

Mr. Fred A
Mr. Jimmie
Mr. James
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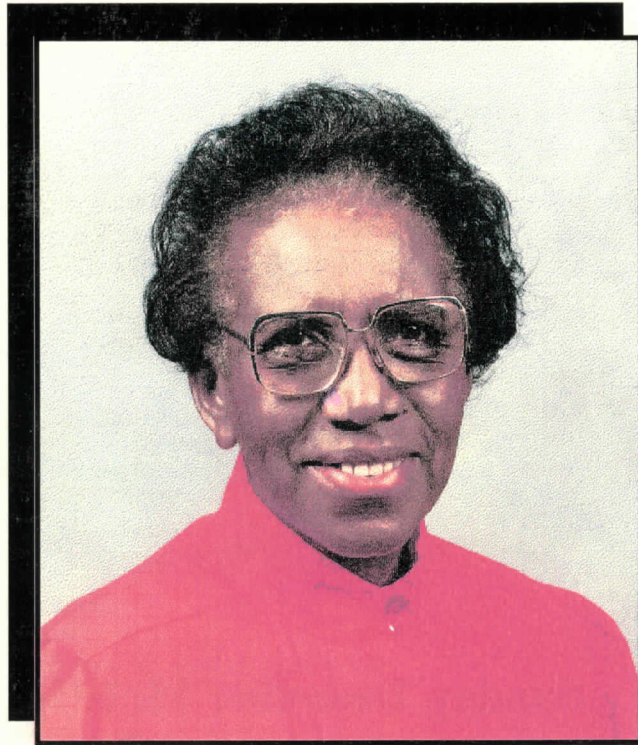
Ulysses Ho
C.C. Pinso
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September 15, 1915

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December 10, 1996

In Loving Memory
of
Mrs. Della Reed
Davidson
1915—1996

Sunday, December 15, 1996
2:00 P.M.

Tallahatchie Oxford Missionary Baptist
Association Building
Oxford, Mississippi

Rev. Robert Brown, Officiating

...Soft Music

Niler P. Franklin

ev. Arthur Herod

onnie F. Gordon

Ella D. Wortham

st Church

Marie S. Pringle

rns Youth Choir

ilent/Soft Music

Almelia Frierson

r. Robert Brown

Order of Service

*"When this giant walked the Earth, she cast an enormous shadow,
leaving everyone it touched a better person."*

The world, from time to time, is graced by the presence of individuals whose accomplishments were so immense, whose influence was so vast, and whose selfless acts of service to their fellow man, their community, and their church were so complete, that they could only be called "giants." The world is a better place simply because they passed this way. Such people include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Rev. Wayne Johnson and, of course, Mrs. Della Reed Davidson. Mrs. Davidson's life touched so many people it would be impossible to overestimate her influence. Through her commitment to education, she helped mold the characters of generation after generation after generation of Oxonians. With the exception of the very young, it is almost impossible to find someone in Oxford that she did not teach. But her dedicated commitment to young people did not stop with school; it spread throughout the community, with her work in churches, clubs and charitable organizations.

September 25, 1915 is a red letter day for us all, for this is the day that God gave us this rare and precious jewel. Her life was such that we feel inadequate to give her story justice. Here then is her life in her own words.

**THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF
MRS. DELLA REED DAVIDSON
My Own True Story
*written by Mrs. Della Reed Davidson***

A father, Rev. William David Reed, Sr. a mother, Mrs. Emily Clay Reed, an older brother, Albert Clay Reed, a younger brother, William David Reed, Jr. and I make up the Reed family.

At the early age of four, after much begging and pleading, from me, my mother allowed me to begin my school career. The fact that four miles each way had to be traveled by foot, did not dampen my enthusiasm, at all. At age 7, it was clearly revealed to me that teaching was my profession.

The Elementary and Junior High School years were spent in Louisville, Itta Bena, and Lexington, Mississippi. The Senior High School work was done at Rust College, which culminated in my finishing high school.

In 1932, economical conditions kept me from entering college the following year. Consequently, it was five years later that I earned the A.B. degree from Rust with a major in English, in the Spring of 1937.

In September of 1937, my "Dream Career" began. I started teaching the third and fourth grades at Burns Church on Jackson Avenue in Oxford, Mississippi. The school had burned the year before. For two years we taught in the Church. In the Spring of 1937, the Commencement exercises were held in the new building, Oxford Training School on the same site where Oxford Middle School is located. We were a happy faculty, with Mr. A.D. Wiley as principal.

From 1939 to 1942, my "Dream Career" was continued at Taylor Vocational High School, in Taylor, Mississippi. A happy teaching experience continued there in the Junior High Department, with Mr. Joe Brown

*Her Life & Times
Awards, Rewards & Recognitions*

and Mr. J.P. Lester, as principals.

In the Spring of 1942, there was a name change, Reed became Davidson. I married the Rev. W.H. Davidson of Oxford, Mississippi. This also, influenced my decision to return to the Oxford City School System. So, in the Fall of 1942, my position was resumed on the Oxford Training School faculty with the fifth and sixth graders with as many as 65 students in each grade. Yes, we taught them and yes, they did learn to "Read".

As time progressed and more teachers were added, the fifth grade was given to another teacher and the sixth grade was mine until Mr. David B. Sanders became principal in 1966. He saw an administrative quality in me somewhere and promoted me to the principalship of Johnson and Peterson Elementary. This duty I carried out joyfully until the merger of the whole Oxford City School System in 1970.

Might I add that all during the elementary classroom years, there was the added responsibility of guiding the Tri-Hi-Y, an affiliate of the YMCA, and directing the chorus group. Both of these were high school activities and both were rewarding because they meant so much to the students and played a big part in their emotional and spiritual lives.

In the Winter of 1970, the whole Oxford City School System merged and I became Assistant Principal of Oxford Elementary School under the principalship Of Mr. W. Harris Terry. In the Fall of 1980, I was made Assistant Principal of Bramlett Elementary School working with Mr. Charles Parham, Principal. In 1981, my "Dream Career" reached it highest peak and I became the Principal of Bramlett Elementary School. This was my position until June of 1984 when my "**Years said I must Retire**". I would "**Repeat**" the whole thing if it was possible, I wasn't tired.

During the course of this story, I inherited a 12 year old male child, after my mother's death. As per my parents request, this young man did his elementary and completed his high schoolwork at Central High School, in Oxford, Mississippi. The name Edward L. Shannon. He later obtained an A.B. degree from Rust College. Still, later he married Miss Marjorie Webb. To this union was born one daughter, Miss Venus Shannon.

PART II EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

In the Summer of 1956, after several summers of much hard work and study, I earned the M.A. degree in Elementary Education, from **Fisk University** in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ba In the Summer of 1959, I attended **Atlanta University** in Atlanta, Georgia under the **Phelps-Stokes Program**.

Ma For several summers, thereafter, I did additional work in Elementary
Pri Administration at the **University of Mississippi**. I also, worked with several
Be University Faculty members on the **Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Program**. This took us to many cities, Atlanta, Nashville, Miami, etc.

Part III CHURCH ACTIVITIES

I've been a member of the **Burns United Methodist Church** for the last 50 years. Where, with God as my helper, I have held many positions. I served as