

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larry Dingle

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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>	Dingle, Larry, 1949-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larry Dingle,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 1, 2005
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:25:16).
<b>Abstract:</b>	City government administrator and administrative lawyer Larry Dingle (1949 - 2022) served as Clerk of Council for the City of Atlanta, and became nationally known for his activities as a civil servant and attorney. Dingle was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 1, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2005_178
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Larry Dingle was born in rural Dillon, South Carolina, on June 26, 1949. He desegregated the high school closest to his home. From there, Dingle attended Morehouse College to pursue his undergraduate education; he transferred to Georgia State University, where he was awarded his B.A. degree in 1974, and his J.D. degree in 1987.

Dingle was a police officer for the City of Atlanta and then worked for the city from 1969 to 1990 as a department head and Clerk of Council. In this capacity Dingle gained the confidence and support of Mayors Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young as a civil servant. From 1990 to 1997, Dingle worked as a partner at the law firm of Peterson, Dillard, Young, Asselin and Powell. Dingle later became a partner at Wilson, Brock, and Irby, L.L.C., where he earned prestige through his representation of clients such as Saks Fifth Avenue.

Dingle served on the Board of Directors of Southeast Energy, the Bank of North Georgia, Central Fulton Senior Services, and Georgia State University's Board of Visitors. Dingle was a member of the Georgia Bar Association for over twenty years. In 1990, Dingle co-authored *Major Land Use Laws in Georgia*, which was published by the National Business Institute, Inc. Dingle earned distinction in the City of Atlanta as a civil servant and attorney and was recognized nationally for his contributions to the practice of law.

Dingle passed away on February 6, 2022, at the age of 72.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Larry Dingle was conducted by Jodi Merriday on August 1, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. City government administrator and administrative lawyer Larry Dingle (1949 - 2022) served as Clerk of Council for the City of Atlanta, and became nationally

known for his activities as a civil servant and attorney.

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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:

Dingle, Larry, 1949-

Merriday, Jodi (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Dingle, Larry, 1949- --Interviews

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African American civic leaders--Interviews.

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African American lawyers--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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Atlanta (Ga.)

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## Occupations:

Administrative Lawyer

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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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 Larry Dingle, August 1, 2005. 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 Larry Dingle, Section A2005\_178\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:58 ?

Larry Dingle was born on June 26, 1949 in Dillon County, South Carolina. He was raised by his maternal grandparents, Charity and Eugene Dingle, and has limited knowledge of his parents. Dingle describes growing up in a small farm community in which all the land was owned by African Americans, and the major crops were tobacco and cotton. His family attended a church across the street from the farm. The community had a strong sense of ownership and collective responsibility over the local children. Dingle describes the sights,

sounds, and smells of his childhood. He also describes an influential childhood mentor and watching Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on television. Dingle attended Latta Elementary School and integrated Latta High School in Latta, South Carolina at age sixteen. Though he struggled with reading and his English teacher provided no support, the school librarian helped him to read at a college level. Dingle also recalls a teacher's advice on doing his best with standardized testing.

African American families--South Carolina--Dillon County.

Farm life--South Carolina--Dillon County.

Desegregation in education.

African Americans--Education (Elementary)--South Carolina--Dillon County.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

Tobacco farms--South Carolina.

Meet the press (Television program).

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Dingle, Section A2005\_178\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:31 ?

Larry Dingle integrated Latta High School in Latta, South Carolina in 1965. Dingle played basketball as a senior and was well-treated by his coach, who was white. In classrooms, however, he was ostracized by other students. Dingle had aspirations to learn French and become a lawyer. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia for two years before getting married. He then worked as a police officer in Atlanta, taking classes at Georgia State University, where he earned his B.A. degree in 1974. Dingle describes meeting Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson while working as a police officer and advocating for higher ranking African American policemen. He later left the force and worked for the City of Atlanta under Jackson. Dingle talks about earning his law degree from Georgia State in 1987 and beginning his career with help from HistoryMakers Marvin Arrington and Carl Ware. He also talks about his family and offers parenting advice. Dingle reflects upon his legacy and memorable court cases at Phipps Law Firm.

African Americans--Education (Secondary).

African Americans--Education (Higher).

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

Georgia State College (Atlanta, Ga.).

High school athletes.

South Carolina--Race relations.

Jackson, Maynard, 1938-2003.

Atlanta (Ga.).--Bureau of Police Services.

Police--Georgia--Atlanta.

Law--Study and teaching--Georgia.

Discrimination in law enforcement--Georgia--Atlanta.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Dingle, Section A2005\_178\_001\_003, TRT: 0:27:47 ?

Larry Dingle talks about civil rights, the importance of voting, and his passion for issues concerning the elderly and youth. He reflects on his life story and his hope that it might provide inspiration or guidance for youth who have gone through similar situations, including becoming a father as a teenager and getting married at the age of twenty. Dingle talks about his personal and professional ambitions and reflects on which jobs he has enjoyed. He reflects upon rap music and his values. He also offers advice to his children and to those seeking to become lawyers. He describes his hopes and concerns for the African American

community. Dingle concludes the tape by talking about his time working for the City of Atlanta, Georgia as Clerk of Council under Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, and his memories of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin.

Jackson, Maynard, 1938-2003.

Voting.

Law--Vocational guidance.

African American business enterprises--Georgia--Atlanta.

Atlanta (Ga.). City Council.

Older people--Care.