

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

HIRAM RHODES REVELS (U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI 1870-1871)

By Gwen Walker

Hiram Revels was born in 1822 in Fayetteville County, North Carolina, educated in Indiana and attended Knox College in Illinois. He was a minister in the African Methodist Church and also was a school principal.



GWEN WALKER

Regiments in Maryland, and in 1863 went to St. Louis to establish a Freedom School. For a year, he served as Chaplain of a Mississippi regiment before accepting the post of Provost Marshall of Licksburg. While in the South, Hiram helped to organize a number of Black churches, particularly in Jackson, Mississippi.

Revels settled in Natchez at the end of the war. In 1868, he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and was appointed alderman by the Union military governor of the state. With reservations, Revels accepted that appointment, though he thought it would lead to a conflict of interest. Eventually, he won the respect of his constituents for his alert grasp of state issues, and later pursued a political career.

Hiram Revels was the First Black to serve for the U.S. Senate and was elected from his adopted state of Mississippi, and served for approximately one year (from February 1870 to March 1871.)

Revels was named president of Alcorn University near Lerman Mississippi after he left politics.

In 1876, Revels became editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, a religious journal.

Senator Revels died on January 16, 1901, in Holly Springs,

Mississippi. He left behind his wife Phoebe and two daughters.

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WE CARRY OUR OWN FINANCE

LETTER

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is to depend on your powerful oppressor to free you and share power with you, because powerful people never train powerless people to take their power away from them.

Freedom does not come easy and you cannot beg for it since you gain no man's respect in begging only his pity. Freedom must be taken. Just as Europeans came into Africa and took what they wanted, so too must we take back what is rightfully ours. This kind of talk may scare some of you as you speculate as to what I could possibly mean... Let me not prolong the anticipation. We must start dying for liberation today so that our children and grandchildren can experience Mr. Webster's "freedom" tomorrow.

As has been defined, freedom has never existed and is not a reality for the black man. Some of you may argue that continued negotiations are necessary to achieve our objective but I affirm that compromising has gotten us nothing but empty promises. Again I refer to Dr. Clarke who maintains that "Freedom is something we must take with our own hands and secure it with our own hands.. If other people's hands secure it for us other people's hands can take it from us."

The dying that I allude to refers to both psychological and physical death if need be. We must be prepared to die in order to facilitate rebirth. We must divorce ourselves from the European doctrine that states in part that only the strong survive and to hell with the rest of you... Like Bob Marley conveys in his "Redemption Song" we must "Emancipate (our) selves from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds.." This is, as many African-American scholars would attest, the first and last steps towards freedom.

The day will come, it may not be in my lifetime, but the day will come when my people are truly free. I encourage you, Africans, to prepare for the revolution that is compulsory for change. I encourage you to learn about yourselves so you may have something to be proud of. I encourage you to look to the ancestors for strength and guidance. And finally I say to you "If you cannot envision victory, do not take on the struggle."

Ulysses G. Palrose

TODAY

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had to find other ways to excel and effect the system. As always given the opportunity, we will always advance. Our community is now recognized nation-wide, because of this positive determination.

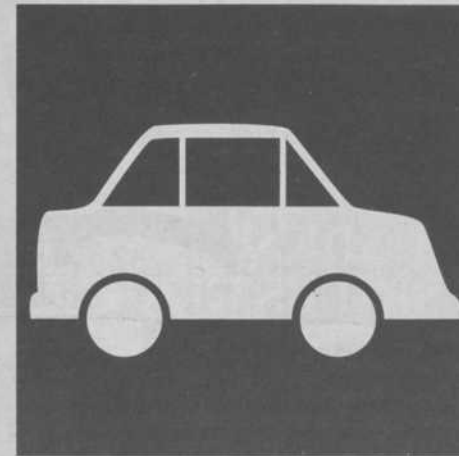
Today I must salute the black teachers and administrators of the Clark County School district. They are the stalwarts of our educational process. To all of the pastors and reverends of our Westside churches, all the best as you continue to spread the positive word. To my colleagues, the local journalists and reporters, you keep the information coming. To all of the political figures and office holders, you are the voice of the people. To all of the private business owners and Westside merchants, you are the future. Finally to just the average person reading this column in the valley, today this one is for you, because a city, a community, or a nation, is only as good as the people who live in it!

Peace...

We have this...



For this...



And this...



And this.



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