

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Thelma Daley

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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>	Daley, Thelma T.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Daley,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 22, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:25:55).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Social activist, school counselor, and foundation executive Thelma Daley (1927 - ) was the director of Women in the NAACP (WIN), and became the first woman to chair the National Advisory Council on Career Education. Daley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 22, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_164
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Thelma Daley was born on June 17th, in Annapolis, Maryland. Attending Bowie State University in Maryland, Daley graduated at the age of nineteen with her B.S. degree. She went on to New York University, earning her M.A. in counseling and personnel administration. More recently, she has received her Ed.D. in counseling from George Washington University.

Daley began her career at the Baltimore County Board of Education, serving as the coordinator for guidance and counseling services. She has also served as a

visiting professor at North Central Western Maryland College, the University of Wisconsin and Harvard University. Daley has been active with a wide number of organizations over the years, beginning with her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. She served as the national treasurer from 1963 to 1967. Daley became national vice president in 1971, and in 1975 she became national president, holding the position for four years. Daley also served as the national president of the American School Counseling Association from 1971 to 1972 and as president of the American Personnel & Guidance Association from 1975 to 1976. She has been active with the United Negro College Fund. Daley is also the national director of WIN, the Women in the NAACP. Currently, Daley and WIN promote knowledge of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and AIDS prevention within the African American community.

By presidential appointment, Daley became the first woman to chair the National Advisory Council on Career Education. She has appeared in *Who's Who Among Black Americans* and has served on the board of directors of the National Testing Service. Daley and her husband, Guilbert, live in Maryland.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Thelma Daley was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 22, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Social activist, school counselor, and foundation executive Thelma Daley (1927 - ) was the director of Women in the NAACP (WIN), and became the first woman to chair the National Advisory Council on Career Education.

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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

## 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:

Daley, Thelma T.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Daley, Thelma T. --Interviews

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African American educators--Interviews

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African American civic leaders--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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Women in the NAACP

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## **Occupations:**

Social Activist

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School Counselor

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Foundation Executive

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

CivicMakers|EducationMakers

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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 Thelma Daley, July 22, 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

## 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 Thelma Daley, Section  
A2003\_164\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:50 2003/07/22

Thelma Daley was born in Anne Arundel County outside of Annapolis, Maryland to Richard Thomas and Hattie Randall Thomas, as the second of six children. Her maternal great-grandmother was a Cherokee Indian. Daley's maternal grandfather owned a large farm of around 100 acres in Anne Arundel County. She has no knowledge of enslaved ancestors in her family history. Daley's paternal grandparents were Mary Martha Brown Thomas and John H. Thomas who also owned land. Her grandfather was a funeral director and minister; her grandmother was a homemaker and Sunday school teacher. Both sides of Daley's family were United Methodists. Daley describes her mother as a talented craftswoman and excellent cook and winemaker. Her father graduated from Lincoln University in Oxford, Pennsylvania and was in the trucking business before starting his own bus company, Thomas Motor Tours. She believes her parents met at a social event as youth. Daley was an industrious young girl, a quality she learned from her mother.

African American educators--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Daley, Section  
A2003\_164\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:45 2003/07/22

Thelma Daley sold vegetables at her family's roadside market stand as a young girl which gave her business and people skills. Her family took small "road" trips to places like Washington, D.C. where they visited museums. Daley has fond memories of her grade school years at Lothian Elementary School and at Bates High School in Annapolis, Maryland where she had perfect attendance. She describes her love of poetry and her social life in grade school, as well as a memorable moment in Latin class. Daley excelled academically and her favorite subject was math. She recalls influential teachers and her extracurricular activities. Her father's charter bus company, Thomas Motor Tours, expanded in order to black school children in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Daley decided to attend Bowie State College in Bowie, Maryland because her family could not afford to send her to Hampton Institute in Virginia. She describes her experience at Bowie State College and why she does not sing in public.

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Daley, Section  
A2003\_164\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:10 2003/07/22

Thelma Daley describes her activities at Bowie State College in Bowie, Maryland. She pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in graduate school at New York University (NYU) where she studied counseling. She compares her college and graduate school experiences, and her professors at NYU including Milton Schwebel and Henry Borow. Daley believes they did not encourage her to pursue a doctorate because of racism and sexism. Nonetheless, Daley earned her Ed.D. from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in 1985. Daley reflects on her family's role in her civic and personal development. She met Fannie Lou Hamer in Mississippi when Hamer established the Pig Bank. Daley talks about her marriage to Guilbert Daley, her leadership philosophy, and how she relates to others. She also describes working with HistoryMaker Dorothy Height on the National Council of Negro Women and in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Daley describes Height's leadership of the Wednesdays in Mississippi project along with Polly Cowan.

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Daley, Section  
A2003\_164\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:25 2003/07/22

Thelma Daley attended Fannie Lou Hamer's funeral in 1977 while president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. In her professional career as a counselor, Daley served as president-elect of the American School Counselor Association. While serving as the president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority from 1975 to 1979, Daley was also appointed the American Counseling Association first president of color. She regards the latter as the highlight of her professional career. As a leader in the counseling field, Daley worked to combat racism and sexism; she also worked to effect change. Daley also reflects on her leadership within the black community and describes her hopes and concerns for the community. In addition to serving as president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Daley was also the president of Women in Community Service and director of the Women in NAACP. Daley describes the state of counseling in schools and how school counselors address systemic issues in a community.

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Daley, Section  
A2003\_164\_001\_005, TRT: 0:26:45 2003/07/22

Thelma Daley describes her work with the SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) project through a coalition of Women in NAACP, Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Daley was also a national project director for the Links and vice chair of the National Council of Negro Women. She describes her personality and her love of cooking gourmet food. Daley also reflects upon her legacy, how she would like to be remembered, and if she would do anything differently. Daley concludes by narrating her photographs.