

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Maxine Beatrice Baker

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Baker, Maxine Beatrice, 1952-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Maxine Beatrice Baker,
Dates:	March 1, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:11:10).
Abstract:	Foundation chief executive Maxine Beatrice Baker (1952 -) was the President and CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation. Baker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 1, 2005, in McLean, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_057
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Foundation chief executive Maxine Beatrice Baker was born on February 29, 1952 in Homestead, Pennsylvania. Her paternal great-grandfather, Cumberland Posey, was the first African American engineer and boat builder in Pennsylvania. Her paternal great-uncle, Cumberland Posey, Jr., played for and eventually owned the Homestead Grays baseball team. Raised in Washington, D.C. by her mother and maternal grandmother, Baker attended Washington, D.C public schools and graduated from Western High School in 1969.

Attending Emerson College in Boston on a National Merit scholarship, Baker earned her B.S. degree in speech communications in 1973. After spending several

years in the aviation industry, Baker joined the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) in 1982 as a budget administrator. She quickly moved through the management ranks at Freddie Mac, serving in various leadership positions including vice president of administration & corporate properties and vice president of human resources. While working as vice president of industry & trade relations, Baker expanded minority business development programs and minority recruitment. In 1997, Baker was named vice president of community relations and president and chief executive officer of the Freddie Mac Foundation, one of the nation's largest corporate philanthropy programs. Under her leadership, the Foundation's net assets grew from \$22 million in 1997 to \$235 million in 2003.

Active in many organizations including the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, the Washington Regional Area Grantmakers, the Metropolitan Washington Boys and Girls Club and Voices for America's Children, Baker has received many awards for her civic leadership.

Baker was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 1, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Maxine Beatrice Baker was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on March 1, 2005, in McLean, Virginia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Foundation chief executive Maxine Beatrice Baker (1952 -) was the President and CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation.

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

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:

Baker, Maxine Beatrice, 1952-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Baker, Maxine Beatrice, 1952---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Freddie Mac (Firm)

Occupations:

Foundation Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Maxine Beatrice Baker, March 1, 2005. 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 Maxine Beatrice Baker, Section A2005_057_001_001, TRT: 0:30:30 2005/03/01

Maxine Beatrice Baker was born on February 29, 1952 in Homestead, Pennsylvania to Thelma Maxine Reynolds Baker and Evan Baker, Sr. Her paternal great-grandfather, Cumberland Willis Posey, Sr., was the first African American engineer in the United States. He was married to Anna Stevens Posey, the first African American student to graduate from The Ohio State University, where she later taught. Her paternal great-uncle, Cumberland Willis Posey, Jr., owned the Homestead Grays baseball team. Baker's father was born in Homestead to Beatrice Posey Baker and Evan Edward Baker. Her mother was born in Greensboro, North Carolina. As a young girl, she moved with her family to Washington, D.C. where they owned and operated Reynolds Dry Cleaners. Baker's parents met in D.C. and moved to Pennsylvania. Baker returned to D.C. with her mother when she was three years old to live with her grandparents. Her mother worked for the Pentagon, then taught junior high school. Baker attended Garden of Children Nursery School.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxine Beatrice Baker, Section A2005_057_001_002, TRT: 0:31:10 2005/03/01

Maxine Beatrice Baker had extravagant parties every four years in honor of her leap year birthday. Her family's holiday traditions included attending the Easter Egg Roll at the White House and spending Thanksgiving with her cousin, Alpha Kappa Alpha founder Beulah Burke, who held a dinner for people without family. Baker lived in her mother's childhood neighborhood until moving to northeast Washington, D.C. She grew up in a strict household and was well-behaved as a child. Her fair skin allowed her to enter stores and theaters where African Americans were usually forbidden. Her family visited monuments on the National Mall every year and attended Berean Baptist Church every week. Baker first entered John Quincy Adams Elementary School, then Bunker Hill

Elementary School. At Jefferson Junior High School, she enjoyed reading and science. After winning a citywide science fair in eighth grade, she received an award for a radiology science project the following year.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxine Beatrice Baker, Section A2005_057_001_003, TRT: 0:29:20 2005/03/01

Maxine Beatrice Baker's recalls how her fair skin afforded her privileges growing up. At Western High School in Washington, D.C., she was a member of the science club and was nominated for the homecoming court. When Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed her junior year, the students were sent home early. Her childhood street was destroyed in the subsequent riots. A National Merit Scholar, Baker received scholarships to several schools, but decided to attend Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts instead. While there, she changed her name to Amananta and wore a gele until her mother made her stop. After graduating in 1973, she worked as a secretary at Air Transport Association in D.C. She attended the University of Maryland for graduate school, but did not finish and returned to the airline industry. She worked for Beauvais, Robert, and Kurth; the Urban Institute; and then as vice president of administration and human resources at Pacific Consultants. In 1982, she began working for Freddie Mac.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxine Beatrice Baker, Section A2005_057_001_004, TRT: 0:29:50 2005/03/01

Maxine Beatrice Baker, shortly after being hired at Freddie Mac, found out about the company's policy of supporting adoption. She used the policy soon after when she adopted her first daughter, Morgan Stokes. She continued working as she adopted her second daughter, Jillian-Taylor Stokes. In 1991, Freddie Mac founded the Freddie Mac Foundation, which focuses on child welfare. In 1997, Baker joined the organization and served as president and chief executive officer. Baker also worked with 'Wednesday's Child,' an adoption TV program that extended from Washington, D.C. to several other American cities. In 2001, Baker was diagnosed with breast cancer, but after six months of radiation therapy, she was cured. Baker describes the growth of Freddie Mac during

her time there, and the importance of philanthropic work. She reflects upon her life, career and being a role model. She also describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community, her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxine Beatrice Baker, Section A2005_057_001_004E, TRT:

Video Oral History Interview with Maxine Beatrice Baker, Section A2005_057_001_005, TRT: 0:10:20 2005/03/01

Maxine Beatrice Baker narrates her photographs.