



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

VIVIENNE MALONE-MAYES

1932-1995, USA- Malone graduated from Fisk with a B.A. in 1952 and continued to study there for her Master's degree, which she was awarded in 1954.

In 1961 Malone-Mayes decided that she wanted to study mathematics further. She applied to study at Baylor University in Waco but they rejected her because she was an African-American. She later wrote that, although at the time she felt bitter, in retrospect they did her a good turn for Baylor University did not offer Ph.D. courses:



“It was a blessing, really. If they'd accepted me at Baylor, I would have just taken a few courses and not pursued a doctorate.”

In 1966 when she was awarded a doctorate by the University of Texas at Austin for her thesis *A Structure Problem in Asymptotic Analysis*, she became the fifth African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics.

She was the first Black elected to the Executive Committee of the Association for Women in Mathematics and served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Mathematicians. She was a member of the Mathematical Association of America, serving as Director-at-Large for the Texas section and Director of the High School Lecture Program. She was also a member of the American Mathematical Society and participated in the Centennial Celebrations in 1988.

Biography courtesy of The MacTutor History of Mathematics archive