

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ella Mizzell Kelly

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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>	Kelly, Ella Mizzell
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ella Mizzell Kelly,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 14, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:02:23).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator Ella Mizzell Kelly (1939 - ) served as a speechwriter and senior program officer for the Department of Education, and later worked as a teacher and administrator at the Charles Drew University of Medicine. She was also a senior research scientist at UCLA's Center for Community Health, and later became the Deputy Director of Child Health at the Howard University College of Medicine. Kelly was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 14, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_262
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Ella Mizzell Kelly was born on March 17, 1939 in Columbia, North Carolina. Her father was a barber and her mother, a factory worker. During her early childhood, the family migrated to New York in search of better jobs. Shortly thereafter, her parents divorced and Kelly and her sister were raised by their mother. Identified as a gifted student during grade school, Kelly excelled academically. In 1955, she earned her high school diploma from Julia Richmond High School where she was active in the chorus, Latin Club and Student Government Association.

From 1955 until 1957, Kelly attended New York State Teachers College in Albany. She transferred to Howard University in 1957, where she earned her B.A. degree in history in 1960. During her senior year, she was selected to study abroad at Oxford in England.

From 1960 until 1968, Kelly taught history in the Washington, D.C. public school system, giving her students their first introduction to African American history. In 1963, Kelly earned her master's degree in philosophy from Howard University. Between 1969 and 1977, Kelly worked for the Department of Education as a speechwriter and senior program officer. From 1983 until 1985, Kelly attended the University of California at Los Angeles. Leaving there, she worked until 1990 as a research assistant at UCLA and served on a task force examining the under-representation of African American students in California. From 1990 until 1994, Kelly worked as a teacher and administrator at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in the departments of family medicine and nursing education. In 1995, she earned her Ph.D. in social research methodology from UCLA. From 1994 until 1998, Kelly served as a consultant on women's health issues for the California Public Institute and the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research. From 1998 until 2003, Kelly was a senior research scientist at UCLA's Center for Community Health where she was responsible for developing initiatives to reduce health

risks associated with HIV/AIDS and African American women.

In 2003, Kelly became the deputy director at Howard University College of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, where she focuses on the impact of violence and substance abuse on low-income families and children.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ella Mizzell Kelly was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on December 14, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Academic administrator Ella Mizzell Kelly (1939 - ) served as a speechwriter and senior program officer for the Department of Education, and later worked as a teacher and administrator at the Charles Drew University of Medicine. She was also a senior research scientist at UCLA's Center for Community Health, and later became the Deputy Director of Child Health at the Howard University College of Medicine.

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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:

Kelly, Ella Mizzell

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Kelly, Ella Mizzell--Interviews

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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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## HistoryMakers® Category:

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 Ella Mizzell Kelly, December 14, 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 1/21/2013 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, December 14, 2004

Video Oral History Interview with Ella Mizzell Kelly, Section A2004\_262\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:21  
2004/12/14

Ella Mizzell Kelly was born in Columbia, North Carolina, a rural farming community, on March 17, 1939. Her mother, Minnie Hill Mizzell Jerry, was

beautiful and charismatic. Her father, Frederick Douglas Mizzell was a kind man who worked as a laborer and barber. Kelly has one sister, Joyce Alberta Mizzell (Yodel); she was born in 1941. Kelly's family moved to Norfolk, Virginia when her father was drafted into World War II. When her father was discharged, the family moved to New York City. Kelly was very close to her maternal grandfather, John Benjamin Hill, who also lived in New York City. When Kelly was thirteen she converted to Catholicism. Kelly loved the cultural resources that were available in New York City when she was growing up.

African American grandparents.

African American families--North Carolina.

Columbia (N.C.)—Social life and customs—20th Century.

African American families--New York (State).

Video Oral History Interview with Ella Mizzell Kelly, Section A2004\_262\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:53  
2004/12/14

When Kelly's parents divorced, she and her sister lived with their mother and stepfather in New York City. Kelly attended P.S 194 in Manhattan, where she skipped the fifth and sixth grade. She was a very bright student who excelled in every academic setting. From there she attended Harriet Beecher Stowe Junior High School for two years. Kelly tested into the prestigious Julia Richmond High School, and graduated in 1955 at the age of 16. Based on her scores on the regents' exam, she gained admission to all of New York State teacher's colleges, she chose to attend Albany. Kelly performed well in Albany but still decided to transfer to Howard University in 1957.

High schools--New York (State)

Howard University--Faculty.

African American mothers--New York (State)

State University of New York at Albany

Gifted teenagers--Education—New York.

Video Oral History Interview with Ella Mizzell Kelly, Section A2004\_262\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:13  
2004/12/14

At Howard University, Kelly enjoyed learning from esteemed professors like, Dr. Eugene C. Holmes. She graduated in 1959 with her bachelor's degree in history and accepted a fellowship to spend a year studying philosophy at Oxford University. In 1960, she returned to Howard to enroll in a master's program. Kelly graduated in 1963 with a degree in epistemology and started teaching seventh grade history and geography in Washington, D.C. By 1969 Kelly had transitioned to the Department of Education, working as a speech writer and eventually a supervisor for the Upward Bound Programs. In 1977, she moved on to become a senior program officer with the National Institute of Education. Kelly's experience with grant funded programs influenced her to return to school for a terminal degree.

Holms, Eugene Clay, 1907

University of Oxford

Howard University.

United States. Dept. of Education

Video Oral History Interview with Ella Mizzell Kelly, Section A2004\_262\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:56  
2004/12/14

Kelly began her doctoral work at UCLA in 1983, where she co-wrote a paper with Dr. Ed Keller. To raise the money for dissertation she began working for

Charles Drew University for Medicine and Science in their educational psychology department. This was where Kelly was introduced to the field of women's health and made the decision to focus on HIV/AIDS and the most vulnerable segment of the population; African American, low income, poorly educated, adolescent girls. Kelly went on to work at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute until she was tapped to become the deputy director of a research program in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health through Howard University's College of Medicine in 2002.

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Women's Health—United States.

HIV/AIDS awareness.

Howard University. College of Medicine. Dept. of Pediatrics and Child Health.

University of California, Los Angeles. Neuropsychiatric Institute.