



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
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders,
Dates:	March 25, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:56:05).
Abstract:	Obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Juel Pate Borders (1934 -) was the first black female in the OB/GYN residency at the Albert Einstein Center Northern Division in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is the founder of 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 Betacam SP videocassettes. Obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Juel Pate Borders (1934 -) was the first black female in the OB/GYN residency at the Albert Einstein Center Northern Division in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is the founder of 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:

Dr. Juel Pate Borders.

Myrick-Harris, Clarissa (Interviewer).

Stearns, Scott (Videographer).

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Dr. Juel Pate Borders--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

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 7/27/2011 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, March 25, 2004

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders, Section A2004_036_001_001, TRT:
0:28:50 2004/03/25

Rev. Dr. Juel Pate Borders slates the interview and lists her favorites. She then describes the history of her mother, Julia Elinor Pate, who was born in 1907 in Barnesville, Georgia and attended Spelman College, where she worked her way through school. Her father, William Emanuel Holmes Borders, struggled financially to afford Morehouse College and he decided to pursue a career in theology. Her parents met in Atlanta and married in 1931 and moved to Chicago, where her father continued his studies at Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Chicago. Ministry runs in her father's family starting with Pernell Borders, who was born a slave and learned the trade of blacksmithing.

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 2004/03/25

Rev. Dr. Juel Pate Borders talks about her father's decision to purchase a parsonage at 1420 Martin Luther King Dr. NW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Growing up in a poor neighborhood, and being a minister's daughter, Borders remembers attending many church activities, which she enjoyed. Borders also reflects on the fact that her father and Martin Luther King, Sr. were rival ministers, but her mother and Coretta Scott King were best friends, who wanted their husbands to reconcile. She then speaks about the day that Coretta was shot and her family's visit to the King household. Border shares some of the issues that they had as a family with regards to high expectations and responsibilities. She discusses her school experiences at David T. Howard High School and at the Atlanta University Laboratory School.

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 2004/03/25

Rev. Dr. Juel Pate Borders speaks about herself as a child, specifically referencing the fact that she was quiet, shy and wanted to make her parents happy compared to her brother, William Holmes Borders, Jr., who was an extrovert. Her interest in ministry, was cultivated during her time at the Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute, a school for upper-class African-Americans and was founded in 1902, by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown at Sedalia, North Carolina, near Greensboro, North Carolina. Her parents chose Spelman College (1950-1954) for her to pursue a B.A. degree in psychology. Borders remembers her father telling stories of bus desegregation and his role in it; and notes that her own experience with racism was limited due to her parents' protective nature. She then recounts the interview process at the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now a part of Drexel University) and being in the minority at this institution.

School integration--Georgia--Atlanta.

Spelman College.

Medical College of Pennsylvania.

African American--Education, Secondary--Georgia.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Juel Pate Borders, Section A2004_036_001_004, TRT: 0:28:40 2004/03/25

Rev. Dr. Juel Pate Borders says that although she found medical school difficult, she had support amongst the faculty and did not experience negative interactions with either faculty or students. Borders talks about her residency in 1961, at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in Obstetrics and Gynecology; where she was the first black female they had. She wanted to specialize in psychiatry, but her father persuaded her to pursue a degree and specialization in obstetrics instead. Borders discusses establishing herself in Atlanta, first with her father's help and then starting her own practice, the Juel Pate Borders Corporation. She then recounts how she met her husband, Theodore Benson, during her second-year of medical school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and he was in dental school. Borders says that they married in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1960, at the Wheat Street Baptist Church. She also talks about their two children.

Gynecology--Study and teaching.

Obstetrics--Study and teaching.

Albert Einstein Medical Center.