

Mr. Edgar Anderson on Education



“...My parents were divorced when I was ten, so I grew up in a house with six women: my mom and my five sisters.

So, I learned to do everything that women traditionally do. I can cook, clean, sew, bake. I grew up doing all that. Clean house and doing all of those things.”

Edgar Anderson was born in Chicago in 1950, the second-oldest of six children. On his mother’s side, he has black, German, and Cree Native American ancestry; on his father’s side, he is descended from sharecroppers and former slaves from Mississippi. He attended high school in Chicago, and then went to the Military Academy at West Point in 1968, where he was one of ten black cadets in his class of 1200. He spent time in the Army as a basic training officer, and then received a graduate degree from Yale in business management and human resources. He moved to Portland, Maine, in 1985. He has one son from his first marriage, and two children from his second; at the time of this interview he also had three grandchildren. At the time of this interview, he worked in human resources for UPS. He served as the vice president of the NAACP New England Area Conference, as well as serving on the Portland NAACP’s executive committee.

You can listen to Mr. Anderson's interview and read a transcript at

https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/aa_hiwimi/1/