



# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William A. Clement

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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>	Clement, William A.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William A. Clement,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 27, 2007
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:15:55).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Technology chief executive William A. Clement (1943 - ) is the co-founder of DOBBS, RAM & Company in 1981, and as of 2008, serves as the President and CEO of the Atlanta Life Financial Group, Inc. Clement was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 27, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2007_114
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Technology chief executive William Alexander Clement, Jr. was born on January 22, 1943, in Atlanta, Georgia to politician Josephine Dobbs Clement and Executive Vice President for North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company William Alexander Clement, Sr. Clement received his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1964, majoring in mathematics and business administration and his M.B.A. degree in finance and insurance from Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1967.

Clement worked as a credit analyst for NCNB Corporation in Charlotte, North Carolina, as a registered representative for Bache & Company as well as a representative for the Robinson-Humphrey Company prior to becoming Vice President and Senior Loan Officer of Citizens Trust Bank in 1973. In 1977, Clement joined the United States Small Business Administration as an Associate Administrator. While in this position, he served as Senior Management Officer for the federal government's largest minority business development program. Clement received a presidential appointment by Jimmy Carter to join the Board of directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank in Washington, D.C. Clement is the Chairman and CEO of DOBBS, RAM & Company, a systems integration company. Founded in 1981, DOBBS, RAM & Company is a Tier II contractor engaged by the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to maintain its E-Filing System.

Clement became an outside director of Atlanta Life Insurance Company in 1992, and in 2001, the Board of directors named him as Chairman replacing Gregory Baranco. He was also appointed to the Board of directors of Radiant Systems in 2005. In 2007/2008, Clement was elected President and CEO of the Atlanta Life Financial Group, Inc. Clement is a member of the Atlanta Business League, the Small Business Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlanta Action Forum.

Clement is married to R. Ressie Guy-Clement and is the father of two children.

William Alexander Clement Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 27, 2007.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William A. Clement was conducted by Denise Gines on March 27, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Technology chief executive William A. Clement (1943 - ) is the co-founder of DOBBS, RAM & Company in 1981, and as of 2008, serves as the President and CEO of the Atlanta Life Financial Group, Inc.

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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:

Clement, William A., 1943-.

Gines, Denise (Interviewer).

Stearns, Scott (Videographer).

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Clement, William A., 1943---Interviews.

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African American businesspeople--Georgia--Atlanta--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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## HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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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 William A. Clement, March 27, 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 8/23/2011 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, March 27, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with William A. Clement, Section A2007\_114\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:30 2007/03/27

William Alexander Clement, Jr. slates the interview and lists his favorites. Clement provides his family background and the histories of his parents, Josephine Dobbs and William Alexander, Sr. He shares that his father was a

prominent business figure in Durham, North Carolina, and was the Grandmaster of the Prince Hall Masons, and his mother was a homemaker and educator. Clement discusses his parents' education. His mother attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, and his father attended Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. Clement goes on to talk about how his parents met in Atlanta and the value that was placed on entrepreneurship and education in his family.

African Americans--Education (Higher).

Prince Hall Masons of America.

African American families--North Carolina--Durham.

African American businesspeople.

Video Oral History Interview with William A. Clement, Section A2007\_114\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:20 2007/03/27

William Alexander Clement, Jr. discusses living in a segregated middle-class African American neighborhood in Durham, North Carolina in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Growing up a segregated community limited Clement's interaction with Caucasian children, his first experience with integration was at a summer camp in Boston, Massachusetts. Clement goes on to talk about his siblings and his educational experiences at all-black schools, with all African American teachers. He also takes time to examine his siblings' and his own professional endeavors. Clement then discusses his father's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement in Durham, North Carolina. Clement was very athletic and did not concentrate on school, but saw going to college as an eventuality. He recounts his college experiences and favorite professors at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mays, Benjamin E.--(Benjamin Elijah).

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

Durham (N.C.)--Race relations.

African Americans--Civil rights--North Carolina--Durham.

African Americans--Education.

Video Oral History Interview with William A. Clement, Section A2007\_114\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:40 2007/03/27

William Alexander Clement, Jr. discusses the Civil Rights Movement at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia where he graduated in 1964 with a B.A. degree in business administration. Clement explains that he needed work experience before enrolling at University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia. He recounts his experience as the only African American in his class. After he met his ex-wife, Patricia Holmes Washington, they moved to Atlanta, Georgia to take jobs at NCNB Corporation. While in Atlanta, he worked on Maynard Jackson's mayoral campaign. Jackson became Atlanta's first African American mayor. Clement talks about working as an associate administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration in the late 1970s during the Jimmy Carter administration.

Jackson, Maynard (1938-2003).

NCNB National Bank.

Wharton School.

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

Students--Political activity.

United States. Small Business Administration.

Video Oral History Interview with William A. Clement, Section A2007\_114\_001\_004, TRT:  
0:28:40 2007/03/27

William Alexander Clement, Jr. reminisces about the skills and knowledge he gained while working in the administration of President Jimmy Carter and how he used them to start his own business. He founded DOBBS Corporation, a management consultant company, in Atlanta, Georgia and in 1981, his company merged with Resource Account Management (RAM) to form DOBBS-RAM Company, a computing and data information company. He married Reesie Guy, in 1986, and had one daughter named Jeanetta. His goals for the future included serving as a mentor to upcoming black entrepreneurs and being a consultant to companies. Clement feels strongly about giving back which is why he works with inner-city kids to expose them to the business environment and by promoting the three B's: the book (education), the ballot (politics), and the buck (economic and business ventures).

Carter, Jimmy, 1924-.

United States. Small Business Administration.

Mentoring in education--United States.

Mentoring.

Video Oral History Interview with William A. Clement, Section A2007\_114\_001\_005, TRT:  
0:21:45 2007/03/27

William Alexander Clement, Jr. provides advice to future generations in the business world and talks about the three E's: education, experience, and exposure. He wants to be remembered by society as someone who moved ahead of his father's generation and as a man who did good deeds and did well. Clement shares photos of family and friends.

Business--Vocational guidance.