

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Evangeline Hall

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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>	Hall, Evangeline, 1915-2013
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Evangeline Hall,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 24, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:31:42).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civil rights activist Evangeline Hall (1915 - 2013 ) was the first African American woman to serve as president of the Bradenton, Florida Democratic Party. Hall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 24, 2002, in Bradenton, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_056
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil Rights activist Evangeline Jennings Hall was born September 6, 1915, in DeLand, Florida. Her mother, Minnie Brooks Jennings, was a schoolteacher before giving birth to her seven children. William Jennings, Evangeline Hall's father, worked three jobs every day to feed his family.

Hall (then Jennings) attended segregated schools, but does not remember experiencing racial tension. She had a gift for playing the piano, and served as her church's organist. Hall attended Bethune-Cookman College and, in her thirties, Hall and her husband moved to Bradenton, Florida and separated. Discovering Bradenton was terribly prejudiced, Hall and four other activists formed the Biracial Committee with the support of Mayor A. Sterling Hall. Mayor Hall worked to end some of Bradenton's Jim Crow laws, including separate water fountains, and swore that no lynchings would occur during his administration. Even with the mayor's assistance, however, the Committee was largely unable to integrate business establishments.

Evangeline Hall spent 47 years working in the insurance industry for Central Life Insurance. She became an agent and an assistant manager before becoming the company's first female African American manager. She was also the first black woman to serve as the president of the local Democratic Party. As a member of the League of Women Voters, Hall registered people to vote for many years. Mayor A. Sterling Hall awarded Evangeline Hall the key to the city in recognition of her accomplishments.

Hall passed away on July 30, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Evangeline Hall was conducted by Samuel Adams on April 24, 2002, in Bradenton, Florida, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist Evangeline Hall (1915 -

2013 ) was the first African American woman to serve as president of the Bradenton, Florida Democratic Party.

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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:

Hall, Evangeline, 1915-2013

Adams, Samuel (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Hall, Evangeline, 1915-2013--Interviews

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Civil rights workers--Florida--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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## Occupations:

Civil Rights Activist

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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 Evangeline Hall, April 24, 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).

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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 Evangeline Hall, Section A2002\_056\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:54 ?

Evangeline Hall was born in 1915 to Minnie and William 'Pink' Jennings in DeLand, Florida, one of seven children, six girls and one boy. Her mother came from DeLand, while her father was originally from South Carolina. She was raised in DeLand with her family, and her aunt Estelle, uncle, and great-aunt Mary lived nearby. Hall describes her family as loving and supportive of her and her siblings, and she describes growing up in her neighborhood, which was located near the white community. She was gifted at music; she played at Euclid Elementary School in DeLand, and took piano lessons in her neighborhood from Miss Johnson. Hall describes her teachers' influence on her growing up, noting the good moral education she received. After high school graduation, she attended Bethune-Cookman University, in Daytona Beach, Florida, following

her sister, Alberta, where she met and married her husband.

African American families--Florida.

African Americans--Education--Florida--History--20th century.

Bethune-Cookman College (Daytona Beach, Fla.)

Music--Instruction and study.

African Americans--Florida--social life and customs

Video Oral History Interview with Evangeline Hall, Section A2002\_056\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:05 ?

Evangeline Hall moved to Bradenton, Florida after getting married while attending Bethune-Cookman University in the 1940s. Her marriage was an unhappy one, which ended in divorce. Hall describes experiencing racism in Bradenton in the 1940s and 1950s, leading up to her and four other community members creating the Bi-Racial Committee, a Civil Rights organization in the 1950s, under Bradenton Mayor Sterling Hall. She also started working for Central Life Insurance, an insurance company that sold policies to African Americans during the Jim Crow era in the South. She rose through the ranks and became the first African American female manager at the company. She recalls the racial tension in Bradenton during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, and describes the effects of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination on her town. She also became civically and politically active, joining the Women's Democratic Party, and becoming its president in 1976.

Civil rights workers--United States.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968--Assassination.

African Americans--Civil rights--History--20th century.

Civil rights movements--Florida--20th century.

Democratic Party (Fla.)

Florida League of Women Voters.

Video Oral History Interview with Evangeline Hall, Section A2002\_056\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:43 ?

Evangeline Hall worked for Central Life Insurance for, an insurance company in South Florida that sold policies to black customers from 1939 to 1946. There, she worked her way up becoming the first African American female district manager. She managed agents for several towns in her South Florida district. She reflects on the black community and the changes she witnessed over the years. What made her most proud was registering and educating black voters. She raised numerous foster children, many of whom she helped throughout college. She talks about her foster children, her customers, and the Bi-Racial Committee in Bradenton, Florida, and the Democratic Women's Club of Manatee County, Florida, reflecting on what she wants to be remembered for.

African American families--Florida.

Democratic Party (Fla.)

Life insurance--Social aspects--United States--History.

African Americans--Florida--social life and customs

Florida League of Women Voters.