



# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rev. H. K. Matthews

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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>	Rev. H. K. Matthews
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rev. H. K. Matthews,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 16, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:22:15).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civil rights activist and minister Rev. H. K. Matthews (1928 - ) established the Pensacola NAACP Youth Council and Escambia County Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Matthews was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 16, 2006, in Pensacola, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_121
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil rights icon and minister Reverend H.K. Matthews was born Hawthorne Konrad Matthews on February 7, 1928, in Snow Hill, Alabama, to Lavinia Johnson and John Henry Matthews. Matthews was raised by his grandmother, Lucy P. Johnson-Matthews, after his mother died. His grandmother was a school teacher and his father was a farmer. He graduated from Snow Hill Institute in 1947, and attended Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University for three years before enlisting in the United States military in 1949.

After serving in the Korean War, Matthews then moved to Pensacola, Florida in 1955, where he became involved with church activities and was mentored by one of Pensacola's leading black clergy, Reverend W.C. Dobbins. During this time, Matthews became active with civil rights activities and was employed by the Florida State Employment Service. He was ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1961. While living in Florida, Matthews founded the Pensacola National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Youth Council and the Escambia County Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Matthews spearheaded protests that resulted in the increased employment of African Americans at Pensacola's Sacred Heart Hospital, Southern Bell Telephone Company and the West Pensacola Bank. Matthews was jailed thirty-five times for his involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. Matthews returned to Alabama in 1977 and continued to minister at Zion Fountain A.M.E Zion church for twenty-four years. During this time, Matthews was also presiding over twenty-one other churches in the area.

Matthews has received many honors for his work in Pensacola, Florida during the Civil Rights Movement in Pensacola, Florida. In February 2006, the City Council of Pensacola dedicated a park in his honor to recognize the social changes that he brought to the city.

H.K. Matthews was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 16, 2006.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rev. H. K. Matthews was conducted by Robert Hayden on October 16, 2006, in Pensacola, Florida, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist and minister Rev. H. K. Matthews (1928 - ) established the Pensacola NAACP Youth Council and Escambia County Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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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:

Matthews, H. K. (Hawthorne Konrad), 1928-

Hayden, Robert (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Matthews, H. K. (Hawthorne Konrad), 1928---Interviews

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African American Ministers-Interviews

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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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African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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ReligionMakers

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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 Rev. H. K. Matthews, October 16, 2006. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/11/2011 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, October 16, 2006

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. H. K. Matthews, Section A2006\_121\_001\_001, TRT: 0:31:15 2006/10/16

Rev. H.K. Matthews discusses his childhood and the vital role his grandmother played in his life. He describes his family history, the community dynamics of Snow Hill, Alabama and his experiences growing up in a rural area. Matthews notes how dedicated his grandmother was to her family and how she struggled to support the two of them. He also briefly talks about his stepmother, Jimmie Lee Matthews, who was very kind to him when he visited his father.

Southern States--Social life and customs.

Early childhood education.

Community development-Rural.

African Americans--Childhood--Alabama.

African American families--Alabama.

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. H. K. Matthews, Section A2006\_121\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:00 2006/10/16

Rev. H.K. Matthews discusses his experiences at Alabama State University and Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University. In 1949, Matthews left college to enlist in the United States Military. After serving two terms in Korea, Matthews returned to the states and moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1955. While living in Florida, Matthews became involved in the church. In 1961, he became an ordained minister under the tutelage of W.C. Dabins, who initiated a movement against the injustices and racism in Pensacola society. After Dabins left the area, H.K. Matthews continued the fight against inequality within his community.

African Americans--Military Service--1860-1950.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

African American clergy--Alabama--Interviews.

African Americans--Church--Alabama.

Pensacola (Fla.).

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. H. K. Matthews, Section A2006\_121\_001\_003, TRT: 0:31:00 2006/10/16

H.K Matthews recounts his years of fighting against segregation, discrimination, and racial violence at large in Escambia County. As a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People youth leader, Matthews encouraged children to fight discrimination at school. Matthews founded a chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Escambia County and was its first president. Matthews explains the differences between the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and NAACP. Matthews remembers that not everyone in the black community understood or accepted his desire for change or the techniques he utilized. Remembering his experiences while participating in sit-ins, Matthews notes that the majority of the officers were not there to protect the protestors. He notes that many of the officers often helped the agitators and segregationists taunt and harm African American protestors, and can only recall one trustworthy officer, Mr. Ron McNesby.

African Americans--Suffrage--Southern States.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference--Alabama.

African Americans--Crimes against--Alabama.

Civil rights movement--Alabama.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Civil rights demonstrations.

Police brutality.

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. H. K. Matthews, Section A2006\_121\_001\_004, TRT:  
0:29:50 2006/10/16

Rev. H.K. Matthews remembers his experience in Selma, Alabama, and how it encouraged him to be more than a local leader of the Civil Rights Movement. He describes his injuries during the march and how they still affect him today. Matthews also takes time discuss his family, contemplate his future publications, and reflect on his life and having a park named after him.

African Americans--Civil rights movement--Alabama--Selma--History--20th century.

African American families.

Civil rights movement--Florida--Pensacola.

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. H. K. Matthews, Section A2006\_121\_001\_005, TRT:  
0:22:10 2006/10/16

Rev. H.K. Matthews reflects on the Civil Rights Movement and discusses some family photographs.

Civil Rights Movement

Photos