

CANTON-Barbara Russell



I am a devoted patron of the Madison County Library System/Canton Public Library. I appreciate the privilege to use the library and like the atmosphere. The staff members are so helpful and encouraging.

I remember when the library was segregated. In the 60s and prior to, the South was under the law of Segregation (Jim Crow). Separate but equal. The Civil Rights Movement of the 60s changed things, and I am proud to say that I participated. I was a Junior at Rogers High School; our whole class participated in the movement. We marched, sat in and demonstrated at the library in order to bring about this change. My Mother, Civil Rights Activist, Annie Divine, was a leader of the Madison County Movement. She became nationally known as a result of the 1964 Mississippi Challenge in which the seating of the regular Democratic Party was challenged at the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Challenge provoked the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The Civil Rights Act made segregation of public facilities illegal.

The library is a valuable resource in our community especially for the children, and also for adults like me who either don't have a computer or the computers are down more than up.

Barbara Devine Russell Reed