

National Institutes of Health Second Story Interactive Studio

# "CHANGING THE FACE OF MEDICINE: Celebrating America's Women Physicians"

## "CHANGING THE FACE OF MEDICINE: Celebrating America's Women Physicians"

### **Physician: Dorothy Ferebee**



#### **VOICEOVER NARRATION:**

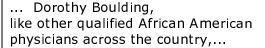
"As a young girl, I would nurse and help the birds that fell out of trees," recalled Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee.

While her friends played with toys, she healed injured animals.

At an early age, she knew she wanted to become a doctor.



After graduating fifth in her class from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1924 ...



... was denied internships at white hospitals.



Determined to find equal opportunity to complete her training...

... Dr. Boulding took an internship at Freedman's Hospital in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C.



One of the few hospitals administered by African Americans ... it provided health care



to the city's black community.

In 1925, after completing her internship Dr. Boulding opened her own practice in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

The community was very poor and did not have an ambulance service.

She was determined to bring basic care to those who could not afford it:

She found funding to open a health center for African-Americans.

Concerned about the needs of families in the community, she set up the Southeast Neighborhood Society ...

... with playgrounds and day care for children of working mothers.

She also founded, and became the first president, of The Women's Institute ... ... a philanthropic and educational organization.

In 1925, Dr. Boulding joined the faculty of Howard University Medical School ...

... where she met, and later married, Claude Thurston Ferebee, a dentist and university instructor.

[Rural Mississippi - video sent by NLM]

Throughout the Great Depression, Dr. Dorothy Ferebee was dedicated to bringing health care to those in need.

In 1934,









[Rural Mississippi folk go to medical clinic in bus - video sent by NLM]



she was appointed Medical Director of the Mississippi Health Project.













Under the auspices of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first philanthropic sorority founded by black college women in America ...

... the Mississippi Health Project brought primary health care and federal attention ... ...to the needs of African Americans in the rural South.

Despite threats by hostile whites ...

... Project workers launched vaccine programs against smallpox and diphtheria throughout poor communities.

They also treated venereal disease and widespread malnutrition.

Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority ... financed, designed, and implemented the Project for two to six weeks every summer from 1935 to 1942.









In 1949 Dr. Ferebee was appointed Director of Health Services for the Howard University Medical School.

She remained in Washington or the rest of her life.

She was an active member of the National Council of Negro Women ... ... and served as its second president from 1949 to 1953.

She worked to eliminate discrimination against minorities in housing, education, the armed forces, and health care.

When she was in her sixties, President John F. Kennedy appointed her to the Council for Food for Peace ...

... and she toured Africa for five months, lecturing on preventive medicine.

Doctor Dorothy Boulding Ferebee died in 1980, at the age of ninety.

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### This is one of 15 scripts

To see the complete set, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com