

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Anthony Reed

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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>	Reed, Anthony R., 1955-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed,
<b>Dates:</b>	January 28, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:21:42).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Marathoner Anthony Reed (1955 - ) was the first African American to compete in marathons in all seven continents of the world. He also co-founded the National Black Marathoners Association (NBMA). Reed was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 28, 2013, in Dallas, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_027
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Marathoner Anthony R. Reed was born in St. Louis, Missouri on July 2, 1955. At the age of eight, Reed was diagnosed with a pre-diabetic condition. He graduated from John Burroughs High School in St. Louis, Missouri in 1973. Reed graduated from Webster University with his B.A. degrees in mathematics and business management in 1978. After enrolling at Abilene Christian University in Dallas, Reed received his M.B.A. degree in business administration in 1982. He went on to earn his M.S. degree in accounting and his certification in supply chain management from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1992 and 2008,

respectively. Reed is a Certified Public Accountant and certified Project Management Professional.

In 1977, Reed began his professional career as a computer programmer. He moved from St. Louis to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area in 1978, and worked in IT management and executive positions for various Dallas-based organizations. In these roles, Reed was responsible for overseeing US or worldwide information technology applications. As an adjunct professor, Reed taught management, IT, accounting, and project management courses; and has authored over fifty books and articles. Since 1994, he has managed his own international accounting and project management consulting firm, Anthony R. Reed, CPA P.C. In addition to his academic and professional achievements, Reed is an accomplished marathoner. He began long-distance running in 1975 to combat his pre-diabetic condition. Reed, a certified running coach, is the first African American to compete in marathons (26.2 miles/42.2K) on all seven continents, including Antarctica. He also completed over one-hundred and twenty marathons in forty-eight states, and won trophies in various age groups and weight divisions. Reed is also on the Dallas (formerly White Rock) Marathon board of directors.

Reed's published memoir is *Running Shoes Are Cheaper than Insulin: Marathon Adventures on All Seven Continents*. Additionally, he has written for publications such as *Runner's World* and *Computerworld*. Reed has been featured in *Southern Living*, *Ebony*, *the Journal of Accountancy*, *the Black MBA Magazine*, and *Runner's World*, among others.

In 2004, Reed, along with Charlotte Simmons-Foster, co-founded the National Black Marathoners Association (NBMA), which is the nation's largest not-for-profit organization that promotes distance running in the Black community. Reed is a charter member of the Black Data Processing Association's (BDPA) Dallas Chapter and was active in the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). Reed has worked as a professional speaker for corporations, educational institutions, and professional organizations and was a member of the National Speakers Association. Reed is a member of Transforming Life Christian Church, where his wife, Deborah, is a minister.

Anthony R. Reed was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 28, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Anthony Reed was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 28, 2013, in Dallas, Texas, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV

digital video files. Marathoner Anthony Reed (1955 - ) was the first African American to compete in marathons in all seven continents of the world. He also co-founded the National Black Marathoners Association (NBMA).

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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:**

Reed, Anthony R., 1955-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews  
Reed, Anthony R., 1955---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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National Black MBA Association

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## **Occupations:**

Marathoner

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

SportsMakers

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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 Anthony Reed, January 28, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral

## 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).

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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

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed, Section  
A2013\_027\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:33 2013/01/28

Anthony Reed was born on July 2, 1955 in St. Louis, Missouri to Jeannette Coleman and Curtiss Reed, Sr. His maternal great-grandparents Emma Smith and James Smith lived in Claiborne County, Mississippi. Their daughter, Inez Smith, married Prince Coleman, Sr., whose ancestors included John Coleman, a white overseer at the Windsor plantation, and a Native American woman named Maria. Prince Coleman, Sr. owned a construction company near Port Gibson, Mississippi, where Reed's mother was born in 1935. When her mother died, she was raised by her grandparents until moving to St. Louis to live with her aunt Beatrice Pickett in 1948. Reed's paternal grandparents, Evans Reed and Verdie Kirkendall Reed, were sharecroppers in Yalobusha County, Mississippi who gradually moved to the north. Reed's father was born in 1928 in Paducah, Kentucky, where he completed his high school education. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and then moved to St.

Louis, where he and Reed's mother met and married.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed, Section  
A2013\_027\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:06 2013/01/28

Anthony Reed grew up in the Arthur Blumyer Village housing projects in St. Louis, Missouri, and attended Madison Elementary School and Ashland Elementary School. His parents, Jeannette Coleman and Curtiss Reed, Sr., separated around 1964, and Reed and older brother, Curtiss Reed, Jr., were raised by their mother in North St. Louis. Reed remained close to his father whom he saw on the weekends. Reed completed the third through fifth grades at Clark Elementary School. During this time, he took speech classes to improve his speech impediment, and gravitated towards subjects like math. In the sixth grade, Reed entered Enright Middle School, where he was encouraged by teacher Herbert Spain to join the school's first newspaper. He also collected stamps, and became interested in international travel through his aunt Ressie Reed. Reed participated in the Boy Scouts as well as the United Way summer camps, where he developed a love of nature at Camp Wyman in Eureka, Missouri, and Camp Sherwood Forest in Troy, Missouri.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed, Section  
A2013\_027\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:10 2013/01/28

Anthony Reed visited Washington, D.C. on a school trip in 1968, where he encountered the heightened tension following the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reed also experienced segregation while visiting his maternal great-grandmother Emma Smith in Port Gibson, Mississippi. To avoid the violence in his community in St. Louis, Missouri, Reed had very little interaction with the neighborhood children, and instead developed an interest in books and television. During this time, he sang in the West Side Missionary Baptist Church choir, played the clarinet at Enright Middle School and aspired to become a professional bowler. In the ninth grade, he enrolled at the private John Burroughs School in Ladue, Missouri. There, he struggled academically and socially in the prejudiced and classist environment. Nevertheless, Reed joined the track and soccer teams, which helped him to lose weight and manage his

prediabetes condition. After school and on the weekends, Reed worked as a cleaner and a waiter.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed, Section  
A2013\_027\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:16 2013/01/28

Anthony Reed attended John Burroughs School in Ladue, Missouri. After school, he worked with the cleaning staff, and befriended janitor Bernice Curlett who encouraged him to persevere through his challenges. After graduation, he entered Washington University in St. Louis, where he studied math, engineering and computer programming. When a close friend died from complications of type 2 diabetes in 1974, Reed committed to run an average of three miles a day to better manage his prediabetes condition. He was also inspired by graduate student Greg Scott's academic achievements. However, Reed became heavily immersed in the black social scene at Washington University, and focused less on his coursework, which resulted in his academic suspension. He then worked as a computer programmer, and attended Webster University in St. Louis. After graduating in 1978, Reed completed one year at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, before he was forced to leave when they withdrew a portion of his scholarship.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed, Section  
A2013\_027\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:07 2013/01/28

Anthony Reed left Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas in August of 1979, and returned to St. Louis, Missouri. In 1980, he moved to Dallas, Texas to work at Texas Instruments Incorporated as a cost center manager. In this role, he participated in hiring processes, and saw how white hiring managers discriminated against African American candidates. To improve his prospects, he completed his M.B.A. at Abilene Christian University's Dallas campus in 1982. That same year, Reed ran in his first marathon, the Cowtown Marathon, in Fort Worth, alongside marathoner Ricky Cox, who placed first. Reed became interested in long distance running; and inspired by ultra marathon pioneer Ted Corbitt, he began to develop his own training regimens. At this point in the interview, Reed describes his approach to training for distance running and staying motivated during a run. He

also talks about his first wife, and their son, Justin Reed, who was born in 1983.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed, Section  
A2013\_027\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:52 2013/01/28

Anthony Reed met Charlotte Simmons-Foster at the 2001 conference of Black Data Processing Associates in Chicago, Illinois. Together, they went on to form the National Black Marathoners' Association in 2004. Through the organization, Reed met lifelong runners like Frederick Davis III and Angela Ivory, who was the first black woman to run marathons in all of the fifty states. Reed participated in the Great Wall Marathon in China; the Marathon Fin del Mundo in Ushuaia, Argentina; the Antarctic Ice Marathon; and the Safaricom Marathon in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Isiola, Kenya. In 2007, he became the first African American to have run a marathon on all seven continents. He also competed in biathlons, which combine bicycling and running. In 2007, Reed started his own consulting and professional speaking business called Anthony R. Reed, CPA, PC. At the time of the interview, he was in the process of training for the 2013 Boston Marathon. Reed recalls meeting his current wife, Deborah Valrie Reed.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Reed, Section  
A2013\_027\_001\_007, TRT: 7:26:38 2013/01/28

Anthony Reed founded the consulting firm Anthony R. Reed, CPA, PC, and travelled the world as a writer and public speaker. In 2008, he published the book 'Running Shoes are Cheaper than Insulin: Marathon Adventures on All Seven Continents,' in which he reflects on his experience living with a prediabetic condition and avoiding type 2 diabetes through running. He also wrote the book 'Running to Leadership: What Finishing 100+ Marathons on All Seven Continents Teaching Us About Success.' Reed talks about his children from a previous relationship, Justin Reed and Kristen Reed; and his stepchildren Jaulik Watkins, Jasmin Logan, Janell Wells and Jordan Foster. He also shares his advice to young runners and his hopes and concerns for the African American community. Reed reflects upon his life, legacy and how he would like to be remembered, and concludes the



interview by narrating his photographs.