

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Marion Anderson

PERSON

Anderson, Marion , 1926-

Alternative Names: Anderson, Marion , 1926-

Life Dates: April 18, 1926-

Place of Birth: Charleston, South Carolina

Residence: New York, NY

Occupations: Master Tailor; Tailoring Instructor

Biographical Note

Master tailor and tailoring instructor Marion William Anderson was born to Ethel and William Anderson on April 4, 1926, in Charleston, South Carolina. Ethel Anderson was a beautician and William Anderson was a presser. Anderson's mother encouraged him to pursue a trade at Burke Industrial High School in Charleston. In 1947, after serving the U.S. Army in Asia for a few months, he graduated from high school, majoring in tailoring. In 1949, Anderson moved to Harlem, New York, in order to look for work. After a few jobs in industrial tailoring, Anderson pursued a teaching career.

After refining his skills at the American Gentleman School of Design, he started teaching at the Empire School of Design, a school that catered to African American World War II veterans. In 1956, Anderson began instructing prisoners in the tailor shop on Rikers Island. Four years later, he convinced the New York City Board of Education to create a tailoring curriculum, and he was hired at Sterling High School in Brooklyn, New York, where he would teach tailoring for thirty-three years.

In 1987, Anderson founded his own school, the Manhattanville Needle Trade School, in Harlem. In 2007, Anderson celebrated his twentieth year as the director at the school. During his lengthy career, he has tailored suits for many members of the Harlem elite, and taught a valuable trade to hundreds in Harlem and New York City.

Marion William Anderson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 29, 2007.

Related Entries

Johnson, Alethia []
Ex-wife

Anderson, William [CHILDOf]
Father

Anderson, Ethel [CHILDOf]
Mother

Anderson , Inez [SIBLINGOf]
Sister

Anderson, Fred [SIBLINGOf]
Brother

Anderson, Adrienne [PARENTOf]
Daughter

Anderson, Audrey [PARENTOf]
Daughter

Anderson, Aiva [PARENTOf]
Daughter

Anderson , Mark [PARENTOf]
Son

Anderson, Jr., Marion [PARENTOf]
Son

Henry P. Archer School in Charleston [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Burke Industrial High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Burke High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Adelphi University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Sam Berlen Men's Shop [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 01-1948 to 01-1949]

Tailor and Fitter

Popular Manufacturing Company [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 02-1949 to 03-1949]

Bushelman and Examiner

New York (State). Department of Corrections [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 03-1956 to 10-1960]

Teacher

John Rughermer Custom Tailors [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 04-1947 to 11-1947]

Pants Maker

Empire Trade School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 04-1949 to 12-1952]

Teacher

Harry Irwing Manufacturing Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 05-1949 to 06-1950]

Bushelman and Examiner

Mark Riley Custom Tailor [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 06-1950 to 03-1956]

Designer and Tailor

High School of Fashion Industries [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 09-1973 to 06-1977]

Teacher

Sterling High School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 09-1973 to 06-1974]

**Coordinator of After School Occupational Programs for Socially
Maladjusted and Emotionally Handicapped Teenagers**

New York (N.Y.). -- Board of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 10-1960 to 06-1993]

Teacher

Manhattanville Needle Trade School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to ?]

Founder and Director

[MEMBEROF]