

## **Title Page & Abstract**

An Interview with Georgia Hale

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2007-042

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation  
For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Georgia Hale was born in rural Missouri and attended segregated schools there. Moving to Springfield, Illinois in 1942, she was the first black teller at CILCO. She discusses workplace prejudice, her family, her church involvement, and community projects of the Frontiers International and Masonic auxiliaries.

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| Interview date(s):  | January 10, 2007                           |
| Interview Location: | Springfield, Illinois                      |
| Interview Format:   | audio cassette                             |
| Interviewer:        | Barbara Dickerman                          |
| Transcription by:   | The Tape Transcription Center              |
| Edited by:          | Marian Smith, Christy Barcus, Cheryl Pence |
| Total Pages:        | 13   |
| Total Time:         | 1 hour, 15 minutes, 22 seconds / 1.26 hrs  |

Interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
Springfield, Illinois.

## **Abstract**

### **Georgia Hale Springfield African-American History Foundation Project**

**Biographical Information and Synopsis:** Georgia Webster Hale was born on October 15, 1922 in rural Elsberry, Missouri, the third of eleven children. Although her parents were poor and virtually illiterate, she believes the values her parents gave her were invaluable. Ms. Hale attended segregated schools and although she was bused past five high schools before reaching the one to which she was assigned, she did not see segregation as a big problem. “It was just the way it was.” After her family moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1942, she became the first black teller at CILCO. She encountered some workplace prejudice, but she handled it as her parents had taught her – with dignity and self-possession. Over the years, Ms. Hale has been involved in and a leader of many community activities, working through her church, through the Coordinating Council (the women’s auxiliary for the Frontiers International organization) and through the Golden Circle (a women’s group associated with the Masons). Ms. Hale’s family includes a son and step-son, twelve grandchildren and innumerable great-grandchildren.

**Topics Covered:** Springfield, Illinois, 1940s – present; Early life and education in Lincoln County, Missouri; workplace prejudice; CILCO; Grace Methodist Church; Frontiers International; Masons; transportation for seniors; parental and family values; Coordinating Council; Golden Circle

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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