



7-1-1984

## Interview with W.H. Winborne

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**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #331  
WINBORNE, W. H.**

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Sickle cell anemia awareness advocate, veteran

*Interviewed:* July 1, 1984

*Interviewer:* Michael Cooke

*Index by:* Alyssa Jones

*Length:* 1 hour, 2 minutes, 21 seconds

**Abstract:** In his July 1984 interview with Michael Cooke, W. H. Winborne described his work with the Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, the Family Health Center, and the outreach programs related to the foundation. Winborne discussed DHEC's involvement with sickle cell anemia prevention, the foundation's role, and the community's response to the program efforts. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

**Keywords:** Sickle cell anemia, Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Family Health Center (previously Orangeburg County Consumer Health Council), Seventh Day Adventist, DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control), outreach programs

**Interview Session (July 1, 1984): Digital File**

**Time      Keywords**

00:00:00 *Start of Interview*/Interviewer's Introduction

00:00:12 *Question:* Can you give us a brief biographical sketch of your life? *Answer:* WHW was born October 15, 1937 in Clemmons, North Carolina. He went into the United States Air Force for eight years after graduating from high school. He attended University of Florida at Gainesville while serving. Then went to Oakville College in Alabama and graduated in 1966 with a degree in theology and psychology. He went to the Seventh Day Adventist Seminary in Michigan for two years, working towards a bachelor degree in divinity. WHW did further studying at Western Michigan University. He worked mostly for community organizations, especially church-related organizations, except for a brief stint with a wealthy corporation in Michigan. After that, he went to Mississippi, where he was involved in health care programs, specifically for the Seventh Day Adventist church in the Jackson, Mississippi area. After a year of that, WHW became an administrator in Fayette, Mississippi. In 1972, he went to Orangeburg, South Carolina, and worked as the director of the Orangeburg County Consumer Health Council (now the Family Health Center).

- 00:03:32 *Question:* When did you become aware of sickle cell anemia? *Answer:* WHW had been aware of sickle cell anemia for some time. It was a problem within his family.
- 00:04:32 *Question:* What was the motivation for the foundation of the Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation? *Answer:* The primary involvement was by people at the health department who discovered the problem. WHW was a quasi-lawyer in the community and talked about organizing the foundation.
- 00:05:55 *Question:* Who were the prominent organizers? *Answer:* WHW had trouble remembering, but managed to list two names.
- 00:06:30 *Question:* What type of expertise did he lend to the organization? *Answer:* Zach Townsend was an attorney and reviewed the bylaws and advised the organization legally. WHW went on to list a few more in the community who helped the organization.
- 00:08:17 *Question:* What were some of the early teething problems of the organization? *Answer:* Getting the 501-C status from the Internal Revenue Service, and then to launch fundraising efforts in order to bring in the necessary counseling. In the early days, they did not have the proper educational tools for the community.
- 00:15:22 *Question:* How did the public perceive the foundation? What was the response of the community? *Answer:* In the initial stages, the response of the public was an expected one. There was a lot of interest from the public because there were many people who had heard of it, but knew very little about it. WHW said people responded beautifully. The level of awareness in the first few years grew tremendously.
- 00:19:34 *Question:* What was the pastor's name? *Answer:* WHW could not remember the pastor's name.
- 00:19:42 *Question:* Was it Steve? *Answer:* No. WHW continued speaking about the positive response that the public had towards the foundation.
- 00:22:54 *Question:* What about the education of the foundation members? How did you educate yourselves? Did you have a body of trained professionals to call upon to instruct you about sickle cell anemia? *Answer:* Yes.
- 00:25:03 *Question:* What was his first name? *Answer:* William.
- 00:26:00 *Question:* Picking up where we left off—let's look at another area. What was the response of the community pharmacists and physicians to the problems of sickle cell

- patients? Was the foundation able to convince them that they would have to donate some of their time and consider the specific needs of sickle cell patients? *Answer:* WHW could not speak for the pharmacists, but he did know there were some efforts from the physicians.
- 00:28:45 *Question:* What was his name? *Answer:* Dr. Collier.
- 00:30:54 *Question:* What about your advertisement campaigns about getting the word out about sickle cell to the community? What was the response of the media? *Answer:* WHW did not recall, but did not think that they ever had problems with media coverage.
- 00:32:29 *Question:* What is the radio station's phone number? *Answer:* The radio station was located in Calhoun County, but it served Orangeburg.
- 00:33:22 *Question:* Is it a Black-owned station? *Answer:* It was a White-owned station, but its target audience was Black.
- 00:33:56 *Question:* What was the relationship between the foundation and DHEC in the 1970s? *Answer:* WHW described how sickle cell was viewed by DHEC, in his own opinion. It was identified as a separate program. DHEC's interest paralleled the national budget for dealing with sickle cell.
- 00:37:32 *Question:* The function of DHEC was contradictory in dealing with sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell does not fit in the preventative side of public health. *Answer:* WHW said it did not fit into the preventative side of public health.
- 00:42:26 *Question:* Did you notice any change in the role of the foundation during the 1970s? *Answer:* The foundation had a supportive role at first, but as DHEC became less involved, the foundation had to take on DHEC's responsibilities.
- 00:45:54 [MUTED]
- 00:54:40 *Question:* What about the outreach programs of the foundation? *Answer:* WHW said that each generation needed to be informed about sickle cell. There was a role for outreach, but the foundation had lost its outreach program.
- 01:00:12 *Question:* Are there any other points you want to bring to my attention? *Answer:* WHW believed he was the first president of the foundation, but was no longer the president. He gave credit to other individuals for doing most of the work for the organization. WHW called them the backbone of the foundation.
- 01:01:57 *Question:* Did you play a role in the state sickle cell advisory council? *Answer:* Yes.

01:02:21 *End of interview*