

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Flonzie Brown Wright

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Brown-Wright, Flonzie, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright,
Dates:	December 13, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:16:56).
Abstract:	Civil rights activist Flonzie Brown Wright (1942 -) was the first African American woman to hold a position as elected commissioner in Mississippi, and served as branch manager of the Canton NAACP. Wright was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 13, 2017, in Jackson, Mississippi. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_223
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil rights activist Flonzie Brown Wright was born in Farmhaven, Mississippi on August 12, 1942 to Little Pickett Dawson Brown and Frank Brown, Sr. Her family moved to Canton, Mississippi in 1947, and she attended Holy Child Jesus School and Canton public schools. Brown Wright enrolled at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi, and later moved to California, before returning to Mississippi in 1962.

After the assassination of civil rights leader, Medgar Evers, on June 12, 1963, his brother, Charles Evers, appointed Brown Wright as Canton's NAACP branch manager. Brown Wright registered thousands of African Americans to vote and testified before a congressional subcommittee on enforcing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After James Meredith was shot during the March Against Fear in 1966, Martin Luther King Jr. called on Brown Wright to arrange accommodations for three thousand marchers in Canton. In 1968, Brown Wright became the first African American woman to hold a position as elected commissioner in Mississippi. In this role, Brown Wright monitored elections, trained poll workers, supervised registrars, and sued the Elections Board for discriminating against black candidates and poll workers. Between 1969 and 1973, Brown Wright served as vice president of the Institute of Politics at Millsaps College and from 1974 to 1989, she worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1994, Brown Wright published her bestselling book, *Looking Back to Move Ahead*. She also served as a student affairs scholar in residence at Miami University, and was the CEO of FBW & Associates, a market-consulting firm in Jackson.

In 2016, the Flonzie Brown Gooloe Courtroom in Canton City Hall was named in her honor. The same year, she received the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 'Director's Community Leadership Award.' Brown Wright served on the board of the Mississippi Humanities Council, and was a founding member of Women of Progress. She also assisted with the creation of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, which opened in 2017.

Brown Wright has two sons, Edward Goodloe Jr. and Lloyd Goodloe, and a daughter, Cynthia Goodloe Palmer.

Flonzie Brown Wright was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 13, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Flonzie Brown Wright was conducted by Randall Pinkston on December 13, 2017, in Jackson, Mississippi, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civil rights activist Flonzie Brown Wright (1942 -) was the first African American woman to hold a position as elected commissioner in Mississippi, and served as branch manager of the Canton NAACP.

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:

Brown-Wright, Flonzie, 1942-

Pinkston, Randall (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brown-Wright, Flonzie, 1942- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civil Rights Activist

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Flonzie Brown Wright, December 13, 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).

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 Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_001, TRT: 1:29:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_002, TRT: 2:31:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_003, TRT:

3:29:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_004, TRT:
4:27:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_005, TRT:
5:28:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_006, TRT:
6:28:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_007, TRT:
7:16:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Flonzie Brown Wright, Section A2017_223_001_008, TRT:
8:04:31 ?