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Maxwell, Samuel Leopold, Dr. collection

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Havana History and Heritage Society

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Summary Information

Repository:	Havana History and Heritage Society
Title:	Dr. Samuel Leopold Maxwell collection
ID:	21.0002
Date [inclusive]:	1955-2021
Physical Description:	1 Files 1 file
Language of the Material:	English .
Mixed Materials [Box]:	Single Folder Collections - 2021 Box 1
[Folder]:	21.0002-Folder 1

Preferred Citation

Dr. Samuel Leopold Maxwell Collection, Havana History and Heritage Society, Havana, FL.

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Biographical / Historical

Dr. Samuel Leopold Maxwell was born September 27, 1955, in Havana, Florida. His father, William, was a pastor and the foreman of a tobacco plantation, born November 11, 1919. Dr. Maxwell grew up in a house on the plantation in San Bonita. Most of his childhood was spent with his father and older brother, though his father's position as pastor meant that the rest of the townspeople felt a responsibility to participate in raising the boys. They even rallied around the family when they were threatened by the Rough Riders, a division of the Ku Klux Klan hate group.

Maxwell was in the fields by age 5, working first as a "wrapper", then as a "lugger" and "primer". The plantation they lived and worked on up until Maxwell was in high school was owned by Edwin Herring, who Maxwell befriended later in life after he helped him during a troubling time.

In 1973, Maxwell enlisted in the military. By the time he returned in 1977, tobacco plantations in Havana were essentially obsolete. Maxwell attributes this to a decline in the labor pool as a result of discontent with the pay, or rather lack of pay. His first paycheck amounted to 6 dollars for 5 days of work, of which his father only let him keep a quarter.

School was centered around the plantations, unfortunately resulting in gaps in the education of those who worked. Maxwell caught up on some missed education while in the military, but realized after he registered at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University after returning home that he was missing more than he had thought. He stopped attending Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University initially after 3 quarters due to troubles with returning home and a poor Grade Point Average. At that point, he discovered his religious calling and now holds a doctorate in theology.

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Content Description

This collection relates to Samuel Leopold Maxwell, who was raised in Havana, Florida, worked on tobacco farms and serves as a teaching pastor at First Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida. This collection contains an interview registration form and a digital video disc interview of Maxwell.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Havana History and Heritage Society

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open to all researchers.

Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Tobacco farmers
- Tobacco workers
- Tobacco industry -- United States
- Gadsden County (Fla.)
- Havana (Fla.)
- Wages -- Tobacco workers