

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mary Hatwood Futrell

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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>	Futrell, Mary
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mary Hatwood Futrell,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 30, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:00:23).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator and education chief executive Mary Hatwood Futrell (1940 - ) served three terms as president of the National Education Association before joining the faculty at George Washington University. Futrell was later promoted to dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Futrell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 30, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_189
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Mary Alice Franklin Hatwood Futrell was born on May 24, 1940, in Altavista, Virginia; her mother was a domestic and factory worker and her father worked in construction. Futrell was raised in a single parent household and did not develop a relationship with her father until she was an adult. In 1958, Futrell earned her high school diploma from Dunbar High School in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she was a cheerleader, and a member of student government, Future Business Leaders of America and the National Honor Society.

In 1962, Futrell received her degree in business education from Virginia State University where she was a cheerleader and pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. From 1962 until 1964, Futrell worked as a teacher at the segregated Parker Gray High School in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1965, Futrell helped integrate the teaching staff at George Washington High School, where she taught business until 1980; while there, she earned her master's degree in secondary education from George Washington University in 1968.

In 1983, Futrell became the president of the National Education Association, becoming the fourth minority to serve in the position; she remained there until 1989. During her three terms as NEA president, Futrell helped the organization achieve leadership status in the areas of civil and human rights, especially women's rights. As a result of her tireless efforts, the NEA created the Mary Futrell Award to honor individuals whose activities in women's rights have made a significant impact on education and on the achievement of equal opportunities for women and girls.

In 1992, Futrell joined the faculty at George Washington University, while earning her Ph.D. in education policy studies; in 1995, she was promoted to dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Futrell also served as the director of the George Washington Institute for Curriculum Standards and Technology.

Futrell served as the president of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession; The

Virginia Education Association; Education International; and ERAmerica. Futrell published articles in a number of scholarly journals, such as *Education Record*, *Foreign Language Annals* and *Education Administration Quarterly*. For her work in education policy and reform, Futrell has been awarded numerous honors and awards, including more than twenty honorary degrees.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mary Hatwood Futrell was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on September 30, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and education chief executive Mary Hatwood Futrell (1940 - ) served three terms as president of the National Education Association before joining the faculty at George Washington University. Futrell was later promoted to dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

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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:

Futrell, Mary

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Futrell, Mary--Interviews

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African American women college administrators--Interviews

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African American women educators--Interviews

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College department heads--Interviews

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George Washington University--Faculty--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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George Washington University. Graduate School of Education and Human Development

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National Education Association of the United States.

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## Occupations:

Academic Administrator

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Education Chief Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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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 Mary Hatwood Futrell, September 30, 2004. 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 Mary Hatwood Futrell, Section A2004\_189\_001\_001, TRT: 0:31:23 ?

Mary Hatwood Futrell was born on May 24, 1940 in Altavista, Virginia. Her mother, Josephine Calloway Austin (nee Hatwood) was raised by Futrell's great-grandparents, Ozella and Charles Douglas (ph.) after Futrell's grandparents, Will and Louisa (ph.) Hatwood passed away. Futrell's mother ran away from home at the age of twelve and began working as a maid. She was a domestic worker for most of her life. Futrell did not have a relationship with her biological father, Chester Minnis, an alcoholic, until adulthood. Her parents did not marry, and Futrell was disowned by the Minnis family, which was affluent and well-educated. Futrell's stepfather, John Ed Calloway, was a father figure until he died when she was four. Futrell describes the history of slavery and land ownership in her maternal family history. She also talks about her relationship with her maternal great-grandparents and her likeness to her mother and great-grandmother. Futrell describes her early childhood memories of growing up poor.

African American women college administrators--Interviews.

African American women educators--Interviews.

College department heads--Interviews.

George Washington University--Faculty--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Hatwood Futrell, Section A2004\_189\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:50 ?

Mary Hatwood Futrell was raised on Spruce Street in Lynchburg, Virginia, with her older sister Ann, and three foster sisters. Unlike her siblings, Futrell was disciplined for poor grades and wore old clothes. She later learned that her mother was equipping her for success. At the age of twelve, Futrell began cleaning churches, stores, and homes with her mother. She describes the sights, sounds, and smells of her childhood as well as her grade school education. Futrell attended Payne Elementary School and Dunbar High School in Lynchburg. Many of her instructors at Dunbar had bachelor's and master's degrees. Although Futrell was a high school freshman in 1954, schools in Lynchburg did not desegregate until the mid-1960s, after she graduated from college. Futrell's favorite subject in high school was business, and she was also involved in several extracurricular activities. She did not receive advanced instruction until her junior year because the school did not think her family could afford college.

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Hatwood Futrell, Section A2004\_189\_001\_003, TRT:

0:31:20 ?

Mary Hatwood Futrell enrolled at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia after graduating from Dunbar High School in Lynchburg Virginia in 1958. Her high school teachers raised money for her to attend college and she was also granted a student forgiveness loan. Futrell remembers learning to take her studies seriously in college. She also describes Christmas celebrations as a child and her religious upbringing. In 1962, Futrell began teaching at Parker-Gray High School in Alexandria, Virginia until the city's schools were desegregated. She was then transferred to George Washington High School. She recalls the riots that followed, her reception by the school's white teachers, and how the school changed over time. Futrell talks about her reputation as a teacher, her graduate studies at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and the aftermath of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1968 assassination. She also describes the repercussions of desegregation in the South for black educators.

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Hatwood Futrell, Section A2004\_189\_001\_004, TRT: 0:26:50 ?

Mary Hatwood Futrell reflects upon the declining influence of community on education and the increasingly "whatever" attitudes of children towards their schooling. As president of the National Education Association (NEA) from 1983 to 1989, Futrell's accomplishments included emphases on diversity and quality education. She was the NEA's first president to serve over four years. Futrell began teaching at George Washington University (GW) in Washington, D.C. in 1992, and became dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development in 1994. At GWU, she worked to increase the quality and diversity of faculty and students. Futrell also talks about the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the challenges facing the teaching profession. She reflects upon the formative experiences in her life, the importance of history, her regrets, and what she hopes to accomplish. Futrell shares her advice for aspiring educators. She also talks about her family, how she would like to be remembered, and her legacy.