

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Albert Stewart

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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>	Stewart, Albert C., 1919-2016
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Albert Stewart,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 9, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:12:26).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Chemist and military officer Albert Stewart (1919 - 2016 ) is Professor Emeritus at Western Connecticut State University and a veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served from 1944-1956. Stewart was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 9, 2013, in Ridgefield, Connecticut. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_059
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Chemist and chemistry professor Albert C. Stewart was born on November 25, 1919. Stewart received his B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1942. He was drafted into the U.S. Navy in 1945 and was among a select group of African American sea men trained as officers. Following his tour of duty, Stewart returned to the United States and enrolled at the University of Chicago. In 1948, he received his M.S. degree in chemistry; and, in 1949, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the U.S. Navy. Stewart earned his Ph.D. degree in chemistry from St. Louis University in 1951.

From 1949 to 1963, Stewart held teaching appointments at St. Louis University, Knoxville College, and John Carroll University where he taught chemistry and physics. In 1951, Stewart began his thirty-three year long career at Union Carbide Corporation as a senior chemist in the nuclear division. In 1960, Stewart became the assistant director of research and held several leadership positions until his departure in 1984. He was appointed as an associate professor and named as the associate dean in the Ansell School of Business at Western Connecticut State University. From 1987 until 1989, Stewart served as the acting dean and remained as an associate professor of marketing. In 1999, he became Professor Emeritus at Western Connecticut State University.

In 1966, Stewart received the University of Chicago Alumni Citation Award. Stewart is a member of a number of professional and academic societies, including the Radiation Research Society, the American Marketing Association, and the American Chemical Society where he is an emeritus member. He was a fellow of the American Institute of Chemists. He has also served as an advisor, consultant and on the Board of Directors of several organizations, including U.S. Department of Commerce, NASA, and the Urban League, respectively.

Albert C. Stewart was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 9, 2013.

Stewart passed away on October 13, 2016.

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## **Scope and Content**

This life oral history interview with Albert Stewart was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 9, 2013, in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Chemist and military officer Albert Stewart (1919 - 2016 ) is Professor Emeritus at Western Connecticut State University and a veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served from 1944-1956.

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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:

Stewart, Albert C., 1919-2016

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Stewart, Albert C., 1919-2016--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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Western Connecticut State University Union Carbide Corporation

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United States Navy

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## **Occupations:**

Chemist

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Military Officer

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

ScienceMakers|MilitaryMakers

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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 Albert Stewart, March 9, 2013. 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).

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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 Albert Stewart, Section  
A2013\_059\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:45 2013/03/09

Albert Stewart describes his family's background. Stewart's mother, Jeanne Belle Kaiser was born in the 1890s in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She attended high school in Philadelphia, and worked as a seamstress. His maternal grandfather worked as a Pullman Porter, and his grandmother was also a seamstress in Philadelphia. Stewart's father, Albert Queely Stewart, was born around the 1890s, and his family traces itself back to Salisbury, Maryland. His parents met while working at a Horn and Hardart restaurant in Philadelphia, married in New Jersey, and moved to Detroit, Michigan and later, Chicago, Illinois. Stewart's father, a carpenter by trade, worked at the Sherwin-Williams plant in Chicago. Several years later, Stewart also worked as a resin research chemist at the plant, after earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Chicago.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Stewart, Section  
A2013\_059\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:18 2013/03/09

Albert Stewart was raised in Chicago, Illinois, where he attended school and later, university. Stewart attended McCosh Grade School, where his favorite subjects were

math and spelling. He describes his memories of growing up in the West Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago, attending the Chicago American Giants games on Sundays, and going to the White City amusement park. Stewart also talks about his parents' personalities, their homes in Chicago, and his father's job as a carpenter. Stewart recalls Prohibition in Chicago, and his childhood jobs as a milk delivery boy and a newspaper delivery boy for the 'Chicago Defender'.

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Video Oral History Interview with Albert Stewart, Section  
A2013\_059\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:45 2013/03/09

Albert Stewart attended McCosh Grade School and Englewood High School in Chicago. He describes his experience in school, his interest in chemistry, and the racial division at school and in the City of Chicago. In 1935, Stewart graduated from high school at the age of sixteen, and went on to attend Woodrow Wilson Junior College in Chicago. After graduating in 1937, Wilson went on to the YMCA College in Chicago, where his chemistry professor recommended him to the University of Chicago. Stewart describes walking the distance from his parents' home to the University of Chicago, unable to afford the cost of public transportation. He worked as a page at the university library to support his college tuition. Stewart also recalls the help that he received from the Rotary Club during a quarter when he fell sick and could not work to support the cost of his tuition.

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Video Oral History Interview with Albert Stewart, Section  
A2013\_059\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:34 2013/03/09

Albert Stewart attended the University of Chicago, and earned his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1942. He describes his experience there, where he was mentored by Professors George Schaeffer and Hermann Schlesinger in the chemistry department. After graduating, Stewart worked as a resin research chemist at the Sherwin-Williams paint company in Chicago, while waiting to be drafted for World War II. In 1944, Stewart became enlisted as a seaman in the U.S. Navy, and attended boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. In this section of the interview, he describes his experience at Sherwin-Williams and at boot camp. He also explains how he was selected for officer training in the U.S. Navy, which was unusual for an African American seaman in the 1940s. In 1945, Stewart was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy, and received his first assignment on a naval fleet oiler.

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Video Oral History Interview with Albert Stewart, Section  
A2013\_059\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:51 2013/03/09

In 1945, Albert Stewart received his first assignment in the U.S. Navy on a fleet oiler. He describes his experience on the oiler in China and Japan, where he earned enough points to receive inactive duty status. Stewart returned to the University of Chicago, and began working with Professors George Schaeffer and Hermann Schlesinger on research funded by the Navy. In 1948, he earned his M.S. degree in chemistry, in the area of vacuum systems. In 1949, he joined Dr. Schaeffer in his move to St. Louis University, and received his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1951. He describes his doctoral work in the field of boron chemistry. In this section of the interview, Stewart talks about getting married before moving to St. Louis, and working at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He describes his experience at Oak Ridge, the racial politics there, and how he was hired at Union Carbide Company.

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Video Oral History Interview with Albert Stewart, Section  
A2013\_059\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:49 2013/03/09

In the 1950s, Albert Stewart was appointed as a senior scientist at Union Carbide Company in Cleveland, Ohio. In this section of the interview, he describes his experience as a researcher in radiation chemistry, his promotion to the company's facilities in New York City, and his patents. In 1965, Stewart was promoted to marketing planning manager, and spent the remainder of his career in the marketing department of Union Carbide Company. Stewart describes his experience in the marketing department, and his services as a National Sales Manager and as director of University Relations for Union Carbide Company. In 1984, Stewart was appointed as an associate professor and associate dean of the Ancell School of Business at Western Connecticut State University. There, he taught chemistry and marketing until 1999.

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Video Oral History Interview with Albert Stewart, Section  
A2013\_059\_001\_007, TRT: 7:15:24 2013/03/09

In 1986, Albert Stewart was appointed by Union Carbide Company as the vice president of the Foundation for Social Justice in South Africa. He describes his visit to South Africa, and his experience there. He also talks about his visit to Poland with his wife, while serving on the board of the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) in New York. In this closing section of the interview, Stewart talks about his wife, reflects upon his legacy and how he would like to be remembered. He also describes



his hopes and concerns for the African American community. Stewart closes the interview by describing his photographs.

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