

PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

LUDIE CLAY ANDREWS

pioneer of nursing, activist

“The Dean of Black Nurses.” – reference often made of Ms. Andrews



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE GEORGIA STATE

Background Information

Born: September 4, 1872; Died: January 6, 1969

Andrews was born in Milledgeville, Georgia. She grew up in a home with parents who raised her to be proud of her mixed-race background. She had two younger siblings, but tragically lost them in a house fire at a young age. Andrews graduated from Eddy High School in 1890, after her marriage to Isaac Andrews in 1888. She then began nurse training at MacVicar Hospital at Spellman Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia where she graduated in 1906. She began her career working as Superintendent of Lula Grove Hospital and Training School, where she was responsible for educating student nurses.¹

Andrews's Resistance

When Lula Grove Hospital merged with Emory University, Andrews became Superintendent of the Colored Department at Grady Hospital. Because of her expertise and success in this position, she was then asked to organize the Municipal Training School for Colored Nurses. She worked to get the school chartered and accredited and, after three years, her hard work paid off.

At this time, the Georgia State Board of Nurse Examiners did not allow people of color to take the state licensing exam. Andrews recognized this inequality and made it her mission to advocate for equal rights for nurses of color. The state did not initially support her efforts though. In fact, the State of Georgia offered her a license; however, she refused to accept it until all qualified African American nurses were afforded the same opportunity. She ultimately took legal action against the Georgia State Board of Nurse Examiners to this end.

In 1920, African American nurses who graduated from accredited schools of nursing were finally allowed to take the same examination for registration as white nursing school graduates. Andrews became the first African American Registered Nurse in the State of Georgia.¹

Achievements

The inclusion of African American women in the medical industry can be attributed to Andrews' expertise and dedication. Andrews has been named the “Dean of Georgia Black Nurses”. She is an honoree of the Georgia Women of Achievement.¹

Essential Questions

1. How did Andrews fight against segregation within the medical field?
2. How were her actions acts of resistance?
 - a. Who was impacted by her resistance?
3. What is an injustice you may face in the future career of your choice?
 - a. What is a solution you can create to fight that injustice?
4. ***“The Dean of Black Nurses.”***
 - a. Given what you know about Andrews, how does this quote symbolize her resistance?

¹“Ludie Clay Andrews”. Georgia Women of Achievement. Retrieved 2020-10-25.