

# Recording Yalobusha's Black History – Phase 1 Begins



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

By Dottie Chapman Reed

Spending almost five days on the University of Mississippi campus recently left me with a combination of déjà vu and where am I? It was not my first visit since graduating in 1974, leaving my university job in 1977 or attending the second black student alumni reunion in 2012. But it was at that reunion, when to my astonishment, then chancellor Dr. Dan Jones apologized to Myrlie Evers-Williams and to black alumni. He apologized to Mrs. Evers-Williams for the university law school denying admission to her late husband, Medgar, who had met all the requirements.

And he apologized to us, the black alumni, for years of discrimination and the wrongdoings we experienced. Linda Lewis Jamison and I looked at each other in amazement and disbelief. We confirmed later that he said what we thought we heard. We also feared that some in the audience might have missed the significance of this first-ever apology from the highest paid position in the state.

When the news broke roughly three years later, that Chancellor Jones was asked to resign shortly after returning from a medical leave, I sent a note wishing him well and thanking him for that apology and for all the positive changes he brought to the university.

My visit this time was to meet with Dr. Jessie Wilkerson and her graduate level oral history class. In addition, she and I met with various administrators to discuss the oral history project that we, along with 6 of her students, launched in the Yalobusha County towns of Water Valley and Coffeetown on Sunday, September 29th. I had barely made it back home to Georgia before the latest uproar at the university once again captured national attention. The Institutions of Higher Learning, which had been charged with finding a new leader, announced that it had hired a former IHF commissioner who had been paid as a consultant in the search process. He had not been on the list of candidates under consideration.



The oral history project in Yalobusha County was launched last month as Ole Miss students visited Spring Hill North Baptist Church and Mt. Moriah District Association. The group at Mt. Moriah

Students immediately protested, and the university canceled the press conference to announce the selection of the 18th chancellor. The first picture I saw showed my cousin and Water Valley native Ray Hawkins, the chief of university police, carrying a female student protester out of the room. It was he who announced the cancellation after the IHF officials retreated.

Then I remembered a comment from an administrator I had met a few days earlier – that negative acts inside and outside the university continue to thwart the school's positive efforts.

The previous article in this column, "A Quietly Kept First," featured Ruthie White, who with a high score on the ACT in 1970 wanted to go to college but did not know whom to talk to, nor did she or her family have the money.

Almost 50 years later, on September 27, 2019, Abby Sonnier, a junior public policy and leadership major from Louisiana, wrote an opinion piece in the *Daily Mississippian* entitled, "Higher education isn't accessible to every-

one." "I never worried about paying for college," she began. "As an upper-middle class individual, it never crossed my mind that I would not be able to go to college because of financial factors outside my control. Until I got to college, I honestly did not know that people just like me in nearly every way – except financially – had to sacrifice higher education because they could not afford it. Unfortunately, this is the reality for many aspiring students across Mississippi. Thousands of students are deprived of the basic tools they need to pursue higher education, and it is not by accident.

"A sufficient education can only be provided if it is properly funded," she continued. And Mississippi falls short. According to the U.S. Department of Education, she noted, the state spends \$33,000 less per student throughout their K-12 public education than the U.S. average (\$137,467).

In closing Abby wrote, "I have heard many stories of my peers having to forgo a meal because they couldn't afford it or forgo a shower and lights in their apartment because they couldn't pay rent that month. The state motto of Mississippi is 'by valor and arms'. Wouldn't it be the brave thing – the valiant thing- for Mississippi to allow education and opportunity to extend to (and) to be fully accessible to a whole new socioeconomic group which has never before been allotted this opportunity?"

Hats off to you Abby! How wonderful it would be if the IHL, which oversees all of the public institutions of higher education, paid more serious attention to this new socioeconomic group - the students and children of Mississippi.

Our oral history project in Yalobusha County is forging ahead with this ideal, reaching out, educating, engaging and connecting communities.

Our launch was a great success. The graduate students will conduct oral history interviews of black residents and natives of Yalobusha County. We were able to speak to approximately 150 people at worship services at Spring Hill North Baptist Church in Water Valley and the Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist District Church Association in Coffeetown. Several individuals volunteered, agreeing to grant interviews to begin immediately. The students who are participating in this project are excited and describe their recent visit and anticipation on the next page.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### School Board Meeting Is Oct. 21

The Water Valley Board of Trustees has scheduled a school board meeting on Monday, October 21, at 6:30 in the central office. The public is invited to attend.

### VFW Will Have Haunted House And Trunk Or Treat On Oct. 29

VFW Post 4100 and its Auxiliary will have a haunted house Tuesday, October 29, at the Post Home, located at 11535 Highway 315, west of Water Valley. There will be a free Trunk or Treat for ages three to 12 years old in the parking lot. The haunted house will cost \$3 per person and attendees will use the back entrance for this event.

### VFW Announces Weekend Events

Bingo is scheduled Friday, Oct. 18, at VFW Post 4100. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and play will begin at 7. Music for the Saturday night dance on October 19, will be by the band, "Southern Lights." VFW Post 4100 is located at 11535 Highway 315, west of Water Valley. All adults are invited to attend bingo and the dance.

### Valley Fall Fest Scheduled Oct. 26

Valley Fall Fest, sponsored by Brilliant Little Gifts (Jasmine Walker), is scheduled October 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 123 Baker Street, Water Valley. The event will feature Actor Trent Bounds, Brian Banks Films, Being Mary Jane, Tales, The Best of Enemies, and Rampage. There will also be games, bouncy houses, face painting, balloon creations, food, drinks, music, and much more!

### Bell Family Reunion Is Oct. 20

The Bell reunion is scheduled Sunday, October 20, at Cossar State Park, Oakland. Lunch will be served in the visitors' center at noon.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2000, Pamela Bell, a single person executed a deed of trust for the benefit of First Family Financial Services Inc., which deed of trust was recorded on January 31, 2000, in Book C128, Page 384 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the Second Judicial District of Yalobusha County, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned deed of trust was assigned by CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, successor by merger to First Family Financial Services Inc. a Delaware Corporation, successor by merger to First Family Financial Services Inc. a Mississippi Corporation to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A, by instrument dated December 4, 2017, and recorded on December 11, 2017, in Book 20172, Page 4526 of the records of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A Servicer, the holder of the deed of trust, substituted McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC as Trustee, as authorized by the terms thereof, by instrument recorded on September 16, 2019, and spread at large upon the records in the office of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk in Book 20192, Page 3634, prior to the posting and publication of this notice; and

WHEREAS, default having been made in the terms and conditions of the deed of trust, and the entire debt secured thereby having been declared to be due and payable in accordance with the terms of the deed of trust, and the legal holder of said indebtedness, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A Servicer, has requested the undersigned Substitute Trustee to execute the trust and sell said land, property and improvements in accordance with the terms of the deed of trust for the purpose of raising the sums due thereunder, together with attorney's fees, Substitute Trustee's fees and expenses of sale;

THEREFORE, on November 7, 2019, the undersigned Substitute Trustee in the deed of trust, will offer for sale at public outcry and sell to the highest bidder for cash, within legal hours (being between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.) at the South door of the Yalobusha County Courthouse in Water Valley, Mississippi, the following described land, property and improvements lying and being situate in the Second Judicial District of Yalobusha County, Mississippi, to-wit:

Tract 1 0.6 acres, more or less, in the NW1/4 of Sec. 35, T11S, R4W, in the Second Judicial District, Yalobusha Co., Miss., said property being further described as follows:

Beginning at a point which lies 759.38 ft. North and 1154.88 ft. West of the center of said Sec. 35, proceed thence along the East R.O.W. Line of Pine Valley Road, in a curve to a point which lies N19°14'W at a distance of 130.0 ft., thence N50°46'E for 175.68 ft., thence S53°23'E for 122.0 ft., thence S49°53'W for 250.0 ft. to the point of beginning. Tract 2 Approximately 0.51 acres in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, T11S-R4W of the Second Judicial District of Yalobusha County, Mississippi; more particularly described as follows: Beginning at an iron pipe located 1194.47 feet West and 883.66 feet North of the Southeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, T11S-R4W and on the Northerly right-of-way of Yalobusha County Road No. 220, run thence N 25° 44' 34" W along said right-of-way a distance of 91.09 feet to a point, run thence N 35° 38' 03" W along said right-of-way a distance of 69.24 feet to an iron rod on the Easterly right-of-way of Yalobusha County Road No. 124, run thence N 48° 17' 22" E along the right-of-way of Yalobusha County Road No. 124 a distance of 109.86 feet to an iron pipe, run thence S 53° 11' 08" E a distance of 168.12 feet to an iron pipe, run thence S 51° 00' 09" W a distance of 175.89 feet to the point of beginning. Together with a 1977 Imperial Manor 12' x 52' Mobile Home situated thereon.

I WILL CONVEY only such title as is vested in the Substitute Trustee.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 30th day of September, 2019

/s/ James L. DeLoach  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC  
Substitute Trustee

299 South 9th Street Oxford, MS 38655  
(770)643-2148  
Foreclosurehotline.net

File No.: 5594319

PUBLISH: 10/17/2019, 10/24/2019, 10/31/2019

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
FRANCES VIRGINIA HOWELL, DECEASED NO. 19-CV-103

CHARLES MILLS and JEAN MILLS,  
EXECUTORS

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the undersigned, by Order of the Chancery Court of Yalobusha County, Mississippi, in Cause No. 19-CV-103 on the 4th day of September 2019, and issued to the undersigned by the Clerk of said Court on the 4th day of September, 2019; you are hereby given notice that you must present your claim, or claims, against said estate to the Clerk of said Court, Yalobusha County, Mississippi, Courthouse, Water Valley, Mississippi, for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice; and you are further given notice that if your claim, or claims, is not registered and probated within said time, it will be forever barred.

This the 27th day of September, 2019.

/s/ Charles Mills  
Charles Mills  
/s/ Jean Mills  
Jean Mills

Publish: October 3, 10 & 17, 2019

### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

ESTATE OF DOLLIE ANN HENDERSON, DECEASED NO: 19-CV-29

RODNEY WOODARD HENDERSON, EXECUTOR

### SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:  
TO: Floressa (Floressa) Henderson McCallister  
address unknown

You have been made a respondent in the suit filed in this Court by Rodney Woodard Henderson, petitioner seeking to close the estate of Dollie Ann Henderson, deceased. The respondent other than you in this action is Mose Young Henderson, Jr.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the petition filed against you in this action at 9 o'clock A.M. on the 12th day of November, 2019, in the courtroom of the Panola County Courthouse at Batesville, 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 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 27th day of September, 2019.

AMY F. McMINN  
CHANCERY CLERK OF YALOBUSHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
BY: Brenda K. Joiner D. C.

PUBLISH: October 3, 10 & 17, 2019