

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Sharon Malone

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Malone, Sharon, 1959-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Sharon Malone,
Dates:	March 23, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:13:33).
Abstract:	Obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Sharon Malone (1959 -) practiced in the Washington, D.C. area for over twenty years. Malone was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 23, 2014, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_110
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Obstetrician, gynecologist and public figure Sharon Malone was born in 1959 in Mobile, Alabama to a domestic servant and a maintenance worker for Brookley Air Force Base. Malone is the youngest of eight siblings and the sister of Vivian Malone Jones, who, in 1963, became one of the first African American students to enroll at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. In 1981, Malone received her B.A. degree in psychology from Harvard University.

Upon graduation, she pursued a career as a systems engineer with the IBM Corporation, but soon decided to attend medical school at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she earned her M.D. degree in 1988. That same year, Malone moved to Washington, D.C. to complete her medical residency at George Washington University. Then, in 1992, she went into private practice with the renowned Foxhall OB/GYN in Washington, D.C. Malone has also served as an associate clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the George Washington University, and presented the 2012 PBS documentary, *Slavery by Another Name*, which charts the violent transition in 1865 from chattel slavery to forced prison labor.

Malone serves on the boards of the D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. She also serves on the regional panel for the selection of White House Fellows Program and was appointed to the selection committee for the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction awarded by the University of Alabama School of Law. In addition, Malone has consistently been voted one of *Washingtonian* magazine's "Best Doctors."

Malone is married to Eric Holder, the first African American Attorney General of the United States. They live in Washington, D.C. with their three children, Maya, Brooke, and Eric III.

Sharon Malone was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 23, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Sharon Malone was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 23, 2014, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Sharon Malone (1959 -) practiced in the Washington, D.C. area for over twenty years.

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:

Malone, Sharon, 1959-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Malone, Sharon, 1959---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Obstetrician and Gynecologist

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. Sharon Malone, March 23, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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. Sharon Malone, Section A2014_110_001_001, TRT: 1:30:16 ?

Dr. Sharon Malone was born on January 30, 1959 in Mobile, Alabama to Bertha Davis Malone and Willie Malone. Her paternal great-grandmother, Luanne Packer, kept the name of her slave owner after emancipation. However, Malone's grandfather changed his name to Bill Malone, and purchased farmland in Monroe County, Alabama, where Malone's father was born in 1893. Malone traced her maternal lineage to slaves Michael and Phoebe, whose grandson, William J. Edwards, founded the Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute.

Malone's mother was born in 1914, and grew up on a farm in Wilcox County, Alabama. As the second oldest of seven children, she left school early to help care for her younger siblings after her mother died. Malone's parents married and settled in Mobile, where they had eight children. Malone began her education at a white Catholic school called St. Joseph's School. Eventually, the school closed to avoid further integration, and Malone transferred to the Most Pure Heart of Mary School.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Sharon Malone, Section A2014_110_001_002, TRT: 2:32:25 ?

Dr. Sharon Malone attended the Most Pure Heart of Mary School in Mobile, Alabama, where she became aware of color and class distinctions within the black community. Her father, Willie Malone, was a maintenance worker, while her mother, Bertha Malone, worked in domestic service. She was the youngest child in the household, which included her paternal grandfather, Bill Malone. Each Sunday, Malone and her mother attended an A.M.E. church. At this point, Malone recalls her family's holiday traditions and her early personality. She also describes the struggles of her sister, Vivian Malone Jones, who integrated the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Malone's sister was rejected from the University of Alabama in 1961. She successfully sued for admission on the grounds of racial discrimination, and arrived on the campus in 1963. She was shunned by almost all of her peers, but eventually befriended a student from Germany. Malone's sister became the university's first African American graduate in 1965.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Sharon Malone, Section A2014_110_001_003, TRT: 3:30:08 ?

Dr. Sharon Malone grew up in Mobile, Alabama, where her mother, Bertha Davis Malone, was employed as a domestic worker at the Brookley Air Force Base. When Malone was twelve years old, her mother died, and she was sent to live with her sister, Vivian Malone Jones, in Atlanta, Georgia. While there, she completed the seventh and eighth grades at Beecher Hills Elementary School. Then, Malone lived with her brother in Dallas, Texas for one year, before returning to Mobile with her father, Willie Malone. In Mobile, she attended W.P. Davidson High School, and worked after school. During the summer after her graduation, she was recognized by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program for her exceptional grades. She traveled to Washington, D.C., where she met arts advocate Peggy Cooper Cafritz. In the fall of 1977, Malone entered Emory University in Atlanta. There, she met Deidre Hamlar, who convinced her to transfer to Harvard University. After earning her degree in 1981, Malone accepted a position at IBM in Atlanta.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Sharon Malone, Section A2014_110_001_004, TRT: 4:30:15 ?

Dr. Sharon Malone studied biological psychology at Harvard University. She interned at IBM during the summer of her senior year, and was offered a systems engineering position in Atlanta, Georgia upon graduating. After two years, Malone enrolled at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. The college used a cooperative teaching style, and graded students with a pass or fail system, which reduced competition and emphasized practical training. Malone considered becoming a neurologist, but eventually decided to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology. She went on to complete her residency at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. There, she met her husband, Judge Eric H. Holder, Jr. In 1992, Malone joined the medical practice of Foxhall OB/GYN Associates in

Washington, D.C. Five years later, her husband was appointed to serve as the U.S. deputy attorney general. At this point, Malone talks about balancing parenthood with a demanding career.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Sharon Malone, Section A2014_110_001_005, TRT: 5:30:09 ?

Dr. Sharon Malone worked at Foxhall OB/GYN Associates in Washington, D.C., where she strived to build relationships with her patients. During her time there, the practice grew from five doctors to include nine physicians and a nurse practitioner. The office also established a partnership with Sibley Memorial Hospital. At this point, Malone reflects upon her career, including her colleagues' experiences with malpractice lawsuits. She talks about the changes in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, including technological advances that reduced invasive surgeries and maternal mortality rates. In addition, Malone describes the challenges of practicing medicine with rising administrative costs and diminished insurance reimbursements. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Malone's husband, Eric H. Holder, Jr., to the post of U.S. attorney general. He was the first African American to assume the role. In subsequent years, Malone learned to cope with criticisms against her husband and life in the public eye.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Sharon Malone, Section A2014_110_001_006, TRT: 6:26:31 ?

Dr. Sharon Malone was inspired by her daughter to research her family history. During the process, she discovered that her paternal uncle, Henry Malone, was forced into slave labor for a minor crime. Wanting to know more about the African American experience after Reconstruction, Malone attended a race reconciliation conference organized her friend, journalist Janet Langhart Cohen, in 2007. At the conference, Malone was introduced to Douglas A. Blackmon, whose book on the convict leasing system, 'Slavery by Another Name,' received a Pulitzer Prize. Blackmon went on to produce the PBS documentary 'Slavery by Another Name,' in which Malone told the story of her uncle's enslavement. Malone concludes this part of the interview by reflecting upon her family legacy as well as the legacy of her generation.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Sharon Malone, Section A2014_110_001_007, TRT: 7:13:49 ?

Dr. Sharon Malone narrates her photographs.