

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rogers, Gwendolyn DuBose, 1931-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers,
Dates:	December 15, 2003 and December 16, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:49:16).
Abstract:	Education administrator Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers (1931 - 2021) has served as director of the Early Childhood Center at Walt Disney Magnet School, and taught at Chicago State and Northwestern Universities. In 1981, Rogers served as director of the education department of the Chicago Urban League, and was appointed director of the Department of Internal Affairs for the Chicago Park District. Rogers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 15, 2003 and December 16, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_299
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers was born May 30, 1931, in Birmingham, Alabama, the youngest of three children. She graduated from Fairfield High School in 1948 and earned a B.A. in elementary education from Talladega College in 1952. Rogers received her M.S. in education from the University of Chicago the following year and her Ph.D. in educational psychology from Northwestern University in 1980.

From 1953 to 1955, Rogers worked as a primary school teacher in Chicago Heights, and in Chicago Public Schools from 1955 to 1966. She also spent 1958 teaching at the American Dependents' Schools in Toul, France. Beginning in 1966, Rogers worked as curriculum consultant for Head Start, where she remained for the next eleven years. From 1969 to 1975, she served as director of the Early Childhood Center at Walt Disney Magnet School. In 1972, she was hired as a lecturer at Chicago State University. From 1978 to 1979, Rogers was the director of the master's of teaching program at Northwestern University and from 1979 to 1981, she taught at the Stockton Child-Parent Center. Rogers was then hired as director of the education department of the Chicago Urban League where she advocated for public education from 1981 to 1993. In 1993, she was appointed director of the Department of Internal Affairs for the Chicago Park District, and from there she retired in 2001.

Rogers has served on the Illinois Community College Board, the Art Institute Advisory Committee and the Board of the Chicago Children's Museum. Her numerous awards include: the Kathy Osterman Award – Outstanding Executive Employee (1995), League of Women Voters of Chicago Civic Contribution Award (1993), Women's Hall of Fame, Chicago Human Relations Commission (1990), and the Award of Merit, Northwestern University (1990).

Rogers was married to former Judge John Rogers, Sr. and lived in Chicago.

Rogers passed away on August 22, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 15, 2003 and December 16, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Education administrator Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers (1931 - 2021) has served as director of the Early Childhood Center at Walt Disney Magnet School, and taught at Chicago State and Northwestern Universities. In 1981, Rogers served as director of the education department of the Chicago Urban League, and was appointed director of the Department of Internal Affairs for the Chicago Park District.

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:

Rogers, Gwendolyn DuBose, 1931-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Rogers, Gwendolyn DuBose, 1931- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Education Administrator

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 Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers, December 15, 2003 and December 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).

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 Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers, Section A2003_299_001_001, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers was born on May 30, 1931 in Birmingham, Alabama. Her mother, Lucy Grove DuBose Dickerson Pinkard, was from

Mobile, Alabama. She was an industrious woman who earned a degree in beauty culture from Alabama State University and later earned an electrician's certificate. She was also a civil advocate, pressing for proper services in the neighborhood and helping register people to vote in the 1960s. Her father, Robert DuBose, was from the area around Chapman, Alabama where his father owned a large farm. He was a Pullman Porter, and built the family home on property he purchased near Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama. He passed away when Rogers was eleven months old. Rogers' parents met at a piano concert Rogers' mother was playing in and moved to Birmingham where they had three children, Rogers and her two older brothers. After DuBose's death, Rogers' mother remarried twice.

Video Oral History Interview with Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers, Section A2003_299_001_002, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers was raised in Birmingham, Alabama, where she attended Fairfield Elementary School, St. Mark's Episcopal School, and Fairfield High School, all of which were black schools. As a student, she was talkative and well-liked for her stories and cakes she baked in her home economics class. She briefly played basketball. Rogers remembers teachers from each level of her education, including college, which she attended at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. There, she majored in elementary education at the urging of Lore Rasmussen, a professor there who became a mentor. Rogers earned her B.A. degree in 1952 and went on to the University of Chicago in Illinois, where she earned her M.A. degree in educational psychology in 1953 and studied under Alison Davis. She then taught in public schools in the Chicago area as well as overseas. When she returned from abroad, she began working in early childhood education before earning her Ph.D. degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Video Oral History Interview with Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers, Section A2003_299_002_003, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers earned her Ph.D. degree for Northwestern University, primarily to ensure that the teaching style she had been employing was aligned with the best practices in the field. Rogers explains that she believes in a free and creative approach to teaching children and talks about the importance of parental involvement in children's development from birth. She was active in Head Start when the program took a holistic approach, including nurses and nutritionists alongside teachers and teacher aides. She was also involved with Family Focus. Rogers explains how Lore Rasmussen's advice to think of perpetrators alongside victims influenced how Rogers went about managing staff who needed to be let go. Rogers went on to work with the Chicago Urban League as director of the education department, where she worked with legislators to ensure educational equity, and later for Chicago Park District's External Affairs, where she helped revitalize parks, including Garfield Park Conservatory.

Video Oral History Interview with Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers, Section A2003_299_002_004, TRT: 0:19:16 ?

Gwendolyn DuBose Rogers worked for the Chicago Park District's Department of External Affairs, where she interacted with communities around the city to plan for reinvesting in the local parks. She reflects on the importance of community engagement in making such improvements and talks about ways her department facilitated change. Rogers describes her hopes for the African American community and reflects upon her life, future goals, and family. She also reflects upon her legacy and how she would like to be remembered and

concludes by narrating her photographs.