

## **Title Page & Abstract**

### **An Interview with Velma Carey**

**Interview #: SAA-A-D-2004-017**

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

Velma Carey, her husband, Lee Carey, and their three children moved from Champaign, Illinois to Springfield, Illinois, in 1956. Through her activities with her children's schools, Mrs. Carey became more aware of conditions in the Springfield school district, eventually was involved in the desegregation lawsuit that was filed, and ran unsuccessfully for the Springfield school board. She also talks about the work that was done in the early 1990s to study the Springfield Race Riot of 1908, and describes difficulties in finding housing when the family first moved to Springfield.

Interview date(s):	January 27, 2004
Interview Location:	Springfield, Illinois
Interview Format:	audio cassette
Interviewer:	Bettie Allen
Transcription by:	The Tape Transcription Center
Edited by:	Cheryl Pence
Total Pages:	13
Total Time:	55 minutes, 31 seconds / 0.93 hrs

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

## **Abstract**

### **Velma Carey Springfield African-American History Foundation Project**

**Biographical Information and Synopsis:** Velma Carey, her husband, Lee Carey, and their three children moved from Champaign, Illinois to Springfield, Illinois in 1956. Mr. Carey worked for the city playgrounds, later becoming Assistant Superintendent. He retired after over twenty years with the city. The Careys had three children – one daughter and two sons. Through her activities with her children’s schools, Mrs. Carey became more aware of conditions in the Springfield school district, eventually was involved in the desegregation lawsuit that was filed, and ran unsuccessfully for the Springfield school board. She also talks about the work that was done in the early 1990s to study the Springfield Race Riot of 1908, and describes difficulties in finding housing when the family first moved to Springfield. Velma passed away on August 11, 2007.

**Topics covered:** Springfield, Illinois, 1950s – present; Springfield, IL Public Schools; Springfield, IL school board; busing for integration in Springfield; real estate discrimination; housing; NAACP; Springfield Urban League, Springfield Race Riot of 1908; PTA (Parent Teacher Association); “Summer of Rage”, by James Krohe Jr.

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