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Remembering My Grandmother: Rev. Maggie T. Mosley

Cassandra Hawkins
University of Mississippi

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Staff Creative Residencies Summer 2024 Self-Assessment

Remembering My Grandmother: Rev. Maggie T. Mosley

Dr. Cassandra Hawkins, Associate Director of Data and Quality Management at the Institute of Child Nutrition, pursued a film photography project that invoked a sense of family and introspection about the past and the present.



My desire for my creative work was to use film photography to truly memorialize my family's love for capturing special moments. Fully prepared to travel and use the Canon SLR 35mm camera to pursue my hobby, I experienced a quick realization that film photography wasn't the best medium to complete my work. After finding the perfect black-and-white film via eBay, I felt the project would turn out perfect. I love black and white photos. However, while loading it into the camera, I made a colossal mistake and ripped the film. I couldn't believe how challenging this step was and decided to return to what I knew: digital photography.

Using some of the funds from the stipend, I quickly ordered a Nikon digital camera that allowed me to take video and photos. For the sake of time, I focused specifically on Crawford, Mississippi, to capture images related to my childhood and the memories of my grandmother, Rev. Maggie T. Mosley.

When I arrived in Crawford, MS, I felt like a little girl returning to visit my grandmother, but she wasn't there this time. So many feelings and emotions were evoked. A mixture of happiness and sadness resulted from

my visit. The sadness stemmed from the realization that my grandmother was gone, and she had been gone for years. My happiness evolved when I saw landmarks like the United States Post Office in Crawford.

Despite my project not including film photography as I wanted, I could still capture images that shared an aspect of my life regarding my relationship with my maternal grandmother. She was everything I wanted to be—my memories of plentiful. I remember those times, from drinking Folgers coffee to wearing Avon lotion. I also reflect on their lasting impact on my life. I drink coffee daily, and even now, I will find myself outside holding a cup in the early morning, just like she did. I wore Covergirl makeup for years just because my grandmother did.

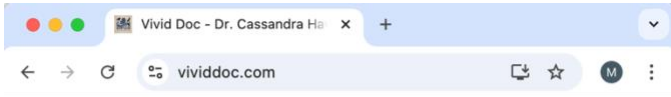
To showcase my work, I developed a website called Vivid Doc. Using the funds from the stipend to create the website, I purchased the domain, website, and email associated with it. The URL is <https://vividoc.com/>. Currently, this website showcases the photos and videos that I took during my extensive visit to Crawford, MS. Currently, the website showcases the key images that I took during my visit. I have published the website and printed the photos. Selecting just the right images and videos and writing the short narratives to align with the media, I discovered that there is so much that I can do to continue this project. I printed the photos in color, but I want to print them in black and white and have them professionally framed. I collected photo albums from my parents. I tried to scan the photos and upload them to the site to compare now to then, but I had difficulty deciding on the best method to show the different views adequately. However, I do plan to work on that more.

This project inspired me to think more about archiving my family's history. I am looking forward to the evolution of this website and how I can use it to continue showcasing my skills as an artist and archival family photos. My aunt on my father's side had a wall in her living room and hallway filled with family photos. When you drove up her driveway, you could see the wall of photos illuminated. As a child, I was always fascinated to see the images of family, especially the deceased family members. I would love to recreate a wall like this in my home. I plan to start with the photos from this project.

When I arrived in Crawford, MS, I felt like I was a little girl returning to visit my grandmother, except this time, she wasn't there.







CAPTURING MOMENTS AND CRAFTING STORIES



Exploring the threads of memory to weave the fabric of my heritage, I use stunning and memorable photographs and videos.