

**Guide to the Oral History of
BLOOMER, ESTHER FOOTE (1893–1981)**

Biographical/Historical Notes

Esther Foote Bloomer was a community volunteer in Montgomery County. She was born in 1893 in Media, Pennsylvania. Her father served in the U.S. Army, and Bloomer moved frequently as a child, living in Pennsylvania, Vermont, The Philippines, New York, Virginia, Wyoming, Louisiana, Oregon, Iowa, Massachusetts, and the Washington, D.C. area. She attended “finishing school” at Gunston Hall in Washington, D.C. and business school in New York City. Her professional experience included positions with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, and National Academy of Sciences. Bloomer was also very active in numerous community organizations, including the PTA, League of Women Voters, Maryland Council on Education, Montgomery County Junior College Advisory Council, and Young Women’s Christian Association. She also served as the editor of *The Maryland Voter*.

Interview – Interviewed September 13, 1971 by Blossom Holland for MBL.

Subject

African-Americans – Scotland community
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
Bliss Electrical School
Chevy Chase – Parent-Teacher Association
League of Women Voters
Maryland Council on Education
Montgomery County (Md.) – Board of Education
Montgomery County (Md.) – Integration of schools
Montgomery County (Md.) – Public Libraries
Montgomery County (Md.) - YWCA
Montgomery Junior College

Subject Names

Beard, Eleanor
Broome, Edwin W.
Dinwiddie, Edith
Himstead, Dorothy
Himstead, Ralph
Lee, Blair
Pyle, Bill
Rose, Anna
Werner, Stella

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OUTLINE OF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Esther Bloomer

- I. Involvement in PTA
 - A. Chevy Chase Elementary School
 - B. Leland Junior High School
 - C. Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
- II. Work on Education Committee of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County
 - A. Survey of public schools
 - B. Drive to abolish position of Supervisor of School Property
 - C. Drive for elected School Board
 - D. Inequalities between white and Negro schools
- III. Continuing interest in education
 - A. Dr. Broome
 - B. PTA effectiveness
 - C. PTA's of Maryland
 - D. Maryland Council on Education
 - E. Montgomery College - growth and development
 - F. Maryland League of Women Voters
 - G. Committee for the Public Schools
- IV. Other activities
 - A. Bethesda Public Library Advisory Council
 - B. YWCA
- V. Observations on education