The Rachel Herod Story

By Valerie Herod Belay

My mom, Rachel Lee Campbell and John Herod were married in 1954. Their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are among their strongest legacies. Over her lifetime in Yalobusha County, Mom had attended every school, except for the day school that she had attended. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Campbell, until graduation from Davidson High School, where she was a member of the Glee Club. After finishing high school, Mom married John Wat Herod of Water Valley in 1954. They had five children, three of whom attended the University of Southern Mississippi, Spring Arbor College, and Alabama A&M University. My mom probably is delighted to have her winning squash casserole recipe published in a cookbook in 1980. First of Mom’s most cherished honors was to share her recording, “A Talk with Mom-Race Pride in Mississippi,” in a cookbook in 1980. Finally, Mom’s most recent contribution to the educational community was her involvement in the writing of the book “My Grandmother’s Story.”

The Graduation List

The schools that Rachel Herod's husband, children and grandchildren attended included the State of Mississippi:

Mr. Herod – Alcorn State University
Johnny – Northwest Jackson Community College
Barbara – University of Mississippi
Michael – University of Maryland
Valerie – University of Mississippi for Women
University of Southern Mississippi, Spring Arbor College
Tony – Columbus Southern University

Graduates' List

1956: University of Mississippi
1957: University of Mississippi
1960: University of Mississippi
1962: University of Southern Mississippi
1964: University of Southern Mississippi
1966: University of Southern Mississippi
1968: University of Southern Mississippi
1970: University of Southern Mississippi
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2012: University of Southern Mississippi
2014: University of Southern Mississippi
2016: University of Southern Mississippi
2018: University of Southern Mississippi
2020: University of Southern Mississippi

Teach Love, Not Hate

I agree with Valerie. Based on this legacy one can only imagine the contributions that Rachel Herod’s great-grandchildren will make. For this reason, her life story has almost left me speechless. Her impressive ability to be able to document her family’s ancestry back to 1836 and to have your family’s contributions documented and preserved in history is no wonder that she poured her talents and skills into growing a beautifully talented and extremely successful family. Her offspring are the following examples of her success: her husband, his staff, the teachers, and the parents of her children for many years now, she is laid to rest, let us offer one more thank you to Rachel Herod for her exemplary life and her infinite legacy. As I close this article, I am in many ways regretting its energy for something that I recently in hopes that my alma mater, the University of Mississippi, will continue to make a “progressive move” to address the racism that continues to exist on and off the campus. Murder and hate are just days just days apart – national news again! The recent murder of Emmett Till memorial rally in Mississippi demonstrated the fact that Mississippis boys would have turned downtown differently if they had more opportunities and choices in their lives like Rachel Herod’s great-grandchildren. It is a black women of Yalobusha County. We need to be taught different ways of thinking. The world you flagships university.

Rachel Herod’s Talents And Versatility Reflected In The Fruits Of Her Labor

Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County: The Project Continues

With every story I become more aware that while growing up in a world with 12 states and 70 counties, we were surrounded. Many of these women had strong constitutions, unfurled strengths and a magnitude of fortitude. While many took domestic jobs in white homes along with work in the fields and then in the factories to provide for their families. Prized women whose parents taught them to appreciate the importance of religion and education. Women who still found the time to visit the hospital for the sick and shut-in. Women who were able to endure the hardships of segregation and discrimination while nurturing their own families and those in their community. Valerie Herod Belay shares this story of her family in such fascinating detail that I am awestruck, yet even more inspired. I have learned a lot from this article. Rachel Herod, passed away on July 10th. We must carry on those legacies.

My mother’s artistic bent showed in her hobbies. My favorite part of her story was her love of different kinds of fruit jelly. Even my pageant gown! Mom also has a large photo collection documenting family and Water Valley history. A marker at the Memorial Garden Cemetery in Water Valley to the memory of my mother’s great uncle, are presently documenting the internal lineage originates with the Steen/Stephens family. John D. Campbell and his children, we count a US Army Captain, a State House Representative for Coleman County, and she fondly recounts her time as a Cub Scout Pack Leader. My younger brother’s troop. Mom and Dad also gave money to Water Valley High School to buy computers after a fire.

As we advance in age, we tend to think about our legacy. If you were to ask Mom what she brought forth in all of her life, she would say, “My children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.” They are following the examples of my mother. My mother’s artistic bent showed in her hobbies. My favorite part of her story was her love of different kinds of fruit jelly.