

**Guide to the Oral History of  
MASON, GENEVA (1899-1980)**

**Biographical/Historical Notes**

Geneva Mason was a prominent community leader in the Scotland community in Montgomery County. She was born in 1899 in Washington, D.C. and raised in Georgetown. She graduated from the O Street Vocational School. In 1917, Mason moved to the Scotland community in Potomac, Maryland. She was the first African-American woman from her district to serve on the Montgomery County Government Committee. In this role, she worked to improve health care, housing, education, and water and sewer services in Scotland. In the 1950s, Mason worked with the Board of Education on integration of schools. She also worked on the Charter Commission Committee and the Suburban Hospital Committee. Mason also spent 17 years fostering over 25 children in her community.

**Interview** – Interviewed April 17, 1975 by Joyce Siegel for MCHS.

**Subject**

African-Americans – Scotland community  
Montgomery County (Md.) – Charter Movement  
Montgomery County (Md.) – Hospitals  
Montgomery County (Md.) – Integration of schools  
Montgomery County (Md.) – Schools  
Potomac (Md.) – Scotland community  
Rural life – Montgomery County  
Suburban Hospital

**Subject Name**

Werner, Stella

**Table of Contents/Index** – See also Time Index for additional subjects and topics. Archive file also contains artist sketch of Mason.

## TIME INDEX

Mrs. Geneva Mason

### Side I

- Min. 0.00 - Introduction  
1.10 - What Scotland was like - raising money for electricity, water from springs  
2.30 - Population of Scotland, Clagetts farm, early residents, snakes  
3.30 - Schools - unqualified teachers, Noah Clark and raising money to buy a bus, matching Rosenwald grant to build new Scotland school  
6.30 - Discussion of teachers - Margaret Jones, Lodie Johnson - and the only two graduates  
8.10 - Consolidation of schools - Carver School and vocational training  
10.10 - Employment for Scotland men  
11.40 - Mrs. Mason begins community service - Planned Parenthood with Mrs. Donald Rogers, Red Cross Blood Bank  
13.30 - Money raising for Suburban and Sandy Spring Hospitals, absence of Negro doctors  
17.30 - Integration of schools - service on Board of Education committee, racial antagonisms  
20.20 - Impact of integration on Scotland - citizen groups and developers, condemning houses for public housing, building of new school, school busing after consolidation, trouble in Poolesville  
25.00 - Charter Commission committee with Stella Werner  
to  
26.20

### Side II

- 0.00 - Mrs. Mason as foster mother - 25 children, differences with welfare agency over children's earnings  
3.00 - Race prejudice remains but segregation is impossible  
4.45 - Opportunities for grandchildren as compared to older generation - daughter Esther's views  
10.20 - Early organization to help Scotland, resistance to developers, ill daughter, Gertrude, at meeting, dies  
11.55 - How blacks lost their land in Scotland  
13.55 - Frustration in dealing with government agencies  
14.30 - Frazier family circle project - apartment homes for the elderly - ground-breaking ceremony with Sen. Matthias to  
20.00 and David Scull - but still not completed