

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Edyth Cole

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*African-American Chronicles* Oral History project

Interview # DST-A-L-2017-045

Edith Cole, a retired Illinois State Board of Education member and also a charter member of the Springfield-Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *African-American Chronicles-Delta Sigma Theta* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 19, 2017    Location: 856 Independent Ridge, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Yvonne Singley, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 0:28 / 0.47 hrs

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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## Abstract

Edyth Cole, *African-American Chronicles*, DST-A-L-2017-045

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Edyth Cole was born on December 3, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois. She was one of two children of Alfred and Helen Cole. Ms. Cole graduated from Chicago's Parker High School in 1960. After graduation, she attended Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and maintained a double major in psychology and sociology. In 1966, while enrolled at Wilberforce, Ms. Cole pledged with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in Beta Chapter. A year later, she continued her education at the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana and graduated in 1969 with a Masters in Education in rehabilitation counseling. Years later, she earned additional graduate credits at the University of Illinois-Springfield (UIS) with a concentration in human affairs.

Upon graduating from University of Illinois, Ms. Cole started her career at the Chicago Urban League. Several months later, she moved to Memphis Tennessee, where she was employed at LeMoyne-Owen College as the assistant dean of students-counselor. Her professional career includes employment at the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Commission, Sangamon State University (currently UIS), and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Upon retirement from ISBE, she served as a consultant at Ujima Management Consultants, Inc. Later, Ms. Cole founded her own company, Reliable Go for Personal Shopper.

As part of her work experience, she served as a leader and member of numerous professional organizations including the American Personnel and Guidance Association, Illinois Affirmative Action Officers Association, National Association of Affirmative Action Officers, and Illinois Association of Minorities in Government. She was a founding board member for the Illinois Affirmative Officers Association, National Associations of Affirmative Action Officers, and Illinois Association of Minority in Government. She was also active in several volunteer organizations including Parent Place and the Girl Scouts, Land of Lincoln Council, Inc. For her commitment to these organizations, she received numerous awards, pins and plaques.

Ms. Cole's dedication to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has been unwavering. Since chartering the Springfield-Decatur chapter, she also served as the 2nd Vice President (1976 to 1979) and Financial Secretary (1980). Ms. Cole has received two plaques from the sorority, her 25th and 50th years of membership recognition awards. She has two children, Cary, born 1975, and Cessley, born 1980.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Beta Chapter; Wilberforce University; LeMoyne-Owen College;

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