

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sheila Gregory Thomas

PERSON

Thomas, Sheila

**Alternative Names:** Sheila Gregory Thomas;

**Life Dates:** November 11, 1938-

**Place of Birth:** Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA

**Residence:** Washington, D.C.

**Occupations:** Writer; Television Producer

## Biographical Note

Writer, producer and consultant Sheila Gregory Thomas was born on November 11, 1938 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Her mother was Hugh Ella Hancock-Gregory, and her father was Thomas Montgomery Gregory, a well-known educator and dramatist. Thomas graduated from Howard University with her B.A. degree in Spanish in 1961.

Upon graduation, Thomas was hired as a Spanish teacher in the Washington D.C. public school system, where she taught until 1969. Thomas then created, produced and began hosting the educational children's television program The Magic Door on WMAL-TV in Washington D.C. The show aired from 1969 until 1973. In 1974, while working as an independent writer and consultant, she was engaged as media coordinator for the vice chairman of the D.C. city council. In 1976, Thomas was hired as a public affairs specialist for the National Park Service. She then accepted the position of cultural education specialist in 1977, remaining in that position until 1979, when she worked as an independent writer and consultant. In 1988, Thomas was appointed director of public relations for Diversified Engineering and Architecture. Then, in 1996, she was featured on PBS's Frontline, in her interview of producer and writer, June Cross. That same year, Thomas began serving as vice president of Diversified Environmental, Inc.

Thomas has published a number of articles relating to her family's history. In 1984, she wrote an article about her great-grandmother entitled "Margaret Mahammitt of Maryland," which was published by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. Thomas also authored an article in 2002 about her father, Thomas Montgomery Gregory. In 2008, three family biographies she wrote for the African American National Biography project were published by Oxford University Press. Thomas has received the MAMM Award from the American Association of University

Women, the Action for Children's Television Award, the Capital Press Club Award, and the Ohio State Award.

Sheila Gregory Thomas was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 25, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Howard University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Atlantic City High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**District of Columbia Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1961 to 1969]

**Spanish Teacher**

**WMAL TV** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1985 to 1993]

**Producer and On-Camera Personality**

**Delete** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1974 to 1975]

**Writer/Consultant**

**National Park Service** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1975 to 1977]

**Public Affairs Specialist**

**National Park Service** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1964 to ?]

**Cultural Education Specialist**

**Delete** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1998 to ?]

**Writer/Consultant**

**Universal Studios** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 1987]

**Actress**

**Diversified Engineering & Architecture P.C.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1988 to 1996]

**Director of Public Relations**

**Diversified Environmental, LLC** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1976 to 1978]

**Vice President**

**WGBH TV** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1996 to 1996]

**Segment Interviewer**

**Washington Biography Group** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1998 to ?]

**Welcome to Washington International Club** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2003 to ?]