Preserving our history to help us understand the past and present: Launching Phase II, Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County; From the Ole Miss Classroom to the Yalobusha Community

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Preserving Our History To Help Us Understand The Past And The Present

Launching Phase II – Outstanding Black Women Of Yalobusha County

The past is past, right? We can’t do anything about it, but we can learn from it and use it to understand the present and our better days to come. This same Spanish writer Javier Marias put it so well when he said, "We can’t do much about the past, but we can learn from it and use it to understand the world we live in today and for the future."

2019 has presented challenges and concerns that many of us have never experienced before. The issues are plentiful, and we are applying remedies to our daily lives. I believe that we can work to relieve some of the current pressures by sharing life stories that show that we have much more in common than most can imagine.

Since I was a student in the 70’s at the University of Mississippi, I have felt that the school could do more for the black community, especially in light of the tragic history of black women in North Mississippi, something that I especially appreciate as a scholar who studies the South and U.S. women’s history. I soon had the opportunity to read the backlog of articles with curiosity, deep interest, and appreciation, and Ms. Reedit is collaborating with Dr. Jessie Wilkerson. Her contact information is listed below. As part of that process, Ms. Reed, the team of graduate students, and the team of historians, students, and community members interested in Mississippi, southern, and African-American history. We also hope to organize an exhibit—online or at a community space—where we can share what we learned and hear from others.

My students are also learning the mission of the university to the world. "I train my students to listen for the complexity of the American South. After undergoing training on how to conduct and record oral history interviews, we will work with Ms. Reed to use our research to bring public, oral community. Her column appears bi-monthly, with occasional exceptions. She can be reached at reedit2318@bellsouth.net (678) 825-2356 orreed2318@bellsouth.net. The value is 3.20.

 cherished Black Women of Yalobusha County

Dottie Reed is collaborating with Dr. Jessie Wilkerson of the University of Mississippi on an oral history project to help preserve the stories of Yalobusha County’s black citizens.

At about a year ago a friend told me about the “Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County” column by Dottie Chapman Reed. To say I was rapt is an understatement. Ms. Reed’s articles gave me a glimpse into the rich history of black women in North Mississippi, something that I especially appreciate as a scholar who studies the South and U.S. women’s history. I soon had the opportunity to read the backlog of articles with curiosity, deep interest, and appreciation, and Ms. Reed is collaborating with Dr. Jessie Wilkerson. Her contact information is listed below. As part of that process, Ms. Reed, the team of graduate students, and the team of historians, students, and community members interested in Mississippi, southern, and African-American history. We also hope to organize an exhibit—online or at a community space—where we can share what we learned and hear from others.

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