

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Theresa Fambro Hooks

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com  |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Hooks, Theresa Fambro, 1935-2016  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Theresa Fambro Hooks,  |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | December 16, 2009   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2009  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (1:39:19).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Newspaper columnist Theresa Fambro Hooks (1935 - 2016 ) was a longtime society journalist at the Chicago Defender where she maintained a popular column, 'Teese's Town.' Hooks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 16, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2009_145   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Theresa Fambro Hooks was an award winning columnist and photographer for *The Chicago Defender*. Born May 5, 1935 in Chicago, Illinois, Hooks graduated from Parker (now Robeson) High School in 1953 and went on to attend the University of Illinois, Roosevelt University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in their Fashion Design Department.

Joining *The Chicago Daily Defender* in 1961, Hooks served as woman's editor and society columnist and published articles in the daily pages about social and community events, food and fashions. She also wrote an advice column as

“Arletta Claire” and a column called “Social Whirl,” later renamed “TeeSee’s Town.” In “TeeSee’s Town,” Hooks covered the “good news” in the community including art, theatre, culture and the movement of Chicago’s business, corporate, community and social leaders. Her other professional positions included manager of community/public affairs for Philco-Ford’s Chicago Residential Manpower Center and special assistant to the president of Olive Harvey College for public information. As president of Theresa Fambro Hooks and Associates, she provided public relations, communications and marketing services for ETA Creative Arts Foundation, National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Abraham Lincoln Center, The Woodlawn Organization, among others.

Hooks was active with the Girl Scouts, various YWCAs, the Westside Association of Community Action (WACA), Midwest Sickle Cell Association, West Chesterfield Garden Club, and Adoption Information Services. She was national president of the National Association of Media Women and received the Phenomenal Woman Award at V-103’s Expo for Today’s Black Woman, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Black Public Relations Society, the Russ Ewing Legacy Award of Excellence, Outstanding Journalist from the Chicago Association of Black Journalists, and The Fashion Connection Award. Hooks was a member of Christ United Methodist Church.

Hooks was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 16, 2009.

Hooks passed away on January 31, 2016.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Theresa Fambro Hooks was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 16, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Newspaper columnist Theresa Fambro Hooks (1935 - 2016 ) was a longtime society journalist at the Chicago Defender where she maintained a popular column, 'Teesees's Town.'

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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:

Hooks, Theresa Fambro, 1935-2016

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hooks, Theresa Fambro, 1935-2016--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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## Occupations:

Newspaper Columnist

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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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 Theresa Fambro Hooks, December 16, 2009. 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 Theresa Fambro Hooks, Section A2009\_145\_001\_001, TRT: 0:31:27 2009/12/16

Theresa Fambro Hooks was born on May 5, 1935 in Chicago, Illinois to Lois Davenport Fambro and Lemage Fambro, Jr. Her paternal grandfather was a printer and landowner in Madison, Georgia, where her father was born in 1906. His family later moved to Chicago, where he graduated from McKinley High School. Hooks' mother was born in 1907 on her family's farm in Carlton, Georgia. She attended the Union Baptist Institute in Athens, Georgia, and graduated in 1930 from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Hooks' parents met in Chicago while dancing at The Peps, a venue on the South Side. Her father worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and later operated a print shop from their home in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood, where Hooks grew up. Her mother belonged to the Olivet Baptist Church and the Chicago Northern District Association of Club Women, and they were friends of the owners of the A.A. Rayner & Sons Funeral Home. Hooks attended St. Anselm's School and Parker High School.

Video Oral History Interview with Theresa Fambro Hooks, Section A2009\_145\_001\_003, TRT: 0:27:14 2009/12/16

Theresa Fambro Hooks began her career as a society journalist in 1961 at the Chicago Defender, a black newspaper in Chicago, Illinois. For her column, Teese's Town, she covered the activities and exclusive events of social clubs like the Green Donkeys, the Royalites, the Royal Coterie of Snakes and the Original 40 Club. She also attended fundraisers hosted by service organizations like The Links and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. In addition, Hooks documented the annual galas of the eta Creative Arts Foundation and the Chicago Sinfonietta, as well as President Barack Obama's inauguration. She went

on to found Theresa Fambro Hooks and Associates, a public relations firm that organized events for nonprofit organizations in the Chicago area. Hooks remembers her colleagues, photographers Theodore Bell and Tony Rhoden. She also recalls instances when socialites were offended by her articles, and talks about gossip columns like the Chicago Crusader's Tell It Like It Is.

Video Oral History Interview with Theresa Fambro Hooks, Section A2009\_145\_001\_004, TRT: 0:23:50 2009/12/16

Theresa Fambro Hooks served for over forty years as a society journalist for the Chicago Defender, where her column, Teesee's Town, covered the activities of local organizations in Chicago, Illinois. She eventually left the newspaper to work elsewhere in Chicago, including with the Philco Ford Corporation and Parker House Sausage Company, until Chicago Defender executive Fred Sengstacke requested that she return. Later, Hooks left to found a public relations firm called Theresa Fambro Hooks and Associates. When the newspaper ownership changed in the early 2000s, attorney Jerome Butler and publisher Colonel Eugene Scott invited her to return, and she obliged. Hooks remembers her involvement in Harold Washington's mayoral campaign, and the Chicago Defender's response to the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She reflects upon her career at the Chicago Defender and how she would like to be remembered. She also describes her writing style, and talks about her family and friends.

Video Oral History Interview with Theresa Fambro Hooks, Section A2009\_145\_001\_005, TRT: 0:16:48 2009/12/16

Theresa Fambro Hooks narrates her photographs.