

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles Henry

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Henry, Charles P., -1947 |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, |
| Dates: | April 5, 2006 and March 30, 2005 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2005 and 2006 |
| Physical Description: | 7 Betacame SP videocassettes (4:46:57). |
| Abstract: | African american studies professor Charles Henry (1947 -) is the author of the prolific biography Ralph J. Bunche: Model Negro or American Other? Henry was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 5, 2006 and March 30, 2005, in Oakland, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2006_062 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

African American Studies professor Charles Patrick Henry III was born on August 17, 1947 in Newark, Ohio to Charles Patrick Henry, II and Ruth Holbert Henry. Henry attended Central School for elementary and junior high school. As a member of the National Junior Honor Society, he received honors for his studies in business. In 1965, Henry was accepted to Denison University in Granville, Ohio. As a student at Denison University, Henry co-founded the Black Student Union and the Experimental College. As a college student, he also participated in anti-war rallies and programs to improve race relations. After receiving his B.A. degree in political science in 1969, he attended graduate school at the University

of Chicago.

As a graduate student, Henry was awarded an American Political Science Congressional Fellowship during which he worked for six months in the office of Hubert Humphrey, and then for six months with the Congressional Black Caucus. While Henry continued his studies, he obtained a teaching position in the political science department at Howard University. In 1974, Henry earned his Ph.D. degree in political science from the University of Chicago. He then left Howard University to teach Black Studies at his alma mater, Denison University. In 1979, Henry received a NEH post-doctoral Fellowship at Atlanta University where he began his research for the biography on Nobel laureate Ralph J. Bunche. After completing his fellowship in 1981, Henry taught at the University of California, Berkeley in the African American Studies department. Henry has since written over seventy articles, and authored six books including *Ralph Bunche: Model Negro or American Other?*.

From 1986 to 1988, Henry served as Chair of Amnesty International, U.S.A. Board of Directors. In 1994, Henry was appointed by President Bill Clinton for a six year term to the National Council on the Humanities. He also served as a Fulbright Chair in American History and Politics at the University of Bologna, Italy in 2003. Henry lives in Berkeley, California with his wife, Loretta, and their three children.

Charles Patrick Henry, III was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 5, 2006.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Charles Henry was conducted by Loretta Henry on April 5, 2006 and March 30, 2005, in Oakland, California, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. African american studies professor Charles Henry (1947 -) is the author of the prolific biography *Ralph J. Bunche: Model Negro or American Other?*

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The

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:

Henry, Charles P., -1947

Henry, Loretta (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Henry, Charles P., -1947 --Interviews

African American college teachers--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

University of California, Berkeley.

Occupations:

African American Studies Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Charles Henry, April 5, 2006 and March 30, 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 Charles Henry, Section
A2006_062_002_001, TRT: 0:29:20 2006/04/05

Charles Henry was born on August 17, 1947 in Newark, Ohio to Ruth Holbert Henry and Charles Patrick Henry, II. His paternal great-great grandfather was a free man and keeper of the Natural Bridge at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's plantation in Charlottesville, Virginia. Henry's great grandfather enlisted his sons in the Civil War. Henry's father was born in 1890 in Newark, where his father was a barber. When his grandfather, William Henry, died in a streetcar accident in 1898, Henry's father was reared by his uncle in Coshocton, Ohio. He began his career as a brick mason when he left the eighth grade, and served in the 10th Cavalry Regiment from 1909 to 1912. Henry's mother was born in Zanesville, Ohio, where her father worked the furnaces at a glass mill. Henry grew up near downtown Newark, and he and his family often traveled to Zanesville, where there was a larger black community. As a child, Henry enjoyed going to the circus. His brother, Oren John Henry, worked in community development throughout Ohio.

African American families--Ohio--Newark.

African American parents--Ohio.

San Juan Hill, Battle of, Cuba, 1898.

United States. Army. Volunteer Cavalry, 1st.

African American soldiers.

United States. Colored Troops.

Lookout Mountain, Battle of, Tenn., 1863

African American children--Ohio--Newark.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, Section
A2006_062_002_002, TRT: 0:28:50 2006/04/05

Charles Henry grew up a majority-white, conservative area of Newark, Ohio, where his father was a Republican. Henry was the only black student during his elementary years at Central School in Newark, but he did not experience overt discrimination. However, in junior high school, he was assigned to the business track, although his mother ensured that he was switched to the college track. In 1960, inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, he developed an interest in political science. At Newark Senior High School, he joined the math and German clubs, and played tennis and basketball. While attending Sunday school, he met one of his mentors, Julius Richardson. Henry describes an accident from his childhood in which a steel beam injured his foot. After successfully suing the responsible institutions, Henry used the compensation to pay for his first three years at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Henry also describes his childhood friends, and the numbers business that his father owned prior to Henry's birth.

Neighborhoods--Ohio--Newark.

African American school children--Ohio.

African American high school students--Ohio--Newark.

Segregation in education--Ohio--Newark.

Civil rights demonstrations--Ohio.

Political science--Study and teaching.

African Methodist Episcopal Church--Ohio.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, Section
A2006_062_002_003, TRT: 0:28:20 2006/04/05

Charles Henry attended Trinity A.M.E. Church in Newark, Ohio. Upon graduating from Newark Senior High School, he attended Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where he joined the American Commons Club, and was the sole black male student in his class. He majored in political science, even though he was discouraged by Professor Frederick M. Wirt. Henry co-founded Denison's Black

Student Union and Experimental College, and taught an African history course that criticized colonialism. He also taught black history at his former high school. He pursued his master's and Ph.D. degrees in political science at the University of Chicago with full funding. There, he took John Hope Franklin's American history course, and met Lorenzo Morris. In Chicago, Henry attended Operation Breadbasket meetings and the 1972 National Black Political Convention. An American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, he worked in the offices of Senator Hubert Humphrey and the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C.

African American churches--United States.

Denison University--Students.

African American college students--Ohio--Granville.

University of Chicago--Students.

Franklin, John Hope, 1915-2009.

Morris, Lorenzo, 1946-.

Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978.

Congressional Black Caucus.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, Section
A2006_062_002_004, TRT: 0:28:30 2006/04/05

Charles Henry interned for Senator Herbert Humphrey and the Congressional Black Caucus, organizing its first legislative weekend. While the caucus invited him to stay, he opted to teach at Howard University. After three years, Henry returned to Denison University to lead its black studies department from 1976 to 1980. He then completed a year-long postdoctoral fellowship at Atlanta University, studying with Richard Long, before joining the University of California, Berkeley's Department of African American Studies. While there, Henry chaired the department and the Ethnic Studies Graduate Group, and was the first full time faculty equity associate. During this time, he became involved with Amnesty International, and joined its board of directors in 1986. In 1993, Henry also became president of the National Council for Black Studies. He describes a possible connection between his grandfather and Ralph Bunche's father, Fred Bunche. Henry and his wife, Loretta

Crenshaw Henry, had three children together.

African Americans--Marriage.

Howard University--Faculty.

Denison University--Faculty.

Blacks--Study and teaching--California--Berkeley.

African American college teachers--California--Berkeley.

Amnesty International.

University of California, Berkeley--Faculty.

National Council for Black Studies (U.S.).

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, Section
A2006_062_002_005, TRT: 0:30:01 2006/04/05

Charles Henry was appointed to the official delegation to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria. In 1994, he worked for a year at the U.S. Department of State, and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the National Council on the Humanities. Noticing the lack of the literature on Ralph Bunche, Henry wrote the biography, 'Ralphe Bunche: Model Negro or American Other?' He also penned 'Jesse Jackson: The Search for Common Ground' about Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's 1980s political campaigns. At the time of the interview, Henry was researching the politics of racial reparations. In 2003, he received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach at the University of Bologna. Henry reflects upon his life, and the trajectory of African Americans in higher education. He describes values he considers important, as well as his future plans, such as his 2006 Fulbright fellowship in France. Henry shares a message for his descendants, and concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.

Bunche, Ralph J. (Ralph Johnson), 1904-1971.

Nobel Prize winners--African Americans.

Political scientists--History.

Università di Bologna

African Americans--Education (Higher).

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, Section
A2006_062_HENRY_CHARLES_06_MED_001, TRT: 0:10:30

Additional media from Henry. Was not published.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, Section
B2006_062_001_001, TRT: 1:10:58 2005/03/30

African American families--Ohio--Newark.

African American parents--Ohio--Newark.

San Juan Hill, Battle of, Cuba, 1898.

United States. Army. Volunteer Cavalry, 1st.

United States. Colored Troops.

African American soldiers.

Lookout Mountain, Battle of, Tenn., 1863.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--
Participation, African American.

African American children--Ohio--Newark.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Henry, Section
B2006_062_001_001E, TRT: 1:10:58 2005/03/30