

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Evelyn Gibson Lowery

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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>	Lowery, Evelyn, 1925-2013
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Evelyn Gibson Lowery,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 21, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:36:22).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civil rights activist and nonprofit executive Evelyn Gibson Lowery (1925 - 2013 ) is the founder and chairwoman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women's Organizational Movement of Equality Now and wife of SCLC leader Rev. Joseph Lowery. Lowery was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 21, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_170
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil rights activist and leader Evelyn Gibson Lowery has been at the forefront of many human and civil rights struggles since an early age. She is the daughter of activists Rev. Dr. Harry and Evelyn Gibson, and they provided her with the inspiration that became the foundation for a lifetime of involvement in human rights at both the national and international levels. After high school, Lowery attended Clark College and Youngstown University.

Lowery is married to Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and has been involved in the movement since 1957. In 1979, Lowery became the founder and chairwoman of the fastest growing department of the SCLC. SCLC's Women's Organizational Movement for Equality Now (SCLC/W.O.M.E.N.) was the manifestation of a vision of a woman whose commitment to improving the quality of life went beyond the boundaries of color. Immediately after the development of SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., she moved to develop coalitions and alliances with a variety of women's groups throughout the nation and other parts of the world.

Lowery has been involved in many civil rights struggles. She has marched, boycotted, served jail time and traveled the world spreading the message of human and civil rights. Her dedication to civil rights and human rights has not gone unnoticed. In Atlanta, she was one of a five-member committee appointed by former Mayor Maynard Jackson to make arrangements for clothing and burial of missing and murdered children. She has served as a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Atlanta, and has worked with the YWCA, Church Women United, and many other organizations. Lowery has received numerous awards and recognition for her leadership and service including the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers Award, the APEX Museum's Tribute Award to Black Women for Achievement in Civil Rights (Collections of Life and Heritage); the Rosa Parks Award; WXIA-11 Alive Community Service Award; and the Atlanta Business League's Women of Vision - 100 Most Influential Women of Atlanta, to name a few.

At the time of the interview, Lowery was still very active in her community. She continued to work with the SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., and with her husband to spread the message to encourage African Americans to vote.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Evelyn Gibson Lowery was conducted by Jodi Merriday on September 21, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist and nonprofit executive Evelyn Gibson Lowery (1925 - 2013 ) is the founder and chairwoman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women's Organizational Movement of Equality Now and wife of SCLC leader Rev. Joseph Lowery.

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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:**

Lowery, Evelyn, 1925-2013

Merriday, Jodi (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Lowery, Evelyn, 1925-2013--Interviews

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African American women civic leaders--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

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African American women executives--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

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African American families--Georgia

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Civil rights movement--Georgia

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Clark University (Atlanta, Ga.)

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Lowery, Joseph (Joseph E.)

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Racism--Georgia

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Selma to Montgomery Rights March (1965 : Selma, Ala.)

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Fathers and daughters

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Fathers--Death--Psychological aspects

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Ku Klux Klan

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Trials (Rape)--Georgia

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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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Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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## **Occupations:**

Civil Rights Activist

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Nonprofit Executive

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

CivicMakers

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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 Evelyn Gibson Lowery, September 21, 2004. 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).

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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 Evelyn Gibson Lowery, Section A2004\_170\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:50 2004/09/21

Evelyn Gibson Lowery talks about her family's origins, her parents and siblings. Lowery then shares memories from her childhood, primarily those surrounding her father's civil rights activism. She talks about attending various schools throughout her youth and her experiences at Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia. Lastly, Lowery explains how she met her husband, Reverend Joseph E. Lowery.

African American women civic leaders--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

African American women executives--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

African American families--Georgia.

Civil rights movements--Georgia.

Clark University (Atlanta, Ga.).

Lowery, Joseph (Joseph E.).

Racism--Georgia.

Selma to Montgomery Rights March (1965 : Selma, Ala.).

Fathers and daughters.

Fathers--Death--Psychological aspects.

Ku Klux Klan (1915-).

Trials (Rape)--Georgia.

Video Oral History Interview with Evelyn Gibson Lowery, Section A2004\_170\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:40 2004/09/21

Evelyn Gibson Lowery outlines her father's many pastoral assignments and details his death. Lowery then details the racial tension her family was subjected to due to her husband's involvement in the civil rights movement. She also recalls her participation in civil rights activities at the Selma to Montgomery March. She later shares a story about the Ku Klux Klan violence surrounding the Tommy Lee Hines trial in 1979 when she feared for her life.

Lastly, Lowery talks about the founding of SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., Inc. and their benevolent activities.

Video Oral History Interview with Evelyn Gibson Lowery, Section A2004\_170\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:57 2004/09/21

Evelyn Gibson Lowery discusses some of the current projects and activities of SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., Inc. Lowery then ponders her plans for the future and that of the African American community. Lastly, Lowery considers her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Evelyn Gibson Lowery, Section A2004\_170\_001\_004, TRT: 0:07:55 2004/09/21

Evelyn Gibson Lowery shares and describes numerous personal photographs.