

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robin Robinson

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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>	Robinson, Robin
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Robin Robinson,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 7, 2008,
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2008,
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:53:30).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Television news anchor Robin Robinson (1957 - ) is the anchorwoman for Chicago's Fox News and has won local Emmy Awards for her work. Robinson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 7, 2008, , in Chicago, Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2008_016
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Local Emmy Award winning television anchor Robin Carolle Robinson was born on August 4, 1957, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louie and Mati Robinson. Robinson was the second youngest in a family of six children. As a child, she was fascinated by her father's skills as a journalist, especially his ability to type quickly. In 1960, Robinson's father was promoted to West Coast editor of 'Ebony' magazine, and her family relocated to Pomona, California. Then, in 1963, her family moved to Claremont, California, where Robinson was one of the first African Americans to integrate the predominantly white Claremont High School.

After graduating from high school, Robinson went on to attend San Diego State University where she pursued her B.A. degree in journalism. She then worked for KGTV in San Diego. In 1981, Robinson was hired as an anchor by WBBM-TV, Chicago's CBS affiliate. She worked there until 1987, when she joined the staff of WFLD-TV Fox News Chicago. As an anchorwoman for Fox, Robinson received numerous awards, particularly for her coverage of the Great Chicago Flood and the funeral of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

In 1995, Robinson became a spokesperson for the Child Abuse Prevention Series. In 1997, after her older brother Greg passed away, she helped produce a series on heroin addiction. Robinson is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and serves on the board of directors of South Central Community Services, Inc.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Robin Robinson was conducted by Cheryl Butler on February 7, 2008, in Chicago, IllinoisChicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Television news anchor Robin Robinson (1957 - ) is the anchorwoman for Chicago's Fox News and has won local Emmy Awards for her work.

## 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:

Robinson, Robin, 1957-

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Robinson, Robin, 1957---Interviews

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African American television journalists--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews

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Women television journalists--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews

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Television news anchors--Illinois--Chicago--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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WFLD-TV (Chicago, Ill.)

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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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 Robin Robinson, February 7, 2008, . The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2013 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, February 7, 2008,

Video Oral History Interview with Robin Robinson, Section A2008\_016\_001\_001, TRT: 0:31:10  
2008/02/07

Robin Robinson discussed her family background. Her mother, Mati Dolores (Huckaby) Robinson was born on November 7, 1925 in Dallas, Texas. She was the third of three children born to her mother. Her mother, Ruth Bell Huckaby was married to Mr. Huckaby with whom she had two sons. Ruth Bell Huckaby was a domestic who worked for a German family named Mueller. Mr. Mueller raped and impregnated Ruth Bell with Mati. The incident was referred to as having a “Nigga-Up-a-Tree”. During that time, it was commonly known that women would be taken advantage of by their employers and their husbands

were often defenseless and unable to protect them in addition would risk losing work. Robinson also discussed hierarchy in colorism and challenges faced by bi-racial children.

African American families--California.

Rape victims--Family relationships--United States.

Passing (Identity).

Video Oral History Interview with Robin Robinson, Section A2008\_016\_001\_002, TRT: 0:24:35  
2008/02/07

Robin Robinson continued to discuss her family background and her great-grandparents and grandfather's occupations. Robinson's grandfather, J.U. Wyatt, was a porter on the trains and her grandmother, Annie Wyatt, was a housewife. Louie Robinson, Sr. was a maintenance man at a bank. Robinson recalls seeing Jim Crow signs on water fountains for the first time on her trip to see her grandfather, Louie Robinson, Sr., in Enid, Oklahoma in 1968. Robinson moved to Pomona, California because her father was a journalist and the head of the West Coast JET office. Robinson's mother worked as a career counselor at California Polytechnical College. Robinson's family moved from Pomona to Claremont, California during the time of civil rights unrest. During this time, Robin Robinson wrote about real life events in her junior high composition courses and realized she was interested in becoming a journalist.

Johnson Publishing Company.

Middle class African Americans.

African Americans--Social conditions.

African American journalists--History.

Video Oral History Interview with Robin Robinson, Section A2008\_016\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:00  
2008/02/07

Robin Robinson discussed her father's work as a journalist, what it meant to her as a youth, moving from one neighborhood to another in Southern California and connecting racial identity. Robinson did not understand the significance of her father's work at the time of her childhood. Robinson had an ideal childhood. She owned a horse, had friends in the neighborhood, and was not introduced to racism. In junior high school at La Puerta, Robinson was popular and had many white friends. The area of Claremont, California had seven colleges in the town. Robinson feels her parents kept she and her siblings safe by raising them in an area where there was not focus on their skin.

Education, Higher.

African Americans--Education (Higher).

African Americans--California.

Video Oral History Interview with Robin Robinson, Section A2008\_016\_001\_004, TRT: 0:28:45  
2008/02/07

Robin Robinson discussed the protests that occurred in the 1960s in Los Angeles and in her town. Her neighbors were concerned with anti-war and civil rights but was too suburban to be actively engaged in the civil rights movement. Robinson remembers talks between neighbors and her mother about the right and wrong way to achieve change. Robinson discussed the counter culture during the 1960s and her involvement as a youth. Robinson shared information about her siblings. Robinson's father's roles as a parent and a professional were responsibilities he took very seriously. Following in her father's footsteps, Robinson decided to become a journalist. She began a newsletter in high school, which was unauthorized, unorthodox and exposed all the things going

on in the school. Robinson loved writing about real life versus fiction. From that point on, she began to understand the formula of journalism. Performance and journalism in broadcast journalism became a good blend of drama and journalism, which suited her professional ambitions.

African Americans--Drug use.

Civil rights movements--United States.

Hippies--California.