**Anna Hull Johnson**

Anna Hull Johnson was born on December 8, 1927 to Vince Hull, Sr. and Bertha Cordell Hull in Yellow Springs. Her mother was Ohio mother of the year in 1956. She was the youngest of a family of nine. When she was growing up she lived ~~around~~ on southern end of Yellow Springs off of ~~and~~ Xenia Avenue in a house that her father built on five acres of land they acquired in the early 1920´s. Anna lived in Yellow Springs until she left for college. She thinks that growing up in Yellow Springs was very comfortable and interesting in many ways. She was baptized during her first year of life in the Central Chapel AME Church. Her godmother’s name was Anna Riddell, a neigbhor of the family, so Anna was named after her.

Anna’s described her educational experience in Yellow Springs schools as good. She believes that they had very good teachers, and she remembers that the classes were very large and did not have indoor bathrooms. She remembers that Dayton Street looked like today just the houses changed. She describes her high school education as a real foundation for college. She explains that she learned about everything including music. At the time, girls did not have any formal or organized sports. They ran track and field but just for fun. They enjoyed watching the boys’ basketball team.

Anna was in high school during WWII when she and several friends established the Victorettes. They were a vocal organization of young women singers. In a recent interview she noted that the Victorettes means a lot to her and that the group gave a sense of purpose to their lives and it was also beneficial for them. The Victorettes had approximately 15 members that were mostly high school students. Anna indicated that the group was characterized by their Victory song. The Victorettes raised funds for a committee of the Village in Yellow Springs.

Anna’s high school graduating class was of 18 students. After graduating high school she attended Wilberforce College for two years and then she transferred to Howard University. She explains that when she got to Howard University she had a cultural and race shock because she did not have the same education that people had in the cities. Howard was a great experience for her. She majored in Psychology.

When she graduated from Psychology she started working and ~~got~~ married Alfred Johnson. Her husband’s parents were both from Virginia and had their own family business. She remembers that they had a hotel and restaurant near Union Station in Washington, D.C. After some time, she realized that to get better employment opportunities she ~~had~~ would have to go back to ~~university~~ school and get her master´s degree in social work.

When Anna graduated [from where?] with her master’s degree she started working in the social work field with a good ~~payment~~ salary. She went into the Clinical Social Work field and worked for the [name?] Hospital of the city in Washington DC. She was there in the decade of the 1950´s. She worked ~~a lot~~ frequently with the doctors and she was responsible for writing the background profile of patients. Washington was segregated. She ~~was~~ participated in ~~of~~ the ~~Civil Rights~~ 1963 March on Washington ~~DC~~. ~~She~~ Anna noted ~~said~~ that during the time there was a building ~~in~~ feeling between the races and after it felt like ~~if~~ that was slowly breaking down. African Americans could go to any hotel or other place~~s~~ they wanted to go. Even though, she indicated that desegregation was slow. White people started migrating to the suburban areas and with them, some African Americans left the city also. She believes that we need to support African American people in the process of integration.

After saving money Anna and her husband purchased a house in the Northwest? area of Washington. She started began working in the public school system. She had two children, Allan and Alyssa Johnson. Both of her children currently live in Washington. The family property in Yellow Springs is still under her family name.

Anna returned to Yellow Springs in 2015 for her Bryan High School reunion she says that it is always good. She and her classmates still come back together and pick up where they left off.

Kensy Zelaya

Sources:

“Anna Hull Johnson” WYSO Civil Rights Project Interview, 2015