

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Ross, William Alexander Jackson, 1937-2007
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross,
Dates:	March 31, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:29:10).
Abstract:	Orthopedic surgeon and physician Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross (1937 - 2007) was the first African American submarine doctor in U.S. Navy history and the first African American officer to receive a Golden Dolphin Award from the U.S. Navy. He is chief of orthopedics at Herrick Hospital in Berkeley, California. Ross was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 31, 2005, in Oakland, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_089
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross was born on November 26, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan. After receiving his high school diploma from Detroit's Cass Tech High School in 1955, Ross attended the University of Michigan from 1956 to 1958, and Wayne State University from 1958 to 1960; he earned his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in 1964.

After medical school, Ross joined the Navy's Medical Corps as an intern in 1964, and then worked as a doctor in the U.S. Navy from 1969 through 1973. Becoming a qualified submarine medical officer in 1966, Ross became the first African American submarine doctor in U.S. Navy history. Ross served aboard the U.S.S. George C. Marshall from 1968 to 1969, where he was the first African American officer to receive a Golden Dolphin Award from the U.S. Navy.

After leaving the Navy and moving to Oakland, California, Ross joined the West Oak Health Center as a consultant orthopedic surgeon and teacher; he later became the chief of orthopedics at Herrick Hospital in Berkeley, California.

A member of the Arlington Medical Group, Ross is also a member of the National Medical Association; The American Medical Association; the NAACP; and Alpha Phi Alpha. Ross and his wife, Etna, have raised four children.

Mr. Ross passed away on January 14, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross was conducted by Loretta Henry on March 31, 2005, in Oakland, California, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Orthopedic surgeon and physician Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross (1937 - 2007) was the first African American submarine doctor in U.S. Navy history and the first African American officer to receive a Golden Dolphin Award from the U.S. Navy. He is chief of orthopedics at Herrick Hospital in Berkeley, California.

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:

Ross, William Alexander Jackson, 1937-2007

Henry, Loretta (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ross, William Alexander Jackson, 1937-2007--Interviews

Orthopedists--Interviews

African American surgeons--Interviews

Ship physicians--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

United States. Navy. Medical Dept.

Occupations:

Orthopedic Surgeon

Physician

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. William Alexander Jackson Ross, March 31, 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

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. William Alexander Jackson Ross, Section A2005_089_001_001, TRT: 0:29:30 2005/03/31

Orthopedists--Interviews.

African American surgeons--Interviews.

Ship physicians--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross, Section A2005_089_001_002, TRT: 0:29:40 2005/03/31

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross, Section A2005_089_001_003, TRT: 0:29:50 2005/03/31

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross, Section A2005_089_001_004, TRT: 0:29:00 2005/03/31

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. William Alexander Jackson Ross, Section A2005_089_001_005, TRT: 0:31:10 2005/03/31