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## Interview with Judy Bradley

Judy Bradley

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

**Interview #324  
BRADLEY, Judy**

**BRADLEY, Judy**

Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Foundation member

*Interviewed:* June 30, 1984

*Interviewer:* Michael Cooke

*Index by:* Alyssa Jones

*Length:* 57 minutes, 42 seconds

**Abstract:** In her June 1984 interview with Michael Cooke, Judy Bradley discussed her work with the Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Foundation. Bradley covered topics of sickle cell anemia, DHEC, the foundation and its successes and failures, Dr. James R. Clark, various people involved in the founding of the foundation, and COBRA. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

**Keywords:** Sickle cell anemia, COBRA (Committee on Better Racial Assurance) Human Services Agency, DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control), James R. Clark, W. H. Winborne, Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Foundation, Shirley James, Sickle Cell Anemia Relief Fund

**Interview Session (June 30, 1984): Digital File**

**Time      Keywords**

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

00:00:10    *Question:* Can you give us a brief biographical sketch of your life? *Answer:* JB was born in Columbia, S.C. in 1944. She went to the Tuskegee Institute for nursing and received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing in 1966. She worked in Columbia for seven years in Hospital Nursing Education. In 1973, JB moved to Orangeburg and started working in public health.

00:01:11    *Question:* What department were you working in? *Answer:* JB was working the in the Family Planning Program. Within the first year of working in that program, JB became affiliated with sickle cell anemia in the area. In 1976, she received her Master's in Nursing from the University of South Carolina and continued to work in the area until 1981. After a few years, JB moved back to Orangeburg and continued working in public health.

- 00:02:25 *Question:* How long have you been associated with the Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation? *Answer:* Since 1974.
- 00:02:24 *Question:* Were you involved in the beginning? *Answer:* JB said she met a young woman named Shirley James, who she met when she arrived in Orangeburg. She was the first Family Planning Nurse Practitioner hired by DHEC in South Carolina. James was also the first Black nurse employed in the six county area and just happened to be working in JB's area. James was also a community nurse who was very interested in many of the community problems. James was the main person JB saw working with screening, identifying, case-finding, and counseling in the early '70s. James was often called on because she was the only African American with the expertise to work with the patients. Black social workers from Columbia came to help James because there were too many people for one person to handle.
- 00:04:49 *Question:* Was she responsible for bringing them up-to-date on the problems of sickle cell? Did she help educate these new social workers who were recently employed by DHEC? *Answer:* Yes. James was the person they depended on for information and success.
- 00:06:33 *Question:* You would classify her as one of the founders of the Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Foundation? *Answer:* Yes.
- 00:06:40 *Question:* Who else was very prominent in the initial years of the foundation? *Answer:* The Health Department staff in Orangeburg County was very active and involved. Individuals included Shirley James, Earline Washington, and many other nursing assistants who worked in the community.
- 00:10:11 *Question:* You mentioned that a lot of people in the Health Department were very active. Were the foundation's initial members from the medical community or were they family members of sickle cell patients? *Answer:* JB said they had some sickle cell patients.
- 00:11:13 *Question:* What is his (Winborne) background? *Answer:* Winborne's background was health administration.
- 00:11:26 *Question:* He's not a physician. *Answer:* Winborne was not a physician, but he was the executive director of the Orangeburg County Clinic. His expertise was in healthcare administration and organization and was considered the dean of family health clinics for South Carolina.
- 00:12:12 *Question:* Would you consider Mr. Winborne a founder of the organization? *Answer:* Yes.

- 00:13:10 *Question:* You mentioned earlier that you had a relief fund operating from the health department, so you established a relief fund for the Orangeburg Sickle Cell Foundation, as well, is that the case? *Answer:* Yes, but they called it the Sickle Cell Anemia Relief Fund. The money went to patients to help pay for their hospital bills and prescriptions. Some of it even went to Christmas gifts for children and groceries.
- 00:21:10 *Question:* What were some of the early objectives of the foundation in the 1970s? *Answer:* JB said that the main objective then and now was to provide support, but as the foundation grew, it felt necessary to match the objectives with other organizations and major healthcare organizations (DHEC and the Health Department). Their main objectives were to provide counseling and social services through its referral networks. The foundation also used the network to provide educational services.
- 00:22:45 *Question:* Where is she (Francine Webb) teaching? *Answer:* At the Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School.
- 00:23:27 *Question:* When did you first conceive the idea of a workshop? *Answer:* JB was unsure, but believed there were not many formal workshops in the '70s. In the beginning of the '80s and in '79, the foundation started having more workshops.
- 00:24:35 *Question:* When did you first have your banquets? *Answer:* The first banquet started in 1980.
- 00:24:59 *Question:* This is a relatively new event? *Answer:* Yes. It had a two-fold purpose. It was an annual event to recognize people and to invite the general public to hear about the workings of the foundation. The foundation also had an educational session.
- 00:25:41 *Question:* What's his first name? *Answer:* Carlton Davis.
- 00:25:51 *Question:* Is he from this community? *Answer:* No. Dr. Davis was a pediatric hematologist who was the main pediatric resource. Dr. Milner was mainly for the adults. Dr. Davis also worked closely with Dr. Clark.
- 00:26:20 *Question:* That's James? *Answer:* Dr. James R. Clark. Dr. Davis was then the primary provider until June of 1984.
- 00:26:57 *Question:* What were some of the teething problems of the foundation in the beginning? What were some of the stumbling blocks in the initial stages of the operation? *Answer:* JB believed that shortly after the foundation started, the foundation was overwhelmed with the number of people who had been misdiagnosed and had not had proper treatment. They were overwhelmed by the fact that there was not a system to take care of those people.

- 00:29:50 *Question:* What was his first name? *Answer:* Wilbur, she JB thought. He was the first paid person hired.
- 00:30:27 *Question:* We're picking up on your points on the county council. *Answer:* The county council gave funds to the foundation until 1989 when funds were revoked from many foundations.
- 00:31:29 *Question:* What about your relationship with DHEC? How supportive was DHEC in the 1970s? *Answer:* DHEC was very supportive, according to JB. Two of the foundations employees were from DHEC and so it gave them a special opportunity to easily work with DHEC.
- 00:35:04 *Question:* Had there been any times during the 1970s where the policies of DHEC seemed to be in conflict with the foundation? *Answer:* JB said that she was an optimistic and was careful in answering.
- 00:36:30 *Question:* We were discussing the policy decisions of DHEC and how it may have had an adverse effect on the foundation. *Answer:* JB thought that there may have been more documentation by the state council on how it failed to influence DHEC properly because of periods of inactivity. JB spoke on many aspects of the situation.
- 00:39:00 *Question:* The focus of DHEC was primarily preventative? *Answer:* Yes, it was prevention and health maintenance, promotion, and rehabilitation.
- 00:40:30 *Question:* You mentioned lobbying legislators. When did that happen? When did the foundation perceive that they had to contact legislators to make the foundation's views known to the public? *Answer:* JB did not think that the foundation thought about lobbying until they realized how much funding they were missing out on by just getting it from federal support.
- 00:43:38 *Question:* Who's Marshall Williams? *Answer:* He was a senator.
- 00:43:44 *Question:* And representative John Matthews. *Answer:* Yes and represent Earl Mosey/Mosely. JB discussed depending on COBRA a great deal.
- 00:45:13 *Question:* Do you see a trend in the 1970s where you began to take on new roles? You, being the Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. *Answer:* JB said that the foundation became more aware because they saw that they had to network in the mid-1970s.
- 00:46:55 *Question:* When did your foundation take on outreach programs beyond the municipal limits of Orangeburg? *Answer:* After the first couple of years. Bamberg and Calhoun were so close and the citizens used Orangeburg resources, it was a

natural progression.

00:48:12 *Question:* Were people from those other two counties part of this foundation or were you really just dealing with patients? *Answer:* Early on, the foundation did work with some citizens of the counties supporting the foundation.

00:49:15 *Question:* Can you think of anything else you want to add? *Answer:* JB said that when the state council was first reactivated in 1982, they decided to divide themselves in the state under COBRA and Orangeburg. Instead of four regions with four foundations, they consolidated Charleston and Orangeburg. JB showed MC a map to make it easier to understand the specifics.

00:50:26 *Question:* Why did this small foundation when so many of the other smaller foundations went under? *Answer:* JB listed several reasons, the first being that the foundation did mass screening.

00:52:07 *Question:* Who was that? *Answer:* Shirley James. Another reason was that Orangeburg was a predominantly Black area, so there were more people concerned and affected by sickle cell.

00:54:51 *Question:* Anything else you would like to add? *Answer:* JB wanted to add that the foundation continued to hang on because they continued to provide relief to the patients.

00:57:42 *End of interview*