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Activists Retrace Their Steps On the Freedom Trail

By Gwendolyn Duncan



Maude Burroughs Jackson and William 'Bill' Jacoby marched together in 1964 and decided to retrace their steps during a tour of the "Freedom Trail".

Maude Burroughs was a student at Florida Normal and Industrial College in 1964. The administration there warned the students to not take part in the non-violent demonstrations led by Dr. Robert B. Hayling, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference or risk expulsion. That warning was not heeded by Maude. She attended the local rallies and went on the marches. She eventually was jailed numerous times. Those arrests almost led to her not being able to graduate.

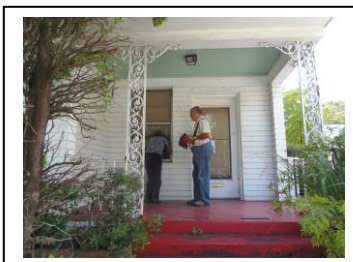
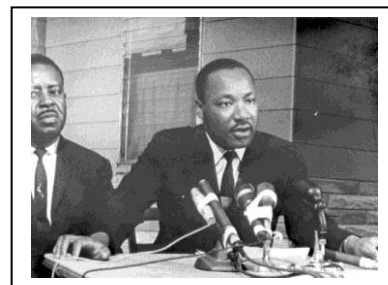
Maude recalled her mother watching television one night and recognized her daughter as one of the students being arrested. Her mother was highly upset. Nonetheless, Maude was extremely proud to be a participant. Many years had passed and one day in 2012 Maude mentioned to Gwendolyn Duncan that there was a young white teenage student who marched alongside her during the marches to the downtown Slave Market. She wondered whatever became of him. Gwen agreed to mention his name to David Nolan, local historian, to see whether or not he could locate him. David called Gwen with a number and an article about Maude's marching companion. Gwen called, "William 'Bill' Jacoby" and talked with him, mentioning Maude Burroughs, with whom he recognized the name immediately. He asked how Maude was doing. Then Gwen put them in touch with one another.

Maude and Bill got in touch by telephone. Bill agreed to come to Middleburg to reunite with her. In the meantime Gwen was busy scheduling a tour for them of the Freedom Trail in St. Augustine.

The reunion proved to be a wonderful event. Eventually a second meeting took place August 6, 2013 to retrace their steps made during the spring of 1964.

Bill, Maude, and her sister were given a personal tour of the Freedom Trail and other sites relevant to the Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine. The tour began at 55 Oneida Street where Maude recalled being in Dr. Hayling's

Dental office while the press conference was taking place behind Hayling's office. They could see the happenings through the dental office window.



From 55 Oneida Street, Bill and Maude went around to the front of Dr. Hayling's office which he recognized. He was only 18 years of age and a sophomore, at Dartmouth College, during the spring of 1964. The Civil Rights

Museum of St. Augustine, Inc. is now raising funds for the restoration of this building to house the Civil Rights Museum. Click [HERE](#) to donate.



The Activists stops by 81 Bridge Street: the home of Mrs. Cora Tyson. This was a home of refuge for Dr. King, who loved Mrs. Tyson's special tea, Rev. Andrew Young, Rev. Abernathy, and others. Rev. CT Vivian referred to this home as, "Truly a Freedom House".



Bill's Arrest

On a spring day in 1964, Bill Jacoby remembers sitting at the table, in the Monson Motor Lodge Restaurant with Rev. William Sloan Coffin, Rev. David Robinson, Yale University Chaplains, and others when they were arrested. They were taken to the St. Johns County Jail and booked. Bill spent over three days locked up in jail for peaceful protests.

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS



Maude and Bill stop by the home of Activist and [Freedom Rider Hank Thomas'](#) mother on Twine Street. In 1964, Bill visited her home in West Augustine across from Florida Normal College.



Maude poses at the Florida Normal College ARCH. She recalled how years earlier the students liked to stand there to feel the nice breeze that flowed through the archways.

Maude Continues Her Activism: Speaks at Mayport

On February 25th, 2011 Maude spoke to more than a hundred Sailors and civilians who were celebrating Black History Month during an observance held on Naval Station Mayport's Beachside Community Center. To read more, click [HERE](#)

Maude retired from the Miami-Dade School District as a teacher. She moved back home and now is the Director of Hill Top Heritage Development Center in Middleburg, FL. She continues to make a difference in her community.

Please stop by the Wells Fargo Bank, 33 King Street, St. Augustine, FL to see historic mural recently unveiled and accessible 24/7 (see picture at top of this page)

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