

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard X. Clark

PERSON

Clark, Richard X.

Alternative Names: Richard X. Clark;

Life Dates: July 29, 1946-September 4, 2015

Place of Birth: Manhattan, New York, USA

Residence: Huntersville, NC

Occupations: Civil Rights Activist

Biographical Note

Civil rights activist Richard X. Clark was born on July 29, 1946 in New York City. He was raised in foster homes in the New York neighborhoods of Jamaica, Queens, and the Bronx. Clark graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School and enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served until 1968.

In 1969, Clark was arrested on charges of attempted robbery and was sentenced to four years in prison. From 1969 to 1972, he served time at multiple state prisons including Sing Sing Correctional Facility, Elmira Correctional Facility, Auburn Correctional Facility, Wallkill Correctional Facility, and the Attica Correctional Facility in Attica, New York. Appalled by prison conditions at Attica, Clark became a Muslim minister and became active in black Muslim political groups. In September of 1971, he was one of the leaders of the Attica Prison riot, which took the lives of forty-three men. During the riot, Clark was head of the inmates' internal security and served as a liaison between the inmates of D-yard and the authorities.

After his release in 1972, Clark moved to Greensboro, North Carolina and authored the book, *The Brothers of Attica*, which was published in 1973. Twenty years later, Clark relocated to New York City and became a case manager for Phase Piggy Bank, a Harlem-based organization that provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Clark passed away on September 4, 2015 at the age of 69.

Related Entries

DeWitt Clinton High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

High School Diploma

P.S. 50 Talfourd Lawn Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

United States Navy [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to 1968]

Enlistee

Phase Piggy Bank [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Case Manager

Greensboro Drug Action Council [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Nation of Islam [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]