

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Crawford, St. Elmo W., 1952-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford,
Dates:	July 27, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:34:40).
Abstract:	Dentist Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford (1952 -) ran three private practice locations in Washington, D.C. He was also an assistant professor in Howard University College of Dentistry's Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Crawford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 27, 2008, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_097
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. St. Elmo Wallace Crawford, Jr., was born on September 26, 1952, in Washington, D.C. He is the son of Dr. St. Elmo Crawford, Sr., and Maime Crawford, a musician. He is also the great grandson of prominent businesswoman Maggie Walker. Crawford graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School in 1970 and received his B.S. degree from Hampton University in 1973. He later earned his D.D.S. degree from Howard University Dental School in 1977.

Crawford fulfilled his Residency at Georgetown University College of Dentistry

and earned his certificate in pediatric dentistry and orthodontics at Children's Hospital in 1982. He began teaching at Howard University College of Dentistry in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry in 1977. Crawford went on to become an assistant professor in the College of Dentistry for Howard University in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. In addition to his teaching, Crawford began a private practice in 1983 which later expanded to three practice locations.

Crawford is an active member of the National Dentist Association and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He is also a member of the National Dental Association, Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, American Society of Dentistry for Children, Academy of Dentistry International and the American Association of Dental Examiners.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 27, 2008, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Dentist Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford (1952 -) ran three private practice locations in Washington, D.C. He was also an assistant professor in Howard University College of Dentistry's Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

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:

Crawford, St. Elmo W., 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Crawford, St. Elmo W., 1952---Interviews

African American dentists--Interviews

Medical colleges--Faculty--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Howard University. College of Dentistry

Occupations:

Dentist

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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 Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford, July 27, 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 Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford, Section A2008_097_001_001, TRT: 0:28:20 2008/07/27

Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford was born on September 26, 1952 in Washington, D.C. to St. Elmo W. Crawford, Sr. and Mamie Walker Crawford. His great-grandmother, Maggie Lena Walker, founded St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, and was the first African American and first female bank owner in the United States. Crawford's mother grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and studied at Howard University and New York University. His father was born in Florida to Pearl Wallace Crawford and attorney Robert Crawford, Jr. After Crawford's paternal grandfather died, his grandmother moved with her sons to Washington, D.C., and became the head nurse at Freedmen's Hospital. His father studied at Howard University College of Dentistry, where he met Crawford's mother. He served in the Dental Corps during the Korean War, and then went into private practice. When Crawford was a child, his mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer, but was cured with experimental radiation therapy at Memorial Hospital and the Sloan Kettering Institute.

African American dentists--Interviews.

Medical colleges--Faculty--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford, Section A2008_097_001_002, TRT: 0:28:20 2008/07/27

Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford grew up with his sister, Nancy Crawford Ware, in the Brightwood neighborhood of Washington, D.C. He often repaired car engines with a neighbor, and his mother taught him to play piano and violin. Crawford was deeply impacted by his mother's cancer, and developed a strong religious faith during her illness. The family belonged to St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, where the Reverend William Wendt was active in the Poor People's Campaign of 1968. Crawford's father's dental practice was spared from the riots of that year, although many other businesses

in the H Street quarter were destroyed. Crawford attended Brightwood Elementary School, where he enjoyed working on science projects. He went on to Calvin Coolidge High School, where he admired Principal William Roundtree. Upon graduation in 1970, Crawford matriculated at the Hampton Institute in Virginia, where he joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and studied biology under Professor James B. Abram, Jr., a parasitologist.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford, Section A2008_097_001_003, TRT: 0:30:50 2008/07/27

Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford was active in several academic organizations at the Hampton Institute, and graduated in three years. At twenty years old, he became one of the youngest students at the Howard University College of Dentistry. There, Crawford was encouraged to pursue pediatric dentistry by Professor Walter Manning. Upon graduation, Crawford taught at the college for ten years, while completing a degree in pediatric dentistry at Georgetown University School of Dentistry and a residency at Children's National Medical Center. He continued teaching at Howard University as a full time assistant professor, until his father passed way in 1986. Then, Crawford entered private practice. In 1989, he met Giselle Crawford when she was hired at his office, and they later married. Crawford talks about community dentistry and his concerns for the African American community. He also reflects upon his advice for young dentists; his family, including his two children; and his life and legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. St. Elmo W. Crawford, Section A2008_097_001_004, TRT: 0:07:10 2008/07/27

St. Elmo W. Crawford narrates his photographs