

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Thelma Groomes

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Groomes, Thelma, 1911-2011
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Groomes,
Dates:	July 17, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:40:10).
Abstract:	Middle school teacher Thelma Groomes (1911 - 2011) served as the president of the Howard University Women's Board. Groomes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 17, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_159
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Thelma Lucille Jarmon Vass Groomes was born January 3, 1911, in Kinston, North Carolina. An only child, her father worked as a truck driver and a preacher while her mother was a seamstress and beautician. Groomes grew up in Washington, D.C., graduating from high school in 1928 and going on to attend Howard University, where she earned a B.A. in education in 1932. She would later return to school at the University of the District of Columbia to further her education in the 1960s.

After graduating from Howard, Groomes took a job with the U.S. Department of Commerce, tabulating figures for the next three years. In 1935, she left for the

U.S. Department of Labor to work as a statistical clerk, and she would remain there until 1959. That year, she went to work at Hine Junior High School teaching English, reading and social studies. She also taught government and sociology at Roosevelt High School as part of its adult education program. While at Hine, Groomes was an outgoing teacher engaged in her students' progress. She was the sponsor of the United Nations Contest and trip to the United Nations in New York, the sponsor of the Junior Red Cross Society and sponsor of the Charm and Culture Club. She also served as a representative of the school to the city of Washington, D.C., and the National Education Association. Groomes retired in 1972, but spent the next year working as a consultant to Alton Elementary School in the Parent-Partnership Traineeship Program.

Over the years, Groomes has been involved in a wide number of organizations. She has served as the vice president of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in the Capital chapter, served on the Women's Committee of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and is a charter member and vice president of the D.C. Friends of Liberia. She also currently serves as the president of the Howard University Women's Club, a role that she also filled from 1954 to 1956. She is also a lifelong member of the National Education Association and the NAACP. Groomes has been named the Woman of the Year by *Afro-American*, has been inducted into the Washington Urban League Hall of Fame, and was named One of Washington's Best Dressed Women by the Omega Wives. Groomes has traveled the world and sponsored three overseas orphans. She has two children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Groomes passed away on August 8, 2011 at the age of 100.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Thelma Groomes was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 17, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Middle school teacher Thelma Groomes (1911 - 2011) served as the president of the Howard University Women's Board.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The

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:

Groomes, Thelma, 1911-2011

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Groomes, Thelma, 1911-2011--Interviews

Organizations:

Occupations:

Middle School Teacher

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Thelma Groomes, July 17, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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 Thelma Groomes, Section
A2003_159_001_001, TRT: 0:29:55 2003/07/17

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Groomes, Section
A2003_159_001_002, TRT: 0:30:30 2003/07/17

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Groomes, Section
A2003_159_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00 2003/07/17

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Groomes, Section
A2003_159_001_004, TRT: 0:29:50 2003/07/17

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Groomes, Section
A2003_159_001_005, TRT: 0:30:50 2003/07/17

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Groomes, Section
A2003_159_001_006, TRT: 0:09:05 2003/07/17