

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable John Rogers, Sr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rogers, John W., Sr., 1918-2014
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable John Rogers, Sr.,
Dates:	February 22, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:07:26).
Abstract:	Juvenile court judge and tuskegee airman The Honorable John Rogers, Sr. (1918 - 2014) is a decorated fighter pilot of 99th Squadron, Tuskegee Airmen. After serving in the United States Air Force, Rogers moved back to Chicago, finished law school at the University of Chicago, and eventually served as a judge for twenty-one years in Illinois Juvenile Court. Rogers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 22, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_034
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

John Rogers, Sr. was born on September 3, 1918, in Knoxville, Tennessee. His mother died when he was four and his father died when he was twelve. Rogers and his sisters moved to Chicago, Illinois, to live with an uncle, Henry Tanner, who was very benevolent and proved to be a great role model for Rogers.

From a young age, Rogers wanted to fly. After receiving his pilot's license, he got the chance of a lifetime when he was drafted into the U.S. Air Force. He was shipped off to Tuskegee, Alabama, where he became part of the legendary 99th Squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen. As an Airman he excelled, gaining a reputation as a combat pilot and flying more than 100 missions. By 1944 Rogers gained the rank of captain.

Upon his return to Chicago, Rogers decided he did not want to be a teacher and applied to law school at the University of Chicago. While there, he met and married Jewel Stradford, the daughter of a prominent family and a fellow law school student. Rogers served on the bench in Illinois as a Juvenile Court judge for twenty-one years. During that time, he developed a strong reputation as a justice who was both committed and fair.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable John Rogers, Sr. was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on February 22, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Juvenile court judge and tuskegee airman The Honorable John Rogers, Sr. (1918 - 2014) is a decorated fighter pilot of 99th Squadron, Tuskegee Airmen. After serving in the United States Air Force, Rogers moved back to Chicago, finished law

school at the University of Chicago, and eventually served as a judge for twenty-one years in Illinois Juvenile Court.

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:

Rogers, John W., Sr., 1918-2014

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Rogers, John W., Sr., 1918-2014--Interviews

African American judges--Illinois--Interviews

United States.--Army Air Forces--African American troops--Interviews

United States.--Army Air Forces--Fighter Group, 332nd

Knoxville (Tenn.)--Social life and customs

Segregation--Illinois--Chicago--1930

Chicago (Ill.)--Social life and customs

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations, American

University of Chicago. Law School

Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government--1951-

African Americans--Illinois--Chicago--Politics and government

Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993

White, Walter Francis, 1893-1955

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois. Juvenile Court (Cook County)

United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd.

Occupations:

Juvenile Court Judge

Tuskegee Airman

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers|MilitaryMakers

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 The Honorable John Rogers, Sr., February 22, 2000. 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 The Honorable John Rogers, Sr., Section A2000_034_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Judge John Rogers Sr. shares memories from his youth, from his childhood in Knoxville, Tennessee, to his early career as a teacher in Chicago, Illinois. He describes Chicago in the 1930s, focusing on the city's segregated neighborhoods, and remembers living with his uncle. After recounting his high school and college experiences, Rogers explains his decision to enlist in the Armed Forces, talking about his experiences with segregation.

African American judges--Illinois--Interviews.

United States. Army Air Forces--African American troops--Interviews.

United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd.

Knoxville (Tenn.)--Social life and customs.

Segregation--Illinois--Chicago.

Chicago (Ill.)--Social life and customs.

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations, American.

University of Chicago. Law School.

Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government.

African Americans--Illinois--Chicago--Politics and government.

Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993.

White, Walter Francis, 1893-1955.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable John Rogers, Sr., Section A2000_034_001_002, TRT: 0:28:25 ?

Judge John Rogers Sr. reviews his career in the military, starting with his training to become a famed Tuskegee Airman. He recalls many instances of discrimination and racism during training. Rogers then details his many tours of duty during World War II, describing air combat in North Africa and Sicily, where he flew in over one hundred missions.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable John Rogers, Sr., Section A2000_034_001_003,
TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Judge John Rogers Sr. discusses his return to the United States after World War II and explains his decision to attend law school. Rogers details his time at the University of Chicago Law School, including how he met his future wife, Jewel Lafontant Mankarious. Rogers then talks about his marriage and his early career in the law as a private attorney. Rogers also discusses the legal and political climate in Chicago during the 1950s and explains the importance and influence of the NAACP.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable John Rogers, Sr., Section A2000_034_001_004,
TRT: 0:26:41 ?

Judge John Rogers Sr. shares his opinion of Walter White and Thurgood Marshall explaining their influence on the advancement of civil rights in America. He details his relationship with his son, John Rogers Jr., and former wife, Jewel Lafontant Mankarious. Rogers then describes his career as a juvenile court judge, explaining how he focuses on rehabilitation rather than punishment. He concludes by reflecting on his life and career.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable John Rogers, Sr., Section A2000_034_001_005,
TRT: 0:15:00 ?

Rogers narrates his phototaphs.