

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Juel Pate Borders

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Borders, Juel Pate, 1934-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders,
Dates:	March 25, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:56:05).
Abstract:	Obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Juel Pate Borders (1934 -) was the first black female OB/GYN resident at the Albert Einstein Center Northern Division in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is the founder of the Juel Pate Borders Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia. Borders was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 25, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_036
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Rev. and Dr. Juel Pate Borders was born in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. Her father, the late civil rights leader Reverend William Holmes Borders, was the pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta for more than fifty years. Borders lived just a few blocks away from young Martin Luther King, Jr., who would later pattern his preaching after her father's eloquent style.

Borders attended the Palmer Memorial Institute, a college preparatory school in Sedalia, North Carolina, established by nationally acclaimed African American educator Charlotte Hawkins Brown. In 1954, Borders earned her B.A. degree from Spelman College in Atlanta. She went on to the Medical College of Pennsylvania earning her M.D. degree in 1960, with a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology. Borders did her residency at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and opened her own practice in Atlanta in 1965.

Borders has maintained her family tradition of social activism. In the early 1970s, for example, she served on a court appointed biracial committee charged with overseeing the process of desegregating the Atlanta Public School System. Decades later, she pursued a second career when she followed her father's footsteps into the ministry. She earned her Masters of Divinity degree in 1992, from the Emory University Candler School of Theology. She is the assistant to the pastor for the institutional ministries at Wheat Street Baptist Church. In the 1980s, the prominent physician had a building erected to house her practice. She is a member of the Women's Health Care Alliance, a non-profit, independent practice association composed of physicians, specializing in obstetrics & gynecology, perinatology, gynecological oncology, and reproductive endocrinology.

Borders is a widow and the mother of two children, Rev. Theodore Benson, a minister in Philadelphia, and Dr. Elinor Benson, an Atlanta obstetrician and gynecologist.

Juel Pate Borders was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 25, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders was conducted by Clarissa Myrick-Harris on March 25, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Juel Pate Borders (1934 -) was the first black female OB/GYN resident at the Albert Einstein Center Northern Division in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is the founder of the Juel Pate Borders Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Borders, Juel Pate, 1934-

Myrick-Harris, Clarissa (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Borders, Juel Pate, 1934---Interviews

African American women physicians--Interviews.

African American religious leaders--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Obstetrician and Gynecologist

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders, March 25, 2004. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders, Section A2004_036_001_001, TRT:

0:28:50 ?

Dr. Juel Pate Borders was born on August 26, 1934 in Chicago, Illinois. Her mother, Julia Elinor Pansy Pate, was born in Barnesville, Georgia in 1907 and attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia where she developed a friendship with Spelman's President Florence Matilda Read. Borders' maternal family eventually migrated to Chicago and she remembers visiting her grandmother in Chicago. Borders's father, William Holmes Border, was born in Macon, Georgia in 1905 into a family of ministers, including his father and an enslaved ancestor. When he was unable to pay his tuition at Morehouse College in Atlanta, the President of Morehouse College, John Hope, arranged a summer job for him to work off his debt. Borders' parents met in Atlanta and moved to Illinois, where they both attended Northwestern University in Evanston. Her father earned a degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston. In 1936, he returned to Atlanta to teach at Morehouse and pastor Wheat Street Baptist Church.

Spelman College.

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

College costs--United States.

African American families--Georgia.

Theology--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders, Section A2004_036_001_002, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

Dr. Juel Pate Borders was raised in the parsonage of her father's, William Holmes Borders', church, Wheat Street Baptist Church in the Auburn Avenue neighborhood of Atlanta, Georgia, which was a poor African American community. Her father later, bought her mother a separate house, which Borders currently lives in. Borders has fond memories of spending Sundays at church. Her father and Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., the pastor of nearby Ebenezer Baptist Church, had a fierce rivalry, though their wives were close friends and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would secretly watch Reverend Borders preach from the church balcony. Borders remembers visiting King, Sr., with her father after, King's wife, Alberta Williams King, was shot in 1974. Borders describes her relationship with her father and her brother's relationship with her father. She attended Oglethorpe Elementary School-- Atlanta University's Laboratory School, and David T. Howard High School under the guidance of Principal Charles Gideons.

King, Martin Luther, 1899-1984.

Education--Georgia--Atlanta.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders, Section A2004_036_001_003, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Dr. Juel Pate Borders recalls the smell of roses and the holly berry bush in front of the parsonage of Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia where she was raised. Borders was a shy and obedient child. In tenth grade, she attended Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina where she met Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown. Borders's parents allowed her to return home after a year and she completed high school at David T. Howard High School and Booker T. Washington High School. She recalls some of her high school teachers. In 1950, Borders entered Spelman College at the age of sixteen and studied psychology with the intent of becoming a psychiatrist. She attended medical school at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where she was the only black student. Borders recalls being sheltered from her

father's, William Holmes Borders's, civil rights activities. She remembers he told her about an incident where he intervened in a conflict that arose due to discrimination on a trolley.

School integration--Georgia--Atlanta.

Spelman College.

Medical College of Pennsylvania.

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--Georgia.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders, Section A2004_036_001_004, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Dr. Juel Pate Borders was the only black student studying medicine at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Although Borders did not encounter any discrimination during medical school, she experienced racism from colleagues and professional associates during her internship and residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center Northern Division in Philadelphia. Due to these negative experiences Borders decided to return to Atlanta, Georgia where she set up her obstetrics and gynecology practice alongside her husband's, Dr. Theodore Benson's, dental office and her brother's internal medicine practice on Hunter Street, later Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Borders met her husband in Philadelphia and the couple married in 1960 at her father's church in Atlanta. Borders has two children, Reverend Theodore Benson, Jr. and Dr. Elinor Benson.

Gynecology--Study and teaching.

Obstetrics--Study and teaching.

Albert Einstein Medical Center.