

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr.

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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>	Brown, Matthew Southall, 1922-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 7, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:10:53).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Religious leader Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. (1922 -2021) a pastor of First Smyrna Baptist Church in Savannah in 1962, he also served as pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Savannah in 1969 for thirty-five years. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 7, 2017, in Savannah, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_022
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Religious leader Reverend Mathew Southall Brown, Sr. was born on July 16, 1922 in Savannah, Georgia to Christopher Frederick Brown and Helen Robinson Brown. In 1943, Brown graduated from Cuyler-Beach High School in Savannah, Georgia and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served in World War II as a non-commissioned officer and was assigned to a support unit. Following his military service, he attended Georgia State College and earned his B.D. degree from the American Baptist Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee in 1961. Brown also studied at the University of Miami, the Division of Addiction Sciences with a grant from the City of Savannah

Brown was ordained as a minister in 1961 in the Historic First African Baptist Church. The following year, he accepted a position as a pastor at First Smyrna Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia. In 1963, Brown became a pastor at Royal Missionary Baptist Church and then St. John Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia in 1969, where he led his congregation through the renovation of the church. In 1986, Brown dedicated St. John Villa, formerly the East Broad Street School, as a housing complex for the elderly and the handicapped. In 1988, the Matthew Southall Brown Resources and Learning Center was named in his honor. Brown then hosted a morning radio show called "Thought for the Day," which aired on Clear Channel Radio Savannah, Georgia WSOK 1230 AM. In 1991, Brown then published, *The Best of Pastor Matthew Southall Brown, Sr.'s 6:30 a.m. Meditative Thoughts*. Brown retired as pastor of St. John Baptist Church in 2004 and became pastor emeritus. He founded the Boys' Summit in 2010.

In 1971, Brown was appointed by Judge Alexander Lawrence as chairman of a biracial school advisory board. Brown also served as chair on the Emancipation Association beginning in 2013. He was also recognized and honored for his service to his community. In 2013, Brown was recognized by the National Baptist Convention for more than fifty years of service.

Brown has four children: Maxine Jones, Leonard Brown, Christa Stephens, and Matthew Southall Brown, Jr.

Brown passed away on November 21, 2021.

Matthew Southall Brown was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 7, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. was conducted by Denise Gines on February 7, 2017, in Savannah, Georgia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Religious leader Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. (1922 -2021) a pastor of First Smyrna Baptist Church in Savannah in 1962, he also served as pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Savannah in 1969 for thirty-five years.

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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:

Brown, Matthew Southall, 1922-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brown, Matthew Southall, 1922---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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## Occupations:

Religious Leader

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ReligionMakers

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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 Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., February 7, 2017. 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).

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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 Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., Section A2017\_022\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., Section  
A2017\_022\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., Section  
A2017\_022\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., Section  
A2017\_022\_001\_004, TRT: 4:34:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., Section  
A2017\_022\_001\_005, TRT: 5:26:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., Section  
A2017\_022\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., Section  
A2017\_022\_001\_007, TRT: 7:10:38 ?