



Deep River

*Deep River, my home is over Jordan.
Deep River, Lord, I want to cross
over into campground.*

*Deep River, my home is over Jordan.
Deep River, Lord, I want to cross
over into campground.*

*Oh, don't you want to go,
To that gospel feast?
That promised land,
Where all is peace.*

*Oh, Deep River, Lord.
I want to cross over into campground.*

Acknowledgements

I would like to sincerely thank all the people that have helped me navigate this long-distance journey of providing care for my mother through their visits, phone calls, special outings and prayers. I would not have been able to accomplish any of this without the unwavering support of my cousin, Ernest Walker to whom I and my family are deeply grateful. Also, special thanks to dear friends, Liz and David Archer, Angie Denov and Cecil Stewart for their loyal and resolute friendships with my mother. And lastly, a word of thanks to the Wickshire Deer Park and Anthology of Mason Senior Living communities and Queen City Hospice for their compassionate care at her life's end.



*A precious one from us is gone,
A voice we loved is still.
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.*

*And after a lonely heartache,
And many silent tears;
There's always a beautiful memory,
Of one we loved so dear.*



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A Service of Memory Celebrating the Life of **Olga Greta Gibson**

March 9, 1931 — July 7, 2021



— Graveside Service —

Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Spring Grove Cemetery
4521 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Rev. Sharon Coleman, Officiating

Obituary

Olga Greta Gibson was born in Conecuh County, Alabama in the town of Evergreen on March 9, 1931. She was the eleventh of 12 children born to the union of James Bush Walker and Gelean Thomas. James provided for his large family as a sharecropper and Gelean maintained the home and cared for the children. Gelean succumbed to complications from the twelfth birth, as did the child. So at two years of age, Greta, now the baby, and her sister, Omega were sent to Jacksonville, Florida where they were raised by maternal aunt, Gussie “Jack” and her husband, Durell Clark.

She grew up on Monroe Street and worshipped at Ebenezer United Methodist Church. She attended segregated public schools, graduating with honors in 1949 from one of the few schools providing secondary education for the African American community at the time, Stanton High School. Though she was gifted academically, college was not an option. She decided to enlist in the US Army as a member of the former Women’s Army Corps (WAC) where she served her country for three years and was honorably discharged in 1953.

Her marriage in 1952 to Franz Gibson produced two children, Leslie and Jeffrey. Greta would continue to serve her country as a civil servant throughout her employment years working at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station,

the WIC Program, the IRS, and finally retiring from the USPS Cincinnati Bulk Mail Center.

She had a lifelong passion for singing and was a member of several African American choral groups, including the renowned Baroque Choral Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Richard Bush. But it was her 25+ years devotion to the Cincinnati’s Women’s Choir, *MUSE* that was unparalleled. There, she found sisterhood, purpose and great joy amongst a group which embraced diversity of all kinds years before it became popular to do so.

She was an excellent cook and baker and was known for her bread pudding, zucchini bread and divinity candy which she gifted to many at Christmastime. She had a fierce independent spirit which served her well in achieving a level of self-reliance not easily attained for a single black woman of her generation. She was able to celebrate her 90th birthday this year on Zoom with, among others, her cherished lifelong childhood friend, Priscilla Brown and decades long Army buddy, Janis Smith.

She leaves behind to cherish her memories: daughter, Leslie and son-in-law, Jeffrey Archie; son, Jeffrey Gibson; grandchildren, Camille Archie, Bryant Archie and Dr. Briana Gibson; “favorite” niece, Angel (Kimberly) Walker; and a host of devoted friends and family. She will be missed by her Walker-Thomas family, her church family at Allen Temple A.M.E. Church and her singing family at MUSE.

Order of Service

Words of Welcome

Musical Selection

Scripture Readings

Reading of Obituary

Eulogy

Musical Selections

Remarks / Life Tributes

Committal Service

Benediction

