



# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carver Gayton

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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>	Carver Gayton
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carver Gayton,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 4, 2008
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:28:50).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator, corporate executive, and museum chief executive Carver Gayton (1938 - ) became the first black F.B.I. agent from the State of Washington. Grayton also became the first full-time black coach for the University of Washington in 1968. When appointed as Director of Affirmative Action programs, he established the first affirmative action program by an institution of higher learning in the state. Gayton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 4, 2008, in Seattle, Washington. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2008_080
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator, corporate executive, and museum chief executive, Carver Clark Gayton was born on October 18, 1938 in the Madrona District of Seattle, Washington to John Jacob and Virginia Clark Gayton. Born to a rich heritage, Gayton was raised in a family of ten and attended Madrona Grade School and Meany Junior High School as a youth. Afterwards, he attended Seattle's Garfield High School where he excelled academically and athletically. He was a member of the school's football team and was named to the All-City and All-State teams for his talents as a running back. In his senior year, he was elected Class President and was recruited by the University of Washington Head Football Coach Darrel Royal with a four year scholarship. In 1959, Gayton started as a freshman on the University of Washington football team, but was injured and unable to play after his second game, when he tore ligaments and cartilage in his knee. By the following season, Gayton recovered from his injuries, and he was allowed to play in the 1960 Rose Bowl, helping the Huskies defeat the University of Wisconsin forty-four to seven. That spring, he graduated from the University of Washington with his B.A. degree in history and a minor in English.

In 1961, under the leadership of Coach Jim Owens, Gayton served as an Assistant Coach for the University of Washington and was instrumental in the team winning the Rose Bowl for a consecutive year. Afterwards, he was hired as a teacher at his alma mater Garfield High School. In January of 1964, Gayton became the first black Federal Bureau of Investigation agent from the state of Washington when he received a letter signed by the bureau's director J. Edgar Hoover. While serving in that capacity, he conducted thorough background checks on appointed government officials and alleged members of the Italian mafia. Subsequently, Gayton returned to his career in education and pursued his M.A. degree in educational administration at Temple University. In 1967, he

went on to work as a special security representative for the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Sunnyvale, California.

In 1968, Gayton became the first full-time black coach for the University of Washington. He was also assigned to the Department of University Relations and served an assistant to the department's vice president. During his tenure as an assistant football coach, Gayton recruited fourteen black players, the most in the University of Washington's history. In 1969, in protest of the suspension of four black players by Coach Jim Owens for threatening to boycott the team, Gayton resigned as head coach and was appointed to the new position of Director of Affirmative Action Programs. As the director, he established the first affirmative action program by an institution of higher learning in the state, and instituted the first comprehensive staff training program at the University of Washington. In 1972, Gayton earned his M.A. degree in public administration, and in 1976, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Shortly after, he was hired as a full-time assistant professor in the Department of Public Administration at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

After serving two years as Assistant Professor, Gayton was recruited by the Boeing Company as Corporate Manager of Education Relations, and was responsible for supervising a contract with Cogswell College. Under his leadership, Boeing helped its employees in furthering their education by promoting night classes at Cogswell College. In the mid-1980s, Gayton was promoted to Director of Education Relations and Training, and in 1991, he became Boeing's Corporate Director of College and University Relations. From 1997 until 2001, Gayton served under Governor Gary Locke as the Commissioner of Washington State Department of Employment Security. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the Northwest African American Museum in 2005, Gayton was a lecturer and consultant for the University of Washington. He serves on several boards, including the U.S. Department of Education National Advisory Panel/National Center for Post Secondary Governance and Finance and The Association of Governing Boards. Gayton retired as Executive Director June 25, 2008 and lives in Seattle, Washington with his wife Carmen and their son Chandler.

Carver Gayton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 4, 2008.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carver Gayton was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 4, 2008, in Seattle, Washington, and was recorded on 3 Betacam SP videocassettes. Academic administrator, corporate executive, and museum chief executive Carver Gayton (1938 - ) became the first black F.B.I. agent from the State of Washington. Grayton also became the first full-time black coach for the University of Washington in 1968. When appointed as Director of Affirmative Action programs, he established the first affirmative action program by an institution of higher learning in the state.

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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:

Gayton, Carver

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Gayton, Carver--Interviews

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African American executives--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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Boeing Company.

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Northwest African American Museum

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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BusinessMakers

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EducationMakers

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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 Carver Gayton, June 4, 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 8/15/2011 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, June 4, 2008

Video Oral History Interview with Carver Gayton, Section A2008\_080\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:20  
2008/06/04

Carver Gayton discusses his maternal side of the family. The discussion revolves mainly around the slave narrative that Gayton's great grandfather wrote and the model for a character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Gayton shares the story of Lewis Clarke, a prominent black abolitionist in the 1840s and 1850s and writer of the slave narrative titled, "The Sufferings of Lewis and Milton Clark, Sons of a Soldier of the Revolution." Clark was living in Canada at a time when there was a debate in the US over whether slaves and freedmen should stay in the U.S. or join a movement to settle in Africa, South America, or the Caribbean. The extensive colonies of black settlers in Canada are discussed. Clark and Josiah Henson, the model for Uncle Tom in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," were on several of the same abolitionist committees together in Canada.

African American families--Washington (State)--Seattle

African American abolitionists

Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896--Uncle Tom's Cabin

African Americans--Ontario--History--19th century

Video Oral History Interview with Carver Gayton, Section A2008\_080\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:20  
2008/06/04

Carver Gayton finishes an off camera discussion that linked Hiram Revels to his family, including a link through Susie Revels Cayton and Horace Cayton, Jr. Cayton and Gayton's father were the same age and played together. The discussion evolves into one on the black intelligentsia before returning to a

discussion of the Gayton's father. Gayton discusses Homer Harris, a prominent African American scholar and athlete from Seattle, Washington.

African American families--Washington (State)--Seattle

Revels, Hiram Rhoades,--1822-1901

Video Oral History Interview with Carver Gayton, Section A2008\_080\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:10  
2008/06/04

Carver Gayton describes his parents' meeting in Seattle, Washington, through the activities of the YWCA and A.M.E. church. Gayton discusses his relationships with his mother and father. He describes his grandmother as having white features but also as a "race woman." Gayton describes the racial evolution and eventual gentrification of his neighborhood in Seattle, the Central District, including a discussion on the de facto racial segregation, producing schools with different backgrounds. Gayton shares the influence and impact of a white teacher, Mr. Parker Cook, and recalls learning Yiddish from Jewish children.

African American families--Washington (State)--Seattle

African American couples--Washington (State)--Seattle

Segregation--Washington (State)--Seattle