

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Audrey Manley

---

## 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>	Manley, Audrey F.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Audrey Manley,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 14, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:41:39).
<b>Abstract:</b>	College president and federal government appointee Audrey Manley (1934 - ) began working within the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C., in 1989, and later served as U.S. Deputy Surgeon General and Acting Surgeon General, advising the nation on matters of health and medicine from 1995 to 1997. Manley then returned to her alma mater as President of Spelman College. Manley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 14, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_022
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Audrey Forbes Manley was born March 25, 1934, in Jackson, Mississippi, to Ora Lee Buckhalter Forbes and Jesse Lee Forbes. She reached the height of public service in medicine while serving as the U.S. Deputy Surgeon General and Acting Surgeon General before assuming the helm of Spelman College as President.

After a childhood spent in Tougaloo, Mississippi, Manley (then Forbes) moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in 1951. Manley received a B.A. at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1955 and went straight to Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. After earning her M.D., Manley moved back to Chicago and completed her residency at Cook County Children's Hospital in 1963. While a resident, Manley taught pediatrics at the Cook County School of Nursing, foreshadowing her future career in education.

Manley began practicing privately in 1965, while working at the North Lawndale Neighborhood Health Center. In 1967, she became the assistant medical director at the Woodlawn Child Health Center. Two years later, she moved to San Francisco and continued her pediatric practice at Mt. Zion Medical Center. After marrying Dr. Albert E. Manley in 1970, she moved back south and became Chief of Medical Services at Grady Memorial Hospital's Emory University family planning clinic in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Manley then turned her considerable skills toward the federal government. She became a commissioned officer of U.S. Public Health in 1976 with a rank of Captain. At the Washington, D.C., office of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Manley studied sickle cell and other genetic diseases and eventually became the National Health Service Corps Director. She again focused on education by consulting on three movies about sickle cell disease and teaching Howard University students about pediatrics, as well as earning an M.P.H. from

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in 1987.

In 1989, Manley began working within the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C., She worked her way up from Principal Deputy Assistant for Public Health, becoming the Deputy Surgeon General and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health in 1994. She also was a member of the U.S. Delegation to UNICEF and the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy from 1990 to 1993. From 1995 to 1997, Manley served as U.S. Deputy Surgeon General and Acting Surgeon General, advising the nation on matters of health and medicine. Finally, in 1997, Manley chose to serve her alma mater as President of Spelman College.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Audrey Manley was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 14, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. College president and federal government appointee Audrey Manley (1934 - ) began working within the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C., in 1989, and later served as U.S. Deputy Surgeon General and Acting Surgeon General, advising the nation on matters of health and medicine from 1995 to 1997. Manley then returned to her alma mater as President of Spelman College.

---

## 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:

Manley, Audrey F.

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

**Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews  
Manley, Audrey F.--Interviews

---

African American college presidents--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

---

Public health personnel--Interviews

---

African American women physicians--Interviews

---

Grandparents as parents

---

Tougaloo (Miss.)--Social life and customs

---

Segregation--Illinois--Chicago

---

Spelman College

---

Meharry Medical College

---

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.)

---

Cook County Hospital (Chicago, Ill.)

---

Africa--Voyages and travels

---

Woodlawn Organization

---

Pediatricians--United States

---

African Americans--Medical care

---

Health services administrators--Interviews

---

**Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

United States. Public Health Service. Office of the Surgeon General

---

Spelman College

---

# Occupations:

Federal Government Appointee

---

College President

---

# HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|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 Audrey Manley, March 14, 2002. 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 Audrey Manley, Section A2002\_022\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:49 ?

Audrey Forbes Manley talks about her family's background and explains being raised by her paternal grandparents in Tougaloo, Mississippi. She remembers her early successes in school as well as her realization that she wanted to work in the medical field. Next, Manley explains her childhood relocation to Chicago, Illinois and her initial thoughts upon arrival.

African American college presidents--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

Public health personnel--Interviews.  
African American women physicians--Interviews.  
Grandparents as parents.  
Tougaloo (Miss.)--Social life and customs.  
Segregation--Illinois--Chicago.  
Spelman College.  
Meharry Medical College.  
Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).  
Cook County Hospital (Chicago, Ill.).  
Africa--Voyages and travels.  
Woodlawn Organization.  
Pediatricians--United States.  
African Americans--Medical care.  
Health services administrators--Interviews.

- Video Oral History Interview with Audrey Manley, Section A2002\_022\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:30 ?  
Audrey Forbes Manley discusses the excitement she felt in her move to Chicago, Illinois. Expecting an open-minded and new way of life, Manley explains how Chicago's segregation affected her. She remembers her career at Wendell Phillips High School and talks about strategies she used to get closer to the student leaders and influential teachers there. After giving details on her religious background, Manley recalls factors surrounding her transition into Spelman College as well as details of her productive time there.
- Video Oral History Interview with Audrey Manley, Section A2002\_022\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:13 ?  
Audrey Forbes Manley discusses how she questioned policies at Spelman College. She explains how she became involved with Morehouse College and shares memories of meeting life long friends and colleagues there. Next, Manley recalls her search for a medical school scholarship and explains strategies current students can use to obtain tuition funding. Audrey Forbes Manley talks about her experiences at Meharry Medical College and then about her internship in Gary, Indiana.
- Video Oral History Interview with Audrey Manley, Section A2002\_022\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:41 ?  
Audrey Forbes Manley talks about her residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois and explains how that experience allowed her to reconnect to Dr. Albert Manley and Spelman College. She then discusses how her travels in Africa altered her career path and moved her along into the public health realm. Manley recounts working in Chicago's inner city as part of the Woodlawn Organization and of her experiences in pediatrics in San Francisco, California. Audrey Forbes Manley details her career with the federal government.
- Video Oral History Interview with Audrey Manley, Section A2002\_022\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:26 ?  
Audrey Forbes Manley explains the history and the current goals of the U.S. Public Health Service. Next, she talks about the progress and downfalls she's seen for African Americans in health care during her career. Audrey Forbes Manley considers her plans after retirement and then shares her thoughts on Spelman's legacy as well as her own.
- Video Oral History Interview with Audrey Manley, Section A2002\_022\_001\_006, TRT: 0:13:00 ?  
Audrey Manley narrates his photographs.