

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Clarice Dibble Walker

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Walker, Clarice Dibble, 1936-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Clarice Dibble Walker,
Dates:	May 1, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:17:16).
Abstract:	Social work researcher Clarice Dibble Walker (1936 -) was known for her research on socio-cultural factors involving children and families in urban environments. Walker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 1, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_065
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor and commissioner of social services, Clarice Dibble Walker was born on March 31, 1936 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She is the granddaughter of Robert Robinson Taylor, and the daughter of Helen Taylor Dibble, and Dr. Eugene Heriot Dibble, Jr. Walker is the youngest of five children. Her grandfather, Robert Robinson Taylor was born on June 8, 1868. He was the first African American to graduate with a degree in architecture from MIT in 1892. Taylor worked with Booker T. Washington as an architect at Tuskegee University from 1890 until 1930. He has designed several of Tuskegee's most prominent buildings such as the science buildings, dormitories and the school's chapel. Helen Annetta Taylor was

born on October 15, 1901 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She attended Fisk University and graduated with her B.A. in music. Walker's father Dr. Eugene Heriot Dibble Jr., attended Atlanta University and Howard medical school. He was the head of John Andrew Hospital and served in World War II as Colonel.

Walker attended Chambliss Childrens School in Tuskegee, Alabama and Northfield High School in Massachusetts. She received her B.S. degree from Sarah Lawrence College in Westchester County, New York in 1957. Walker later obtained her M.A. degree from Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. In 1992, she served as Commissioner of Social Services for the Government of the District of Columbia. Walker has worked at Howard University as professor and department chair in the Graduate School of Social Work, Program Development in the Child Development Center, Department of Pediatrics, and the College of Medicine. She has served as visiting lecturer at Bryn Mawr School of Social Work and Social Research. In addition, she has worked as a psychiatric social worker at the University of Montreal General Hospital in Montreal Canada.

Walker has served as Chair of the Distribution Committee of the Survivors Fund, the Research Committee of Prevent Child Abuse America and the Board of Safe Shores. She has also served as Trustee for the Seed Public Charter School, Sarah Lawrence College and Howard University. Walker is married to George H. Walker, and they have four children together.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Clarice Dibble Walker was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 1, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Social work researcher Clarice Dibble Walker (1936 -) was known for her research on socio-cultural factors involving children and families in urban environments.

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:

Walker, Clarice Dibble, 1936-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Walker, Clarice Dibble, 1936---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

Occupations:

Social Work Researcher

HistoryMakers® Category:

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 Clarice Dibble Walker, May 1, 2012. 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 Clarice Dibble Walker, Section A2012_065_001_001, TRT: 1:29:41 2012/05/01

Clarice Dibble Walker was born on March 31, 1936 in Tuskegee, Alabama to Helen Taylor Dibble and Eugene H. Dibble, Jr. Her maternal grandfather, Robert Robinson Taylor, was born in North Carolina, and matriculated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was the first African American to graduate from the university. After graduating, Robinson Taylor moved to Tuskegee at the request of Booker T. Washington to assist in the founding of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Her mother was raised on the campus alongside notable African Americans such as Air Force General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. and inventor George Washington Carver. Dibble Walker's mother studied music at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and worked as a secretary for the YWCA in Denver, Colorado before returning to Tuskegee. Dibble Walker's paternal grandparents, Sallie Lee Dibble and Eugene H. Dibble, Sr., owned a grocery store in Camden, South Carolina where her father was born.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarice Dibble Walker, Section A2012_065_001_002, TRT: 2:29:58 2012/05/01

Clarice Dibble Walker's father, Eugene H. Dibble, Jr., attended Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina before attending Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia and Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. After graduating, Dibble Walker's father was assigned to the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama where he met and married her mother, Helen Taylor Dibble. As head of the hospital, Dibble Walker's father was the primary physician of the school's president, Robert Russa Moton, and accompanied him on his international trips in the early 1920s. Dibble Walker's

paternal family members included Ambassador Mabel Murphy Smythe Haith and Sarah Murphy Palmore, who was a major in the Women's Army Corps. Dibble Walker was born and raised within the close knit African American community at the Tuskegee Institute campus where she was sheltered from the segregation and racism that was present in downtown Tuskegee.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarice Dibble Walker, Section A2012_065_001_003, TRT: 3:28:53 2012/05/01

Clarice Dibble Walker's father was head of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. There, he founded the John A. Andrew Clinical Society, which was a yearly gathering of African American physicians from across the country. Dibble Walker's father was dedicated to his work at the hospital and treated patients from across the region. She and her siblings often traveled on the weekends with their father on his house calls. Due to his long hours, Dibble Walker's mother, Helen Taylor Dibble, stayed home to raise Dibble Walker and her four siblings on the Tuskegee Institute grounds, alongside the families of Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver and singer Lionel Richie. On the campus, Dibble Walker attended nursery school and the Chambliss Children's House School. There, she took music lessons, and enjoyed listening to spiritual music. She then went on to attend the St. Joseph Catholic School in Tuskegee.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarice Dibble Walker, Section A2012_065_001_004, TRT: 4:29:18 2012/05/01

Clarice Dibble Walker grew up on the Tuskegee Institute campus in Tuskegee, Alabama. There, she attended church at the institute's chapel, socialized with the Tuskegee Airmen and attended the school's entertainment series, which included both live performances and film screenings. Dibble Walker attended the Chambliss Children's House School, St. Joseph Catholic School and Tuskegee Institute High School in Tuskegee. For her junior and senior years of high school, she transferred to the Northfield School of Girls in Gill, Massachusetts. As one of the few African American students at the school, Dibble Walker faced discrimination from the school's

parents who did not want their children associating with her. Although Dibble Walker experienced some discrimination while growing up in the South, she was mostly sheltered from this type of aggression. After graduating, Dibble Walker matriculated at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York to study political science and psychology.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarice Dibble Walker, Section A2012_065_001_005, TRT: 5:29:24 2012/05/01

Clarice Dibble Walker attended Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York where she became interested in early childhood education and psychology. After graduating in 1957, she matriculated at Columbia University in New York City to earn a master's degree in psychiatric social work. While there, Dibble Walker completed field work with the City of New York Department of Welfare and the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. After obtaining her degree in 1959, Dibble Walker married William Holmes and moved to Montreal, Canada where she worked in psychiatry at Montreal General Hospital until her divorce in 1961. Dibble Walker then moved to Chicago, Illinois to teach at the University of Chicago in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. In Chicago, Dibble Walker met and married George H. Walker III. In 1964, Dibble Walker and her family moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked for the United Planning Organization as the director of Capital Head Start, Inc.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarice Dibble Walker, Section A2012_065_001_006, TRT: 6:29:53 2012/05/01

Clarice Dibble Walker became director of Capital Head Start, Inc. in Washington, D.C. in 1965. In this role, Dibble Walker provided assistance to children and their parents in the areas of health, nutrition and cognitive development. During her tenure there, Dibble Walker witnessed the civil rights activities and riots in 1968 following the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1969, Dibble Walker was recruited to teach direct practice and clinical practice at the Howard University School of Social Work in Washington, D.C.

During this time, she also served as chairman of the National Black Child Development Institute where she researched foster care conditions and needs in the country's larger cities. She was also involved with the SEED School of Washington, D.C., an urban boarding school for college bound children. Dibble Walker reflects upon her life, including her upbringing on the Tuskegee Institute campus in Tuskegee, Alabama; and her career at Howard University.

Video Oral History Interview with Clarice Dibble Walker, Section A2012_065_001_007, TRT: 7:20:09 2012/05/01

Clarice Dibble Walker served as commissioner of the Commission on Social Services in Washington, D.C. after acting as an expert witness in the American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit against the District of Columbia. In this role, Dibble Walker worked alongside the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and joined the board of the Freddie Mac Foundation. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Dibble Walker joined the board of the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region and helped to establish the Distribution Committee of the Survivors' Fund Governance Board, which assisted individuals affected by the attacks. Dibble Walker had four children: Ann Walker Marchant, Carolyn Walker Niles, George H. Walker IV and Cyrus Walker. Dibble Walker reflects upon the legacy of her father, Eugene H. Dibble, Jr. at the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama, as well as her own life and legacy. She concludes the interview by describing how she would like to be remembered.