

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Heloise Westbrook

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Westbrook, Heloise, 1954-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Heloise Westbrook,
Dates:	August 14, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:57:28).
Abstract:	Anesthesiologist Dr. Heloise Westbrook (1954 -) is the staff anesthesiologist at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, South Dakota, as well as the director of the Pain Management Center. Westbrook also serves as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Westbrook was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 14, 2002, in Aberdeen, South Dakota. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_162
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Anesthesiologist Heloise Demoin Westbrook was born on July 1, 1954 in Buffalo, New York. Her parents, Mary Lue and Quinton Westbrook, moved from Tennessee and raised six children in the colder climate of upstate New York. Westbrook's career has been dedicated to pain management.

After graduating in 1972 from Mount Saint Joseph's Academy in her hometown of Buffalo, Westbrook attended Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1976 before moving to Carbondale, Illinois to study in the medical education preparatory program of Southern Illinois University. In 1984, with an M.S. in health services management, Westbrook enrolled in the university's doctoral program, focusing on community and public health education, and earning a Ph.D. in 1987. Studying anesthesiology and patient monitoring, Westbrook continued her education at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia in 1987. Completing her second master's degree and certification as a physician assistant in 1989, Westbrook was hired by the Dekalb-Fulton County Hospital Authority and the Emory Clinic as an anesthetist. In 1990, she began working towards an M.D. at Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School. She served as a teaching assistant in the anatomy and neuroscience departments before becoming a Doctor of Medicine in 1994.

Westbrook served as an intern in transitional medicine at the Medical Center in Columbus, Georgia and as an anesthesiology resident at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and the University of Maryland-Baltimore. She stayed at the University of Maryland as an obstetrical anesthesiology fellow and clinic instructor until 1999, when the Pain Management Center of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire offered her a position as a fellow and clinic instructor there. Finally, in 2001, Westbrook became a staff anesthesiologist at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, South Dakota as well as the director of the Pain Management Center. Westbrook serves as a pilot in the United States Air Force Reserves.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Heloise Westbrook was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 14, 2002, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Anesthesiologist Dr. Heloise Westbrook (1954 -) is the staff anesthesiologist at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, South Dakota, as well as the director of the Pain Management Center. Westbrook also serves as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

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:

Westbrook, Heloise, 1954-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Westbrook, Heloise, 1954---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Anesthesiologist

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. Heloise Westbrook, August 14, 2002. 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. Heloise Westbrook, Section A2002_162_001_001, TRT: 0:31:26 ?

Dr. Heloise Westbrook was born on July 1, 1954 in Buffalo, New York, to Mary Lue Loveless Westbrook, who was born in 1916 in Mason, Tennessee, and Quinton Westbrook, who was born in 1912 in Ellendale, Tennessee. Her parents met in Tennessee, married, and honeymooned in Niagara Falls, New York, where they soon relocated to. Westbrook's father was in law enforcement and owned a news distributing business, distributing [HM] John H. Johnson's magazines, while her mother was a homemaker. From an early age, Westbrook

had ambitions to become a doctor, and throughout her childhood, she shadowed the black doctors in Buffalo, New York, and saved money for her education. Her father, Quinton Westbrook, valued education for his children, and her mother, Mary Lue Westbrook, wanted her children to be successful professionals. Westbrook attended Public School 74 in Buffalo, New York for grade school, followed by the private and all-girls school Mount St. Joseph's Academy in Buffalo, New York for high school.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Heloise Westbrook, Section A2002_162_001_002, TRT: 0:30:10 ?

Dr. Heloise Westbrook graduated from the private and all-girls high school, Mount St. Joseph's Academy in Buffalo, New York in 1972. She then attended Canisius College in Buffalo, New York for one year before attending Boston College in Massachusetts, studying pre-med and graduating from there in 1976. Westbrook described the support she received from her parents through her education. With goals of attending medical school, she first attended graduate school at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, graduating with a Master's in Health Services Management in 1984, and a Ph.D. from there in 1987. Then, Westbrook entered medical school at The Chicago Medical School, Finch University of Health Sciences, where she earned her M.D. in 1994. Westbrook described the challenges of medical school and the rewards of her career as an anesthesiologist specializing in pain management. She then describes her work in anesthesiology and the different types of pain she manages in her patients.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Heloise Westbrook, Section A2002_162_001_003, TRT: 0:29:15 ?

Dr. Heloise Westbrook got her M.D. from the Chicago Medical School, Finch University of Health Sciences in 1994. She then worked as a resident at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, the University of Maryland-Baltimore, before becoming an anesthesiology fellow and instructor at the Pain-Management Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire in 1999. In 2001, she became a staff anesthesiologist at Avera St. Luke's hospital in Aberdeen, South Dakota. As an anesthesiologist and pain management specialist, Westbrook managed various types of pain and works with many kinds of patients. She described the challenges and rewards of her career in anesthesiology. Westbrook then talks about overcoming obesity. Then, she described Aberdeen, South Dakota and the African American community there.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Heloise Westbrook, Section A2002_162_001_004, TRT: 0:26:37 ?

Dr. Heloise Westbrook became a staff anesthesiologist at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She served as a doctor in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, after learning to pilot planes. Westbrook reflected on the challenges she faced in her career as an African American woman, but she credited her parents with supporting her and instilling in her a work ethic and persistence. She then described how living and working in different areas of the country as an anesthesiologist and pain management specialist, in Alabama, Maryland, Illinois, and New Hampshire, has expanded her perspective. Westbrook reflected on how she wants to be remembered and how she aims to help her community. Then, she described her relationship with the small African American community in Aberdeen, South Dakota.