SOUTH CAROLINA HALL OF FAME

Teacher Guide

Maude Callen
South Carolina Social Studies Standards

Maude Callen

Early 20th Century- The Depression.

Topics include - Medical missionary, Nurse midwife, Berkley County Health Department, Public health nurse, Life Magazine

Standard 3-5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the major developments in South Carolina in the late nineteenth and twentieth century.

3-5.3 - Explain the effects of the Great Depression on daily life in South Carolina, including the widespread poverty and unemployment and the efforts of the federal government to create jobs through a variety of New Deal programs.

Standard 8-6: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role of South Carolina in the nation in the early twentieth century.

8-6.3 - Explain the reasons for depressed conditions in the textile mills and on farms in South Carolina and other regions of the United States in the 1920s and the impact of these conditions on the coming of the Great Depression.
Maude Callen, as a nurse and midwife, spent more than a half century serving the poor people of Berkeley County, South Carolina. Born in Quincy, Florida, she was educated at Florida A & M and took a nursing course before moving to Berkeley County in 1923. She spent 13 years in the Pineville area as a nurse and midwife before joining the Berkeley County Health Department. Her work, which included training hundreds of midwives, took her to all parts of Berkeley County. In 1952 Life magazine published a 12-page photographic profile of her work, telling of her service to the rural poor of her county as doctor, dietitian, and psychologist. The article generated $27,000 in contributions, which were used to construct a modern clinic in Pineville where she worked until her retirement. Her service to humankind earned her the Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award from the United Way and the Jefferson Award of the American Institute for Public Service.
Maude Evelyn Callen was born in 1898, in Tallahassee, Florida. Orphaned at the tender age of 7, she was raised by her Uncle, Dr. William J. Gunn, a physician. Under his tutelage, young Maude would tend to and care for his patients...creating a thirst for medical knowledge that would take her to nursing school at Florida A&M University, from which she graduated in 1922. She then completed a Nursing Course at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. By 1923, that same spirit of giving followed young Maude, as she married, and moved to South Carolina. Sponsored by the Episcopal Church, for 13 years, Maude Callen served her community as a nurse and midwife in Pineville, which is located in Berkeley County.

Well I Grew Up in St. Stephens...which is about eight miles east of Pineville. And Pineville is a very peculiar community. It's really a community without a main street. But it's in an area that was a place where there were plantations...some of the largest plantations in South Carolina. Some that had as many as five-thousand slaves. And of course, after the Civil War, these slaves were liberated and...they had no place to go. And so that was the background that made up where Maude Callen Served.

I've always said that she's the “Mother Theresa” of Berkeley County because she gave so much. And sometimes we always see the name Mid-wife... because she did that too...and she trained midwives especially after she became an employee of Berkeley County, but midwife demean her experience...because she knew enough about medicine that Doctors respected what she
knew...and she was a Nurse...and she gave so much...even beyond that experience....to the community where she lived.

In 1936, Maude Callen joined the Berkeley County Health Department as a Nurse. Here she trained hundreds of women in the art of “Midwifery” and traveled to all parts of Berkeley County.

In 1951, Life Magazine published a 12-page essay by Eugene Smith, which generated thousands of dollars in contributions and brought national attention to the work being done by Nurse Maude Callen.

Well, I think it made her a national hero. But more than anything else, Smith was an “Award-Winning Photographer. And he captured the essence...when I look at these pictures....he just captures the essence of the area...the personality of Maude Callen.
Credits

South Carolina Social Studies Standard Correlations were provided by Lisa Ray

The purpose of the South Carolina Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor both contemporary and past citizens who have made outstanding contributions to South Carolina's heritage and progress.

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