

IN HER OWN WORDS

Oral History: July 1, 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Hertha Auburn Webb Glenn candidly shared her 101-year life journey as an African American native of Texas, educator, community leader, philanthropist and society & club member with the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library's African American Community Archivist and Librarian, kYmberly Keeton.

Hertha Auburn Glenn Webb joined the Douglass Club of San Angelo, Texas in 1945 and is currently a member of the Austin, Texas chapter. The Douglass Club is the oldest African American women's club in the United States, founded by Mary Church Terrell. The first chapter, established in 1906 by Ms. Laura Pierce and other founders. The founders of the organization created the organization to promote the study of literature, education, and philanthropy. The Douglass Club of Austin, Texas-



Mary Church Terrell District joined the National Federation in 1912, the State Federation in 1914 and remains in good standing in its 114th year of service. It is a member of the Texas Association of Women and Youth Clubs (TAWC) and the National Association of Colored Women Clubs (NACWC). Hertha acknowledged that the club is the first organization she ever joined and is a family tradition that she continues to carry on in the 21st century.

Joe and Ola Webb's youngest daughter, Hertha Auburn Webb Glenn was born on January 4, 1920, in Lindale, Smith, Texas (a suburb of Tyler, Texas). The family moved to San Angelo, Texas when she was still an infant. Glenn's oldest sister is Celia Webb Garden. They both attended segregated schools in East Texas. Hertha is the oldest alum alive today who attended Blackshear High School that opened its doors in 1915 at 815 N. Randolph St, now known as Martin Luther King Drive in San Angelo, Texas. She received a teaching certificate from Butler College, a coeducational school for Black people in Tyler, established as the Texas Baptist Academy in 1905 by the East Texas Baptist Association.

In 1924, the name changed to Butler College in honor of its president, C. M. Butler, and the institution became a junior college. Hertha began her teaching career in the late 1920's at Wallace High School in Colorado City, Texas. The high school was named after John Wallace, one of the most successful and progressive African American ranchers in West, Texas. During the 1930's her sister, Celia Webb moved to Austin, Texas, established a residence, and was married shortly thereafter. Hertha decided to move to be near her sister, and to obtain her bachelor's degree at the first university built in the state capital Huston-Tillotson University, a Historically Black College & University.

After receiving her Bachelor's in Education, in the 1940's at Huston-Tillotson University, she completed her master's degree at another HBCU, Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View,

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Texas). In like manner, Hertha had the opportunity to take graduate courses at Fisk University (Nashville, Tennessee) and Texas Southern University (Houston, Texas) which are both HBCUs too. Hertha Aubrey Webb Glenn began her teaching career in the 1950's during segregation in Austin, Texas at L.C. Anderson High School. Hertha Webb Glenn transferred to John H. Reagan High School in its second year of operation. She then met the love of her life.

By way of family connections in San Antonio, Hertha often traveled with her sister to visit their family friends. On one occasion while visiting, Hertha Auburn Webb Glenn met her future husband, Sim Glenn in San Antonio during the early 1960's. They married in Austin, Texas. An avid churchgoer, Hertha has been a member of Olivet Baptist Church since 1965; she sang in the choir and was a former member of the Vacation Bible School Committee. Hertha Auburn Webb Glenn is a member of The Douglass Club of Austin, Texas - Mary Church Terrell District, Beta Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, National Association of Women's Clubs, and the Top Ladies of Distinction. Her life epitomizes what it means to "lift as we climb!"

Image Credits: Meals on Wheels Central Texas