

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James M. Blount

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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>	Blount, James, 1943-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with James M. Blount,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 19, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:53:31).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Magazine publisher James Blount (1943 - ) was the president and publisher of About... Time Magazine in Rochester, New York. Blount was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 19, 2018, in Rochester, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_072
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Magazine publisher James M. Blount was born on June 5, 1943 in Newport News, Virginia to Helen Wilson Blount and Walter L. Blount, Sr. Blount graduated from Isle of Wight County Training School in 1961; and received his B.S. degree in industrial management in 1965 at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. Blount also took graduate courses in business administration at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

From 1966 to 1970, Blount worked as a marketing and proposal developer in the federal systems division of IBM in Owego, New York. In 1970, Blount and his wife, Carolyn S. Blount, relocated to Rochester, New York, where he worked as a sales representative in the office products division of IBM.

Blount is a military veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from September 1965 to August 1971, including active duty aboard the USS Claude V. Ricketts DDG-5, a guided missile destroyer, from February 1967 through October 1968. He was involved in the 1967 Middle East war between Israel and the Arab nations.

In 1972, the Blounts became the sole proprietors of *About...Time* magazine, one of the oldest African American publications in the country. Blount left IBM in 1973, and became the president and publisher of *About...Time* magazine the following year. Under Blount's leadership, *About...Time* Magazine published interviews with such figures as Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, National Security Advisor Colin Powell, Secretary of the Army Clifford Alexander, Civil Rights Leaders Leon Sullivan and Dorothy I. Height, U.S. Solicitor General Wade McCree, Children's Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman, and Dance Theatre of Harlem founder Arthur Mitchell. In 1984, *About...Time* published a six-part history series called "Rochester Roots/Routes." Other notable pieces published under Blount's tenure include "The Last Mile of a 400-Year Journey," "Katrina Echoes: Storm Season Aftermath is Hard to Erase," and "Strange Fruit: Jena Six and the Quest for American Justice."

Blount served on the board of education for the Rush Henrietta School District from 1981 to 1987. He also served on the board of directors for the Arts Council of Rochester, Rochester Business Opportunities Corporation,

Industrial Management Council, and the Otetiana Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Blount received many awards for his work in the community of Rochester including a Certificate of Appreciation from the Advertising Council of Rochester; the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Service Award from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School; Urban League of Rochester, NY's Dr. Charles T. Lunsford Lifetime Achievement Award; Harriet Tubman Award, presented by the New York State Governor's Office; Pioneer Award, presented by the City of Rochester Black Heritage Committee; and U.S. Postal Service Black History Committee Award.

He is a news analyst on Fox Sports radio AM1280 *Brown and Allen Show*, and was a frequent guest providing public affairs commentary on WXXI public radio's 1370 *Connection* show hosted by the late Bob Smith.

Blount and his wife, Carolyne S. Blount, have three children: James Ural, Christina, and Cheryl.

James M. Blount was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 19, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with James M. Blount was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 19, 2018, in Rochester, New York, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Magazine publisher James Blount (1943 - ) was the president and publisher of About...Time Magazine in Rochester, New York.

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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:

Blount, James, 1943-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Blount, James, 1943- --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:

Newspaper Publisher

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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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 James M. Blount, April 19, 2018. 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 James M. Blount, Section A2018\_072\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:53 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with James M. Blount, Section A2018\_072\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:35 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with James M. Blount, Section A2018\_072\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:15 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with James M. Blount, Section A2018\_072\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:41 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with James M. Blount, Section A2018\_072\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:54 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with James M. Blount, Section A2018\_072\_001\_006, TRT: 6:26:13 ?