

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles Teamer, Sr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Teamer, Charles, 1933-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr.,
Dates:	April 27, 2019 and March 28, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008 and 2019
Physical Description:	12 Betacame SP videocassettes uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:12:21).
Abstract:	Banker and civic leader Charles Teamer, Sr. (1933 -) served as chief financial officer at Dillard University for over thirty years and co-founded Dryades Savings Bank and served as chairman. Teamer was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 27, 2019 and March 28, 2008, in New Orleans, LA and New Orleans, Louisiana. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_061
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Banker and civic leader Charles Teamer, Sr. was born on May 20, 1933 in Shelby, North Carolina to B.T. Teamer and Mary Teamer. He received his B.S. degree from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958, and later received his M.A. degree from the University of Nebraska and his Ph.D. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Teamer worked in the office of the business manager at South Carolina State

University in 1954. He then became assistant business manager at Tennessee State University in 1958; and, in 1962, Teamer was hired as business manager at Wiley College. In 1965, Teamer became vice president of finance at Dillard University and was promoted to chief financial officer in 1968. In 1983, he was appointed by Louisiana Governor David Treen as the first African American on the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans. From 1985 to 1988, Teamer served as the national president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. In 1993, Teamer co-founded the Dryades Savings Bank and served as chairman. He later retired from Dillard University in 1997, and continued to work as a consultant to Clark Atlanta University. In 2001, Teamer led a partnership of investors in opening The Cotton Exchange and Holiday Inn Express Hotel in downtown New Orleans, and became president of the World Trade Center of New Orleans in 2003.

Former executive director of the Amistad Research Center and a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, Teamer has held numerous board appointments on the Board of Education of the United Methodist Church, the Ford Foundation, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Common Fund, the National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers, the Ochsner Medical Foundation and the Audubon Institute. Teamer also served as board chair for the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, the Metropolitan Area Committee, Harrah's New Orleans Casino, the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the United Way. He was a member of the business and higher-education council for the University of New Orleans and served on the board of the Southern Education Foundation. Teamer was president of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers and vice president of fiscal affairs at Dillard University and Clark Atlanta University. He was a member of the board of supervisors for the University of Louisiana System and was on the board of administrators of Tulane University. Teamer was also the director of Entergy New Orleans.

Teamer was married for forty-seven years to the late Mary Dixon Teamer. They have three children: Charles, Jr., Roderic, Sr. and Cheryl. Teamer has six grandchildren.

Charles Teamer, Sr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 28, 2008 and April 27, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Charles Teamer, Sr. was conducted by Larry

Crowe on April 27, 2019 and March 28, 2008, in New Orleans, LA and New Orleans, Louisiana, and was recorded on 12 Betacame SP videocassettes uncompressed MOV digital video files. Banker and civic leader Charles Teamer, Sr. (1933 -) served as chief financial officer at Dillard University for over thirty years and co-founded Dryades Savings Bank and served as chairman.

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:

Teamer, Charles, 1933-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Teamer, Charles, 1933---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Banker

Civic Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers|CivicMakers

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 Charles Teamer, Sr., April 27, 2019 and March 28, 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 2/5/2020 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

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_001_001, TRT: 1:29:38 2008/03/28

Charles Teamer, Sr. was born on May 20, 1933 in Shelby, North Carolina to Mary Wilkins Teamer and Boyd Teamer. His father's family traced its roots to two former slaves in Virginia, who took the name Teamer after emancipation. One went to Alabama, while the other settled in South Carolina, where Teamer's paternal family originated. Teamer's paternal grandfather was a successful farmer and landowner in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, where he raised fifteen sons, including Teamer's father. His father later moved to Shelby, North Carolina to work as a contractor, and then as a railroad freight forwarder. Teamer's mother was born in the 1890s in South Carolina, and had little education. She raised seven children, including Teamer, in the segregated town of Shelby, before moving to Salisbury, North Carolina in 1946. There, Teamer's father was a Baptist deacon and a

Mason, and Teamer belonged to an all-black Boy Scout troop. In 1980, Teamer joined the Prince Hall Freemasonry in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_001_002, TRT: 2:30:22 2008/03/28

Charles Teamer, Sr. spent his early childhood in Shelby, North Carolina, where he belonged to the Baptist Young People's Union at Shiloh Baptist Church. He began his education at the Cleveland County Training School in Shelby. During this time, Teamer developed an interest in history; read comic books; and was active in the Boy Scouts, although he did not become an Eagle Scout. He also listened to the radio broadcasts of Joe Louis' boxing matches. When he was a teenager, Teamer's family moved to Salisbury, North Carolina, where they lived near Livingstone College, a historically black institution founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church. Teamer played basketball at J.C. Price High School, and served as president of his senior class. Upon graduation, Teamer was recruited to attend Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia by Dean Charlton Hamilton, and received a scholarship. He began his studies there in 1950, during James P. Brawley's presidency.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_001_003, TRT: 3:29:25 2008/03/28

Charles Teamer, Sr. attended Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he studied business under Dr. Larzette Hale-Wilson, and took courses with sociologist William Hale and English professor Stella Brewer Brookes. He also pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, where he was active in voter registration. Upon graduating in 1954, Teamer was hired by Paul King, the business manager at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, South Carolina. In 1956, Teamer enlisted in the U.S. Army, and served for two years at Fort Jackson in South Carolina and Fort Knox in Kentucky. After delisting, he returned to work for King at Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University in Nashville, Tennessee. Teamer then became a business manager at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where he and his wife, Mary Dixon Teamer, took part in a sit-in at the Marshall Hotel. He remembers his

mentor, Hobart S. Jarrett; interstate travel at the time of the Civil Rights Movement; and the influence of communism during the era.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section A2008_061_001_004, TRT: 4:29:22 2008/03/28

Charles Teamer, Sr. served as a business officer at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. In 1965, Teamer was invited by President Albert W. Dent to join his administration at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He became the school's chief financial officer, and managed its endowment and audit process. In New Orleans, Teamer also became the first African American corporate board member; secured funding for the city's newly integrated Boy Scouts council; and became an officer and chairman of the Capital Area United Way. He joined the Mardi Gras krewe of Rex as its first African American member in 1991. Then, in 1993, Teamer cofounded the Dryades Savings Bank, F.S.B., which opened its first location in New Orleans the following year. Teamer left Dillard University in 1997 to serve as a financial consultant for Clark Atlanta University at the request of its president, Thomas W. Cole, and business executive Carl Ware.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section A2008_061_001_005, TRT: 5:31:12 2008/03/28

Charles Teamer, Sr. served as the interim director of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, Louisiana after his retirement from Dillard University. His wife, Mary Dixon Teamer, passed away in 2004. Around this time, Teamer became the Grand Sire Archon of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and served as chairman of Dryades Savings Bank, F.S.B. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the bank changed its leadership, and aligned with First NBC Bank. Teamer and a group of investors also purchased the Historic Cotton Exchange building, part of which was developed as the Cotton Exchange Hotel. He also describes his children, including teacher Charles Teamer, Jr.; insurance executive Roderick Teamer; and Cheryl Teamer, who was a vice president at Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. Teamer describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, and concludes this part of the interview by reflecting upon his

life, legacy and how he would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_001_006, TRT: 6:08:10 2008/03/28

Charles Teamer, Sr. narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_002_007, TRT: 7:28:13 2019/04/27

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_002_008, TRT: 8:28:26 2019/04/27

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_002_009, TRT: 9:28:44 2019/04/27

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_002_010, TRT: 10:28:07 2019/04/27

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_002_011, TRT: 11:30:34 2019/04/27

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Teamer, Sr., Section
A2008_061_002_012, TRT: 12:10:08 2019/04/27