

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Frances Graves Carroll

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carroll, Frances Graves, 1932-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll,
Dates:	February 19, 2008 and July 10, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	9 Betacame SP videocassettes (4:16:23).
Abstract:	Education executive and education instructor Frances Graves Carroll (1932 -) was a leader in the field of special education in Chicago, Illinois from 1954 to 1999. She also served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Illinois and as a chapter president of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Carroll was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 19, 2008 and July 10, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_019
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Frances G. Carroll was born on May 8, 1932, in Chicago, Illinois. She attended Raymond Elementary and Forestville Elementary, and graduated from DuSable High School in Chicago before earning her B.A. degree in early childhood education from Roosevelt University. Carroll completed her Master of Education degree in special education from Chicago State University and received her PhD in education from The University of Sarasota in Sarasota, Florida.

Carroll has spent much of her adult life teaching in the Chicago education system and training future teachers and principals. From 1954 to 1999, she taught the Professional Advancement Courses for the Chicago Public Schools. Carroll has taught at the City Colleges of Chicago, Governor's State University, Chicago State University and Roosevelt University. In the early 1970s, she worked at DePaul University with the Model Cities Program while serving as the Director of the Inter-Institutional Teacher Training Program for Early Childhood Education. In this capacity, Carroll trained instructors from eleven universities in childhood education. She has worked as an elementary school counselor and in the public school system's mental health programs. From 1979 to 1984, Carroll served as Coordinator of the school system's Evaluation and Diagnostic Unit. From 1984 to 1992, she was the Director of Staff Development for Special Education Teachers. In this position, Carroll trained parents to advocate for their special needs children. She was the parent coordinator of Cook County Juvenile Detention Center from 1992 to 1995, where she created a interactive parent program and lobbied successfully to change the school's name to Nancy Jefferson Alternative School (named for a local social advocate) because the name of the school hurt students' opportunities when they attempted to transition into gainful employment.

In 1999, Carroll became the president of the Carroll Family Foundation, a scholarship foundation for students with special needs. Carroll started the foundation with her own money and serves as the board director. That same year, she joined the SAS program at DePaul University where she mentored principals in effective instructional practices

and administrative leadership. In 2000, she became the vice-president of Group 17 Education Consultants, Inc., and in 2003, Carroll was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois. As a newly appointed trustee, Carroll re-stimulated the debate over the use of Chief Illiniwek as the University of Illinois mascot. Due to Carroll's patient effort, the University of Illinois board officially retired the image of Chief Illiniwek in March 2007.

Carroll married Floyd Carroll on April 22, 1956, in Chicago at Progressive Baptist Church. They have two adult children, Floyd, Jr., and Francesca, and are members of the Greater Bethesda Baptist Church.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Frances Graves Carroll was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 19, 2008 and July 10, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 9 Betacame SP videocassettes. Education executive and education instructor Frances Graves Carroll (1932 -) was a leader in the field of special education in Chicago, Illinois from 1954 to 1999. She also served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Illinois and as a chapter president of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

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®.

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:

Carroll, Frances Graves, 1932-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Bowen, Crick (Videographer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Carroll, Frances Graves, 1932- --Interviews

African American women educators--Interviews

African American women executives--Interviews

Endowments--Officials and employees--Interviews

College trustees--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Chicago Public Schools

Occupations:

Education Chief Executive

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 Frances Graves Carroll, February 19, 2008 and July 10, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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 Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_001_001, TRT: 0:29:46 ?

Frances Graves Carroll was born on May 8, 1932 in Chicago, Illinois to Grace Winstead Graves and James Graves. Her paternal grandfather was a successful barber and merchant, who also made and sold moonshine. He raised Graves Carroll's father in York, Alabama, and protected his business from jealous whites. Eventually, her father migrated to Chicago, where he worked for the New York Central Railroad. Graves Carroll's mother was educated through the eighth grade; and, after her mother died, quit school to raise her three younger brothers. They left Tennessee to move to Chicago; but, during a stop in Indianapolis, Indiana, Graves Carroll's mother lost contact with two of her brothers. Graves Carroll's parents met and married in Chicago. They separated temporarily during the Great Depression so that her mother could apply for government assistance. When Carroll and her twin sister were two years old, they lived for a year in York with their paternal grandparents, and then reunited with their parents in Chicago.

African American women educators--Interviews.

African American women executives--Interviews.

Endowments--Officials and employees--Interviews.

College trustees--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_001_002, TRT: 0:29:24 ?

Frances Graves Carroll grew up in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. She attended shows with her twin sister at the Regal Theater and Savoy Theater, and accompanied her mother to the nearby fish market. They often visited Madam C.J. Walker's beauty college, where Graves Carroll's hair was styled by the students. Graves Carroll attended Benjamin W. Raymond Elementary School alongside Quincy Jones; and, in the fifth grade, transferred to Forrestville Elementary School. There, she had attentive teachers, and befriended Marion Lett Beach. She also studied piano, and sang in the choir at the Progressive Baptist Church. Graves Carroll went on to join the DuSable High School marching band, which was directed by Walter Dyett, and included Harold Pates, Morris Ellis and Jimmy Ellis as members. Upon graduation, Graves Carroll aspired to become a teacher. She considered attending the University of Illinois, but decided instead to matriculate at the Chicago Teachers College.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_001_003, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Frances Graves Carroll attended DuSable High School, the first school built for African American students in Chicago, Illinois. There, she received a strong education, although many of her African American teachers were denied full-time employment. Graves Carroll graduated in January of 1950, and attended Woodrow Wilson Junior College during the spring semester. She and her identical twin sister, Grace Graves Dawson, applied to Roosevelt College, but opted to attend the Chicago Teachers College because of the lower tuition costs. There were few African American students at the school, and Graves Carroll received lower grades because of her race. She and her sister transferred in 1952 to Roosevelt College, where they met exchange students from Nigeria and Ghana, and attended lectures by black studies scholars St. Clair Drake and Charles V. Hamilton. Graves Carroll also attended college events at the Chicago Athletic Association and the University Club of Chicago, which usually barred African American guests.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_001_004, TRT: 0:30:17 ?

Frances Graves Carroll graduated in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Roosevelt College in Chicago, Illinois. She became a first grade teacher at the Frances E. Willard School, and used the methods of Professor Frances Horwich, who hosted the children's television program 'Ding Dong School.' In 1959, Graves Carroll's family bought a home in a white neighborhood, and she transferred to the nearby Andrew Carnegie School, which was overcrowded at the time. Chicago Public Schools Superintendent Benjamin C. Willis refused to integrate the school district, and built mobile classroom units at all-black institutions like the Andrew Carnegie School. In 1961, Graves Carroll earned a master's degree in special education from the Chicago Teachers College, and returned to the Andrew Carnegie School. With the passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, she became a special education coordinator, tasked with educating the district's principals on the new mandate.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_001_005, TRT: 0:30:18 ?

Frances Graves Carroll worked with the Urban Teacher Corps to establish mental health programs in schools on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois. In 1972, she worked with Model Cities and the Consortium of Colleges and Universities to create an early childhood education institute. She joined the board of Youth Guidance in 1976, and coordinated its partnership with Chicago Public Schools. Next, Graves Carroll became the Chicago Board of Education's diagnostic coordinator, while also completing a doctoral degree at the University of Sarasota in Florida. In response to new special education legislation in the mid-1980s, Graves Carroll became the Chicago Public Schools' director of staff development for special education. She also taught courses on education law at Roosevelt University, and created an organization to train parents about the mandates. In 1994, Carroll became the principal of the Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School, which was affiliated with the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_001_006, TRT: 0:30:37 ?

Frances Graves Carroll worked as an educator at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, where she established a parent advisory board that

improved student behavior. She was also instrumental in the renaming of the center's school as the Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School, in honor of the West Side social activist. During the heat wave of 1995, Graves Carroll secured cold drinking water for the school, which was originally designed without water fountains. She served as the school's principal from 1994 to 1999, after which she created the Carroll Family Foundation to provide scholarships to at-risk youth. In 2000, she and her son founded an education consulting firm. Three years later, Graves Carroll was named to the board of trustees of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, in response to Native American student activism, presented a resolution to retire the school's mascot, Chief Illiniwek. After her first proposal failed, she continued to advocate for a new mascot.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_001_007, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Frances Graves Carroll was instrumental in the campaign to retire Chief Illiniwek, the mascot of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2007, the board of trustees voted to change the mascot in response to increasing pressure from students, alumni and the National Collegiate Athletics Association. The school had not yet declared a new mascot at the time of the interview. In her retirement, Graves Carroll was active as a volunteer at the Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. She directed the church's religious education program, and assisted with the weekly breakfast for the homeless and the Saturday school program. Graves Carroll reflects upon her hopes and concerns for the African American community, as well as her life and legacy. Her son was an educator in Chicago's military schools, and her daughter worked in the Chicago Public Schools. Graves Carroll concludes this part of the interview by describing how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_002_008, TRT: 0:29:55 ?

Frances Graves Carroll's commitment to community service was influenced by her early experiences at the Progressive Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois, and by the Bronzeville community of the 1940s, where she was inspired by the success of her neighbors. In 1983, Graves Carroll joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, where she worked on voter registration and lobbied the state government; and later served as president of the Theta Omega Chapter, one of the sorority's largest local chapters. She continued her religious involvement at Chicago's Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a member for over three decades. Graves Carroll also worked with the Youth Guidance program, which provided scholarships and resources to low-income students. She was a member of Phi Delta Kappa International, a professional organization for teachers; and advocated for a new mascot while serving as a trustee of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section A2008_019_002_009, TRT: 0:17:16 ?

Frances Graves Carroll was instrumental in the creation of special education programs throughout Chicago, Illinois. She also used her expertise to help raise her daughter, who was born with special needs. Following the passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, which guaranteed public education for all children in the United States, Carroll trained the Chicago Public Schools' principals to comply with the new law. Fifteen years later, the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act mandated that schools become fully accessible to students with disabilities. Near the end of her career as an educator, Graves Carroll observed improvements in funding for special education

programs, as well as an increased awareness of autism. After retiring, she became a trustee of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she successfully pushed for the removal of the Chief Illiniwek mascot. She talks about her motivations, and her paternal grandmother's Native American ancestry.

Video Oral History Interview with Frances Graves Carroll, Section
A2008_019_Carroll_Frances_06_MED_001, TRT: