

# Lula B. 'Helen' Chapman Wanted The World To Be A Better Place

## Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County: The Project Continues

Adam Evans, who teaches at a Washington, D.C. public high school, reads this column and is planning to use it in two of his history classes. His assessment of the entries thus far drew my attention and gave me pause. "I thought the reflection of writing this sort of history as a reminiscing that isn't always happy was an apt way of describing the pursuit of history as personal, professional, and never-ending. As a history teacher," he said, "it is always a struggle to peel back the larger narrative and focus on the personal. I've been enjoying the manner in which the writers do this, showing that revisionist history isn't changing the past, but changing our understanding of it as we obtain a more full picture of what happened."

Adam is from Athens, Georgia and earned his Master's degree from the University of Mississippi. His astute description of the column captures its intent: to tell the history as we know and lived it. Every story written thus far has opened yet another door.

It has taken a lot for me to be able to write about some-

one so close to me. Not long after I started this project, James Judson, my cousin Mildred's husband and my late brother's best friend, said that "if you really wanted to write about an outstanding black woman of Yalobusha County, you need to write about your mother, Helen Chapman." She had done more for him and other young folks in Water Valley than anyone he knew, he told me. He mentioned the trips she took them on to the Memphis Zoo, Parchman Penitentiary, Mound Bayou and other places — trips, activities and training that made an impact on his life.

"When are you going to write about Aunt Helen?" another cousin, Eva Chatman Newton, asked months ago. Much later Danita Hall scolded me after I had already twisted her arm to write about her mother, Ruby Hall. Then, when Valerie Herod Belay wrote a beautiful and well-deserved tribute to her mother, Rachel Herod, I decided I had to do what I have been asking others to do. I guess I was concerned that some would see it as bragging on my part.



By Dottie Chapman Reed

Reed is a native of Water Valley and graduated from Davidson High School in 1970. This article is part of a project to compile and share info about women in the county who have made an impact on the African American community. Her column appears bi-monthly, with occasional exceptions. She can be reached at (678) 825-2356 or reed2318@bellsouth.net

I called a cattle-gap truck that had make-shift benches in the back. So, there was a lot of sliding and bouncing around. As I have gotten older, it occurred to me that we should have been embarrassed traveling that way. But we weren't. I thought it was funny how we had to pull into those weigh stations on Interstate 55 to be weighed just like cattle.

The chaperones — women and the occasional man — organized kids into groups of five or six, each identified by a little strip of colored ribbon pinned on our lapels. When we arrived at the zoo, we would excitedly eat our bologna sandwiches and drink sodas on the grounds and then take off for the day. None of us can recall any hindrances or restrictions because of the color of our skin. An additional highlight was the drive by of Elvis Presley's home. I think we had snacks for the approximately 90-mile trip home. My cousin Eva remembers that when my mom drove her and three schoolmates on their first trip to the Memphis Zoo, she made them take notes and write a report for school - evidence of my mom's belief in education.

My next trip with my mother was to the Parchman Penitentiary, traveling once again in the "cattle-gap" truck. We encountered an unexpected delay when prison officials required one of the chaperones, Oscar Gordon, to shave his beard off. Security reasons, they claimed. The first part of the tour took us through a huge kitchen where I saw the biggest vats of boiling water and cooking containers that I had ever seen. In the prison itself, we saw how the men - all of them in striped uniforms - lived and worked. It was a very eye opening, frightening experience, and I realized then that Parchman was a place I never wanted to be.

Completely opposite from the trip to Parchman was our visit to the all-black town of Mound Bayou, in the Delta. I believe my mother's purpose for these trips was to educate and expose us to the world beyond Yalobusha County.

Percy Lee Rogers, a community activist in her own right, recalls making three trips to the zoo as a chaperone, the trip to Parchman and many trips that illustrate another of my mother's roles - mistress of ceremony sponsoring singing programs in various churches across all denominations. Ms. Rogers recalls going to many congregations in north Mississippi and at least one in Canton, just outside Jackson. These programs featured mostly male quartets. One was led by Charlie Rogers. Other prominent groups included the Crowder and Covington families. "I can hardly remember a Sunday when we were not in some church morning, afternoon and evening," said Eva. She recalled that mom kept her, her siblings and mine in church every Sunday night. They had to sing, read the scripture or recite a speech. I, too, became a victim as soon as I was of age.

Aside from sponsoring singing programs, my mother worked with and supported many preachers, most of whom sat at our table for Sunday afternoon dinners. We children couldn't eat until the preacher and the other adults had finished. Percy Lee credits my mom and Ma-

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## A Mother To Me, A Mentor To So Many Others

by Dottie Chapman Reed

My mother, whose 'real name' as they say, was Lula B., had lived more than half of her life when I was born in 1952. To understand her early years, I have sought information from my first cousins, one of whom was there when I was born, Odessa Finch Douglas. "Your dad came to get me to be your nurse when you were born," she said. I entered the world of Water Valley, Yalobusha County (*My Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter I, Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter I, Hump Back, Hump Back I - our childhood chant for learning to spell Mississippi*), the fourth child born to Helen and Alvin Chapman. She was forty years old.

"My sister Ann (Annie Clyde), Irene Robinson, Willie Ree Smith and I stayed with Aunt Helen and Uncle Alvin in order to go to high school." Odessa added. "Living with them during the week was the only way we could get to school each day. We stayed for three years or so until we graduated because we lived too far away." Unimaginable — as my parents had three other children (Tomie, Faye and Gabby) when I came along — all of us in a three-bedroom house with no running water, an outdoor toilet, a wood stove for heating and cooking and no air conditioning. That was 10 people!

"Aunt Helen made our breakfast each morning, provided our school lunches and everything else we needed. We walked to church and school when Uncle Alvin did not drive us in his truck," Odessa continued. "One night during the week Aunt Helen arranged for us to watch television at a white family's home nearby. What a good old time we had! Usually we four girls went home on the weekends. Aunt Helen got me my first job ironing for Lou McNamee. She told me if I saw money lying around where you think they don't know it, do not touch it. She told me that they (whites) will generally test you."

My dad took Odessa to her senior prom, and she was in the same class with the late Rachel Herod, featured in the last article. Odessa said our aunt in Memphis purchased her prom dress, which she allowed Rachel to borrow and wear to the prom in Coffeeville, where her future husband worked at the "colored" high school. When Odessa told me that my mom and dad paid for her senior class ring because her parents, Uncle Buddy (Al) and Aunt Pit (Betsy) Finch, could not afford it, I got emotional.

According to Odessa, the girls thought my parents were rich because they bought a farm with substantial



Helen Chapman in 1973

— Photo by Jack Gurner

acreage. My father had purchased the land from a white man, Calvin Bruce Gurner, March 19, 1952, and my mother worked for two Gurner families who lived on Panola Street. Odessa's sister, Ann, was assigned to take care of my brother, Gabby, when he started school in 1954. He was quite a handful. One time when the kids were riding in the back of the family truck, Gabby told my mom that if she couldn't drive any faster, he might as well jump off. And he did!

I cannot leave my second cousins out because we grew up together and spent many overnights at my house and theirs. About those youth trips that James mentioned: on my first trip to the Memphis Zoo we traveled on what

# PUBLIC NOTICES

I WILL CONVEY only such title as vested in me as Substituted Trustee. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE on this 14th day of August, 2019.

Shapiro & Brown, LLC  
SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE  
Shapiro & Brown, LLC  
1080 River Oaks Drive, Suite B-202  
Flowood, MS 39232  
(601) 981-9299  
231 Rolling Oak Drive Scobey, MS 38953  
19-023771 Publication Dates: August 29, September 5 and 12, 2019

### IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF YALOBUSHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHAY LEIGH GILLON CAUSE NUMBER: 19-CV-58

CHELSEA LYNETTE ALLEN SLAUGHTER JOHN CHRISTOPHER GILLON, PETITIONERS

#### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Chelsea Lynette Allen Slaughter and John Christopher Gillon, seeking to determine the Heirs of Shay Leigh Gillon. Defendants other than Petitioners in this action are unknown.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 7th day of October, 2019, in the courtroom of the Desoto County Courthouse at Hernando, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading, but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 19th day of August, 2019.

Yalobusha County Chancery Clerk  
By: /s/ Brenda K. Joiner, Deputy Clerk (SEAL)

Publish: August 22, 29 & Sept 5, 2019

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

The following abandoned vehicles will be sold at public auction for storage and/or towing and/or repairs and parts. This sale shall take place at 11481 Hwy. 315 N, Water Valley, MS 38965, on September 17, 2019, at 9:00 A.M. All Bids/Payments must be made immediately after sale in cash or legal tender! We reserve the right to reject Any or All bids!

- (1) 1990 Ford FSD DS – VIN# 2FdLF47M3LCA84187
- (2) 1983 Chevy Malibu – VIN# 1G1AW35H1dR137901
- (3) 2002 Buick LeSabre – VIN# 1G4HP54K124166171
- (4) 2013 Chevy ML 2 – VIN# 1G11E5SA7dU134648
- (5) 2015 Volkswagen Passat SD – VIN# 1VWAS7A35FC120316
- (6) 2003 Dodge NXT – VIN# 1B3ES56C73d214156
- (7) 2008 Toyota FJC – VIN# JTEZU11F88K004457
- (8) 2005 Buick LaSabre – VIN# 1G4HR54K15U155671

Publish: August 22, 29 & Sept 5, 2019

### IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF YALOBUSHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHRISTOPHER HERVEY, PLAINTIFF  
VERSUS  
WILL GOOCH, CORNELIUS GOOCH,  
AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE  
INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN, DEFENDANTS  
CAUSE NUMBER: 19-CV-84

#### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: WILL GOOCH AND CORNELIUS GOOCH, LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF 1361 COUNTRY ROAD 225, WATER VALLEY, MISSISSIPPI 38965, AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

#### NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

You have been made a Defendant in the Complaint in this Court by the Plaintiff, Christopher Hervey, seeking to quiet and confirm title for the following described real property:

A PARCEL OF LAND IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, CONTAINING .5 ACRE LYING AND BEING SITUATED WEST OF THE SCOBEY PUBLIC ROAD, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS:

BEGINNING AT AN IRON STAKE LOCATED ON THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SCOBEY PUBLIC ROAD, SAID STAKE BEING LOCATED ON THE WEST SECTION LINE OF SECTION 19, RUN THENCE NORTH 465 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE. RUN THENCE EAST 208 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE, RUN THENCE NORTH 104 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE, RUN THENCE WEST 208 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE, RUN THENCE SOUTH 104 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

EASEMENT: THE RIGHT OF EGRESS AND INGRESS IN AND TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY.

Defendants other than your are none.  
Your are required to mail or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to Tommy W. Defer, LAW OFFICE OF TOMMY W. DEFER, PLLC, the attorney for the Plaintiff, whose mailing address and physical address is 111 Calhoun Street, Water Valley, Mississippi 38965. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 22nd OF AUGUST 2019, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this 15th day of August 2019.  
AMY F. MCMINN, CHANCERY CLERK  
OF YALOBUSHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
By: /s/ Brenda K. Joiner, Deputy Clerk (SEAL)

Publish: August 22, 29 & Sept 5, 2019

#### SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2005, Trevor Adams, a single man executed a certain deed of trust to American Title Co., Inc., Trustee for the benefit of The Hurricane Mortgage Company, Inc. which deed of trust is of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Yalobusha County, State of Mississippi in Book 165 at Page 449; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for SASCO Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-WF4 has heretofore substituted Shapiro & Brown, LLC as Trustee by instrument dated March 20, 2019 and recorded in the aforesaid Chancery Clerk's Office in Book 20191 at Page 545; and

WHEREAS, default having been made in the terms and conditions of said deed of trust and the entire debt secured thereby having been declared to be due and payable in accordance with the terms of said deed of trust, U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for SASCO Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-WF4, the legal holder of said indebtedness, having requested the undersigned Substituted Trustee to execute the trust and sell said land and property in accordance with the terms of said deed of trust and for the purpose of raising the sums due thereunder, together with attorney's fees, trustee's fees and expense of sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shapiro & Brown, LLC, Substituted Trustee in said deed of trust, will on September 19, 2019 offer for sale at public outcry and sell within legal hours (being between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.), at the North Door of the County Courthouse of Yalobusha County, located at 14440 Main Street, Coffeeville, MS 38922, to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds the following described property situated in Yalobusha County, State of Mississippi, to-wit:

Part of the SW quarter of the SW quarter of Section 15, T24N, R4E, First Judicial District, Yalobusha County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin on the east side of a gravel road, said point being 1204.7 feet north and 397.2 feet east of the SW corner of said Section 15, proceed thence away said road South 85 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 232.59 feet to an iron pin, thence South 27 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds West 280.83 feet to an iron pin; thence North 62 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds West 164.52 feet to an iron pin on the East side of said gravel road thence along said road as follows North 40 degrees 10 minutes 19 seconds East 60.00 feet, North 19 degrees 21 minutes 28 seconds East 49.04 feet, North 0 degrees 54 minutes 00 seconds West 46.19 feet, North 9 degrees 35 minutes 34 seconds West 53.59 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.0 acre. Reserving an easement 10' in width along the west side of said parcel for the purpose of utilities. Attached hereto is survey with same being made a part of this Warranty Deed as if copied wholly herein in words and figures and if there be any inconsistencies in the above legal description that the survey will be considered controlling.

EASEMENT: Part of the SW quarter of the SW quarter of Section 15, T24N, R4E, First Judicial District, Yalobusha County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the north right-of-way of a public county road, said point being thence N 0°26'47"W 77.25 to and from the SW corner of said Section 15; proceed thence around said easement as follows, thence N 0°26'47"W 27.83 feet, N 27°58'00"E 196.07 feet, N 22°54'08"W 90.37 feet, N 4°24'41"W 225.58 feet, N 17°39'36"E 225.03 feet, N 40°15'27"E 373.11 feet, N 24°06'41"E 21.63 feet, N 0°18'30"E 36.93 feet, N 13°54'16"W 99.69 feet, N 13°43'27"E 104.61 feet, N 27°29'28"W 102.09 feet, N 56°23'33"W 358.52 feet, N 34°08'09"E 50.00 feet, S 55°22'13"E 383.37 feet, S 24°53'24"E 124.06 feet, S 14°25'10"W 100.43 feet, S 14°13'55"E 94.45 feet, S 0°54'00"E 46.19 feet, S 19°21'128"W 49.04 feet, S 40°10'19"W 380.58 feet, S 16°35'39"W 205.44 feet, S 5°22'49"E 206.83 feet, S 17°50'32"E 108.91 feet, S 27°58'00"W 209.47 feet, N 89°45'11"W 41.52 feet to the point-of-beginning, intending to describe a 50 foot right-of-way for a road.