



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Emory Campbell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Campbell, Emory
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Emory Campbell,
Dates:	January 30, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	6 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:45:33).
Abstract:	Cultural heritage chief executive and author Emory Campbell (1941 -) is the former Director of the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, South Carolina. He led the Gullah Reunion to Sierra Leone in West Africa. Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 30, 2007, in Hilton Head, South Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_035
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Cultural heritage chief executive and author Emory Shaw Campbell was born on October 11, 1941 on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. He attended elementary school on Hilton Head Island. Campbell travelled to the nearby city of Bluffton, South Carolina to attend Michael C. Riley High School where he graduated as class valedictorian in 1960. He received his B.A. degree in biology in 1965 from Savannah State College, and in 1971, he earned his M.A. degree from Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Campbell served as the Director of Community Service Education at the Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Services in Ridgeland, South Carolina for ten years before becoming Director of the Penn Center on St. Helena Island in 1980. The historic Penn Center, which opened in the 1800s to educate freed slaves, serves as a center to preserve the history and heritage of the Island.

During his tenure at the Penn Center, Campbell spearheaded efforts to create a family connection between the Gullah people and the people of Sierra Leone in West Africa. In 1988, he hosted Sierra Leone President Joseph Momoh at the Penn Center for the Gullah reunion and became an Honorary Paramount Chief in 1989 when he led the historic Gullah Reunion to Sierra Leone. A documentary of these two events has been produced for South Carolina Educational Television.

Campbell's work to preserve the Gullah culture has led him to write several publications one of which is "Gullah Cultural Legacies." He also worked on a project to translate the New Testament of the Bible into the Gullah language. In 2005, he received the Carter G. Woodson Memorial for outstanding work. He retired from the Penn Center in 2002 and is the President of Gullah Heritage Consulting Services.

Campbell lives on Hilton Head Island with his wife, Emma. They have two adult children, Ochieng and Ayoka.

Emory Shaw Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 30, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Emory Campbell was conducted by Denise Gines on January 30, 2007, in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and was recorded on 6 Betacam SP videocassettes. Cultural heritage chief executive and author Emory Campbell (1941 -) is the former Director of the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, South Carolina. He led the Gullah Reunion to Sierra Leone in West Africa.

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:

Campbell, Emory S. (Emory Shaw), 1941-.

Gines, Denise (Interviewer).

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer).

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Campbell, Emory S. (Emory Shaw), 1941---Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

African American authors--Interviews.

African American historians--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Penn Center Historic District (Saint Helena Island, S.C.)

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

MediaMakers

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 Emory Campbell, January 30, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/24/2011 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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, January 30, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Emory Campbell, Section A2007_035_001_001, TRT: 0:28:21
2007/01/30

Emory Campbell slates the interview and lists his favorites. He talks about the family background of his parents, Sarah Brown and Reginald Williams. Sarah worked as a teacher and homemaker and Reginald worked at the dredge in Savannah and part-time as a carpenter with his brother. Campbell discusses the division of responsibility in the Campbell household amongst the thirteen children. Due to the fact that most of the members of his family were involved in education, the value and importance of it was stressed to him and to his siblings. He remembers having to get up early to catch the shrimp, which would later be used as fish bait. The land that Campbell was raised on was purchased by his paternal great-grandfather after the Civil War. Campbell then provides a brief history of Hilton Head Island and its role during the Civil War and afterwards.

African American families--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island.

African American parents.

Hilton Head Island (S.C.)--History.

Farm life--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island.

Civil war.

African Americans--Land tenure--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island.

Video Oral History Interview with Emory Campbell, Section A2007_035_001_002, TRT: 0:28:27
2007/01/30

Emory Campbell discusses the circumstances that led to his brother, Benjamin, becoming a paraplegic and how he is able to live his life. Campbell talks about the geography, demographic and economic and social conditions of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. When Campbell and his siblings were not working, they would play baseball and games with tire rims. Additionally, they would create boat models, since it was what they saw all of the time. Campbell describes his elementary school experiences at Spanish Wells School, which also served as the Spanish Wells Praise House. He enjoyed learning at the school as well as when he attended Robinson Junior High School on the Island and Bluffton High School in Bluffton, South Carolina. Campbell notes that when he attended middle and high school he was opened to new ideas, concepts and people.

African Americans--Education (Elementary)--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island.

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--South Carolina--Bluffton.

African American children.

African Americans--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island--Social life and customs.

Farm life--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island.

Video Oral History Interview with Emory Campbell, Section A2007_035_001_003, TRT: 0:28:44
2007/01/30

Emory Campbell discusses the origins' of the terms Gullah and Geechee. Europeans sought West Africans who grew the rice so they could grow rice in the colonies. He details the correlation and connection between West African

traditions and the traditions of the Gullah/Geechee people. The work done linguist Lorenzo Turner is pivotal in the study of the connection between West African language and speech patterns to the Gullah/Geechee people. Campbell notes that the Gullah/Geechee people have the same food staples rice, okra, sweet potatoes and fish as well as spiritual beliefs. He tells about the Gullah/Geechee spiritual beliefs and the process that one goes through to gain fellowship. Hilton Head Island was the site of Mitchelville, which was a village established by Maj. General Ormsby Mitchel in 1862 for African Americans who were behind Union lines. Campbell talks about his school experience at Bluffton High School.

African Americans--Education (Secondary).

Sea Islands Creole dialect.

Gullah cooking.

Gullahs--History.

Gullahs--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island--Religion.

Gullahs--South Carolina--Hilton Head Island--Social life and customs.

African diaspora.

Africa, West--Social life and customs.

Mitchellville (S.C.)--History.

African Americans--Georgia--Atlantic Coast--History.

Turner, Lorenzo Dow.

Mitchel, O. M. (Ormsby MacKnight), 1809-1862.

Video Oral History Interview with Emory Campbell, Section A2007_035_001_004, TRT: 0:28:13
2007/01/30

Emory Campbell talks about Michael C. Riley, who was the first African American to be appointed to the school board of the district and the namesake for the African American high school in Bluffton, South Carolina. After he graduated high school in 1960, Campbell attended Savannah State University, where he majored in chemistry and biology. While on campus, Campbell joined the NAACP, participated in store boycotts in Savannah and was just generally socially consciousness. Campbell remembers the student protests of Savannah State president, W.K. Payne, after he unjustly fired an African American professor. He reflects on his life after graduation and when he went to Boston and worked at Harvard School for Public Health as a microbiologist. There he met his wife, Emma, and together they have two children, Ochieng and Ayoka.

African American families--Massachusetts--Boston.

Savannah State College (Ga.)

Student protesters--Southern States.

African American college students--Political activity.

African Americans--Education (Higher)--Georgia--Savannah.

Tufts University.

Medicine--Research.

Trench fever

Harvard School of Public Health--Employees.

Environmental engineering--Study and teaching.

African American couples--Massachusetts--Boston.

Employees--Dismissal of--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Emory Campbell, Section A2007_035_001_005, TRT: 0:28:39

2007/01/30

Emory Campbell discusses his experience at Tufts University and his field study. Campbell studied the environment of the Mississippi Delta as well as the practice of applying pesticides and herbicides to the crops. After finishing Tufts, Campbell was hired at Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health Center in South Carolina as an environmental engineer. The center served as a medical clinic that also organized co-ops and worked with people to establish business opportunities. When he left the center in 1980, Campbell took a job as Executive Director of the Penn School/Center on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, which was established in 1862 by two Pennsylvania Missionaries. He talks about the creation of the Gullah translation of the New Testament and how he became involved with the project. Through the help of researchers and volunteers the Penn Center became aware of the strong connection between Sierra Leone and Gullah people.

Tufts University.

Environmental engineering--Study and teaching.

Penn Center Historic District (Saint Helena Island, S.C.).

Gullahs--South Carolina--Saint Helena Island--Social life and customs.

African Americans--South Carolina--Saint Helena Island--Social life and customs.

Sierra Leone--Social life and customs.

Health education--South Carolina.

Rural health services--South Carolina.

Environmental engineering.

Video Oral History Interview with Emory Campbell, Section A2007_035_001_006, TRT: 0:23:09
2007/01/30

Emory Campbell notes that he has received many awards and honors for his work in preserving the history and culture of the Gullah people and region. However, he wonders if what he has done has made an impact. Campbell discusses the importance of having policies like the Gullah Corridor Act passed by former President George W. Bush, which aims to protect the land and the culture. Hopefully, the Penn Center as well as two other centers that is supposed to be created as a result of the act, will serve as locus for preservation and education. In addition, he believes that the Gullah community will have to think of new ways about how to preserve and communicate with each other to maintain the culture. Campbell shares how he wants to be remembered and leaves a message for future generations. He narrates personal photos of him and his family.

Historic sites--United States.

Penn Center Historic District (Saint Helena Island, S.C.).

African American youth.

Cultural property--Protection--Law and legislation.

Gullah.

United States. President (2001-2009 : Bush).

Historic sites--Conservation and restoration--South Carolina.