Washington, D.C. Strudwick was a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Board of Surgery, the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society and the American Society of Abdominal Surgeons. He was also actively involved in the NAACP, Urban League and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Strudwick also wrote and published a number of medical related articles.

Strudwick passed away on October 27, 2008 at the age of 84. He leaves behind his wife and three grown children; two are physicians and the other an attorney.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr. was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on June 17, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Surgeon Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr. (1923 - 2008) helped to integrate Washington, D.C. hospitals and has taught at Howard University Medical School. Strudwick also had a successful private practice in Washington.

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:

Strudwick, Warren James, 1923-2008

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Strudwick, Warren James, 1923-2008--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

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. Warren Strudwick, Sr., June 17, 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).

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. Warren Strudwick, Sr., Section A2004_084_001_001, TRT: 0:29:51 2004/06/16

Surgeon Warren J. Strudwick begins by describing his mother and father and tracing his family history back to ancestors who were freed slaves after the Civil War. Strudwick then shares his earliest memories from his childhood and describes his neighborhood in Durham, North Carolina. He then gives an overview of his schooling, from elementary to high school.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr., Section A2004_084_001_002, TRT: 0:27:54 2004/06/16

Surgeon Warren J. Strudwick describes his childhood personality and gives an overview of his interests and aspirations. After talking about his participation in church, he recalls influential figures from his adolescent years. Strudwick describes his high school experience and his involvement in ROTC. He then details his life in the 1940s, which saw him attend many different colleges and enlist in the Marine Corps in 1942. After a year of combat, Strudwick returned to the U.S. and enrolled at Purdue University. He finished his bachelor's education at Howard University, and explains why he chose to stay there for medical school.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr., Section A2004_084_001_003, TRT: 0:28:30 2004/06/16

Surgeon Warren J. Strudwick details his experience at Howard University's Medical School and discusses the state of the medical profession during the 1950s, explaining the challenges he faced as an African American doctor. He then talks about his career as a medical school professor, explaining how teaching methods have changed over the years. Strudwick then discusses the state of health care in the United States today, evaluating the managed care system and considering the effect of violent crimes on health care.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr., Section

A2004_084_001_004, TRT: 0:27:05 2004/06/16

Surgeon Warren J. Strudwick discusses his family's legacy in the medical profession, talking about his two sons who are also doctors. Strudwick then talks about how the medical profession has changed since he first entered the field. Finally, Strudwick reflects on his life and career and considers his legacy.