

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Pauline C. Morton

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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>	Morton, Pauline Cauthone, 1912-2004
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Pauline C. Morton,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 16, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:59:57).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civic leader and home economist Pauline C. Morton (1912 - 2004 ) served as area state supervisor for home economics in Franklin, Southampton County, Virginia, and was well known for her work in the Franklin community as well as in state and local politics. Morton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 16, 2003, in Franklin, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_276
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic minded Pauline Cauthone Morton was born Pauline Cauthone on February 19, 1912, in Dunnsville, Virginia. Morton attended Ozena Public School, Dunnsville Public School, and the Baptist Association's Rappahannock Industrial Academy. She completed high school in 1928 and graduated from Virginia State University in 1933 with her B.S degree.

Morton married Samuel Percell Morton, then principal of the Hayden High School in Franklin, Southampton County, Virginia, and taught home economics. She eventually became the area state supervisor for home economics as well as an officer in the Statewide Home Economics Association. Well known for her work in the Franklin community as well as in state and local politics, she served as chairman of the school board, community college board, and several other state and local boards and governor's committees. She held lifetime memberships in Alpha Kappa Alpha, Links, Inc., the Order of the Eastern Star, the National Council of Negro Women, and the local NAACP Chapter that she helped to form. She served on the J.R. Thomas Camp Board of Trustees for over fifty years, and on the Board of Directors of Senior Services for Southeastern Virginia from 1972 to 2002. During her long career, Morton helped to form the Franklin Cooperative Ministry, The Cosmonettes, and Sesame Street Day Care. She also served as chairman of the Deacon Board of her church and twenty-three other organizations. A scholarship has been established in her name at Virginia State University.

The recipient of many proud honors, Morton passed away on February 7, 2004, survived by two daughters.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Pauline C. Morton was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 16, 2003, in Franklin, Virginia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civic leader and home economist Pauline C.

Morton (1912 - 2004 ) served as area state supervisor for home economics in Franklin, Southampton County, Virginia, and was well known for her work in the Franklin community as well as in state and local politics.

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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:

Morton, Pauline Cauthone, 1912-2004

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Morton, Pauline Cauthone, 1912-2004 --Interviews

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African American women civic leaders--Virginia--Franklin--Interviews

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Home economists--Virginia--Interviews

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African American women teachers--Virginia--Franklin--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

## The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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### Occupations:

Civic Leader

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Home Economist

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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 Pauline C. Morton, November 16, 2003. 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 Pauline C. Morton, Section A2003\_276\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:00  
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Pauline C. Morton was born on February 19, 1912 in Dunnsville, Virginia. Her

mother, Etta Emily Shelton Cauthorne, was born in Middlesex County, Virginia in the late nineteenth century. Morton describes her mother as a resourceful and strict parent and homemaker. Morton's maternal grandparents, Kitty and Captain Shelton, owned a farm and lived in a large home near Saluda, Virginia. Morton's father, Robert Henry Cauthorne, was born in Ozeana, Virginia near Dunnsville. He worked as a farmer and Pullman Porter, and moonlighted as a manager of a tomato factory. Morton describes the sights sounds and smells of her childhood in Essex County, Virginia including her school Rappahannock Industrial Academy grammar school; courting; and attending church, where she mistakenly took the offering until her mother explained that others were taking change out of what they had given.

African American women civic leaders--Virginia--Franklin--Interviews.

Home economists--Virginia--Interviews.

African American women teachers--Virginia--Franklin--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Pauline C. Morton, Section A2003\_276\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:16  
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Pauline C. Morton describes her home-life in Essex County, Virginia. She describes prayer rituals; the family's involvement within the church; and family mealtimes-the Morton's grew molasses and cooked candy. She attended Ozeana Public School in Essex County, Virginia and transferred to the Dunnsville elementary school in Dunnsville, Virginia. She completed high school at the Rappahannock Industrial Academy in Ozeana, Virginia sponsored by the Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association. Morton attended Virginia State High School, sponsored by Virginia State College for Negroes, later Virginia State University, in Petersburg, Virginia. Morton studied home economics and earned a B.A. degree near 1928. She was hired at the Rappahannock Industrial Academy and later joined Hayden High School in Franklin, Virginia, where her husband, Samuel Percell Morton, had been principal. From Hayden, Morton was offered a job as the supervisor of home economics in the Virginia State Department of Education in the mid-1930s.

Video Oral History Interview with Pauline C. Morton, Section A2003\_276\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:20  
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Pauline C. Morton describes her duties as Area Supervisor of home economics in the Virginia State Department of Education. Morton supervised Virginia's southeastern region. Assigned both black and white schools, she describes the manner in which she supervised them. She remembers experiencing discrimination as she traveled as area supervisor throughout Virginia segregated cities. Morton was often refused sleeping accommodations and restaurant service. Morton describes her civic activities-she joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) where she heard Dr. Benjamin Mays speak. She was eventually elected president of her local chapter in the 1960s. She also talks briefly about her husband, Samuel Percell Morton-known as S.P. Morton who was principal for Hayden High School in Franklin, Virginia. Later, S.P. Morton Elementary School in Franklin, Virginia was named in his honor.

Video Oral History Interview with Pauline C. Morton, Section A2003\_276\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:21  
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Pauline C. Morton talks about African Americans working the polls in Virginia. She was elected president of a vocational education association in Virginia and later, was hired by the State of Virginia to work in vocational education. She talks briefly about the legacy of Nat Turner, leader of Nat Turner's Rebellion in 1831 Rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia. Morton describes her hopes

and concerns for the African American demographic; how she would like to be remembered; and concludes with the narration of her photographs.