

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Grace Y. Ingleton

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Ingleton, Grace Y., 1936-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 1, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:17:53).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Nurse and educator Grace Y. Ingleton (1936 - 2021) served as the director of nursing at numerous long term care facilities in the New York City area, including the Midway Nursing Home and the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Ingleton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 1, 2012, in Cambria Heights, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_163
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nurse and educator Grace Y. Ingleton was born on September 14, 1936, in Panama, Republic of Panama. In 1955, Ingleton migrated to Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from Prospect Heights High School. Later, she attended Lincoln School for Nursing and received a nursing diploma. Ingleton also earned B.S. and M.A. degrees in nursing from Long Island University.

After graduating as a registered nurse, she joined the staff of Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. Ingleton's career in long term care began at Midway Nursing Home in 1973, where she served as the director of nursing services and administration for more than thirty years. Serving in this position, Ingleton obtained several grants to prepare and present seminars and workshops on a variety of issues specific to the long-term care industry and consulted with many major health care organizations. She also was an adjunct nursing professor at the college and university level, lecturing at Medgar Evers College until 2005. Ingleton was a nursing consultant to the Nursing Department at Parker Jewish Institute, part of Long Island Hospital.

Ingleton was honored by several organizations, including The Dedicators, Inc.; the Caribbean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.; Imani Literary Reading Group, Inc.; Savacou Fine Art Gallery; and Celebration of Black Artists. She received the Black Nurses Day Community Services Award for her community service and professional activities.

Ingleton was married to Edward I. Ingleton and lived in Brooklyn, New York.

Grace Ingleton was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 1, 2012.

Ingleton passed away on November 30, 2021.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Grace Y. Ingleton was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 1, 2012, in Cambria Heights, New York, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Nurse and educator Grace Y. Ingleton (1936 - 2021) served as the director of nursing at numerous long term care facilities in the New York City area, including the Midway Nursing Home and the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Ingleton, Grace Y., 1936-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ingleton, Grace Y., 1936- --Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Nurse

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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## 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 Grace Y. Ingleton, August 1, 2012. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton, Section A2012\_163\_001\_001, TRT: 1:31:07 ?

Grace Y. Ingleton was born on September 14, 1936 to Edith Pond Brown and Patna Brown in Ancón, Panama, which was part of the Panama Canal Zone at the time. Her mother was born in Ancón around 1917 to Mary Grace Pond and Arthur Pond, who migrated together from Montserrat to work on the Panama Canal. She grew up in Red Tank, Panama, and moved to Panama City as an adult. There, Ingleton's mother and maternal aunt, Anesta Pond Samuel, owned a chain of beauty parlors. Around 1950, Ingleton's aunt moved with her

husband, Henry Samuel, to Brooklyn, New York, and offered to house Ingleton to help her secure a better education. At this point in the interview, Ingleton describes the U.S. government's discriminatory policies in the Panama Canal Zone. There, public institutions were segregated, people of color were barred from many types of work, and students of color were not educated past the eighth grade. In response, the black community in Panama hired teachers from the West Indies to educate their children.

Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton, Section A2012\_163\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:05  
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Grace Y. Ingleton's father, Patna Brown, was born in 1915 near Red Tank, Panama to Jane Brown and Williams Brown, who were immigrants from Jamaica. Her grandfather worked on the Panama Canal; and her grandmother, who disguised herself as a man in order to come to the Panama Canal Zone, was a domestic worker. Ingleton's parents were denied formal schooling after the eighth grade, but pursued further education within the West Indian community in Panama. Ingleton's father went on to manage a commissary in Balboa, Panama. A member of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, he encouraged Ingleton and her younger sister, Velma Brown Armstrong, to be active in the community and the Episcopal church. Ingleton's childhood friends included Herrington Bryce and Roy Bryce-LaPorte, both of whom became professors in the United States. Unlike many of her peers, Ingleton attended school outside the Panama Canal Zone at Escuela Justo Arosemena in Panama City, where she learned to speak Spanish.

Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton, Section A2012\_163\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:37  
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Grace Y. Ingleton grew up in the Panama Canal Zone, where English was the primary language. Wanting her to learn Spanish, Ingleton's parents enrolled her at the Escuela Justo Arosemena in Panama City, Panama. There, she was encouraged by her teacher, Constance Fife, as she learned to navigate between the two cultures. Ingleton studied at the Liceo de Señoritas in Panama City until 1953, when she joined her maternal aunt and uncle, Anesta Pond Samuel and Henry Samuel, in Brooklyn, New York. There, she enrolled at Prospect Heights High School. Ingleton was familiar with American culture, but had never lived in a predominantly white setting and initially struggled to adjust. As a Panamanian immigrant of West Indian heritage, she also experienced discrimination from the African American community, and some of her teachers assumed that she was unable to understand English. Eventually, Ingleton befriended her peers of color and succeeded academically, graduating from high school in 1955.

Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton, Section A2012\_163\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:51  
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Grace Y. Ingleton entered the Lincoln School for Nurses in the Bronx, New York in 1956, after being rejected from the Prospect Heights Hospital School of Nursing because of her race. She married Edward I. Ingleton in 1958. Upon graduating in 1959, Ingleton was hired as an obstetric nurse at the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. She worked the night shift while completing her bachelor's degree and master's degree in nursing at Long Island University. In 1963, she moved with her husband to Queens, New York. After receiving her master's degree in 1970, Ingleton retired from her position as the chief nurse in the obstetric and neonatal unit of the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. She became a healthcare administrator at the Provident Clinical Society Neighborhood Health Center in Brooklyn; and, in 1973, transitioned to the Midway Nursing Home in

Queens. During this time, Ingleton worked with The Dedicators, Inc., which was founded in 1953 by her maternal aunt, Anesta Pool Samuel, to provide scholarships for students of color.

Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton, Section A2012\_163\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:32  
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Grace Y. Ingleton served as the director of nursing and administration at the Midway Nursing Home in Maspeth, New York from the time of its opening in 1973. During the next decade, the nursing home became the target of racial tensions in the neighborhood, which was predominantly Eastern European. Despite facing intimidation, Ingleton helped develop a positive relationship with the community. In 1984, she left the Midway Nursing Home and became the director of nursing at the Haym Salomon Home for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Brooklyn, New York. There, she worked with administrator Ernest Regan for six years, before following him to another nursing facility in New Rochelle, New York around 1989. From 1993 to 1998, Ingleton worked at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Brooklyn, while teaching nursing at Long Island University, Queensborough Community College and Medgar Evers College. She was introduced to the arts community by gallery owner Lawrence Dorsey; and, in 1999, founded Heart to Art, Inc.

Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton, Section A2012\_163\_001\_006, TRT: 6:31:29  
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Grace Y. Ingleton became deeply involved in the black arts community after meeting Lawrence Dorsey at his frame shop and gallery. She collected the works of such artists as Elizabeth Catlett, Otto Neals, Ann Tanksley, Violet Hewitt Chandler, Jonathan Green, Romare Bearden, James hd Brown, Ernest Crichlow, Louis Delsarte, James Denmark, Margaret Burroughs, Jacob Lawrence, John T. Biggers, Camille Billops and Faith Ringgold. In 2012, through Heart to Art, Inc., Ingleton donated a collection of pieces by twenty artists to The Links Foundation to be displayed at their headquarters in Washington, D.C. From 1991, Ingleton organized the Imani Literary Group, Inc., a women's reading group that initially formed to talk about African American history. The group also engaged in philanthropy, contributing to groups such as Doctors Without Borders and Dr. Julius Wayne Dudley's Books for Africa program. In 2009, Ingleton was honored with the Smithsonian Latino Center Legacy Award for her work in healthcare and the arts.

Video Oral History Interview with Grace Y. Ingleton, Section A2012\_163\_001\_007, TRT: 7:15:12  
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Grace Y. Ingleton travelled extensively, both as a solo traveler and with members of the Imani Literary Group, Inc. She joined the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Cathedral in Queens, New York during the late 1990s, and continued to belong to the congregation at the time of the interview. Ingleton concludes the interview by reflecting upon her life, legacy and how she would like to be remembered.