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Galvin, Carla collection

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Havana History and Heritage Society

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Summary Information

Repository:	Havana History and Heritage Society
Title:	Carla Galvin collection
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Preferred Citation

Carla Galvin Collection, Havana History and Heritage Society, Havana, FL.

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Biographical / Historical

Mrs. Carla Galvin-Wells was born in Havana, Florida, on April 16, 1961. Though she currently lives in Quincy, Florida, Galvin grew up in Havana as one of the three children of Ira and Carol Galvin, who divorced when she was young. Both parents are still living as of September 2021. Ira Galvin was a history teacher at the former Northside High School, and even taught Carla in Black History when she was a student. He began teaching at Salem Elementary in Greensboro, Florida and taught at the high school for 36 years until his retirement. As his stepfather was once the pastor, Ira Galvin attended Palace A.M.E. Church - African Methodist Episcopal - alongside all of the other members of Carla's family. Carla and her two younger siblings attended Sunday school at the now 113-year-old church, and she remains a member of the choir. Palace A.M.E. was the church of most educators in Havana, Carla Galvin included.

Carla's mother, Carol, was born when her own mother, Rebecca Reed, was 14 as her first child. Carla was born at the same time as her uncle, one of Rebecca Reed's 7 children. Rebecca Reed,

Carla's maternal grandmother, lived in Havana and worked in Leon County as a housekeeper for several families, eventually passing away in 2009.

Carla Galvin retired in November of 2020 after 35 years in the Gadsden school system: teaching in the classroom for about 18 years, then being an instructional coach for other teachers, then finally becoming an administrator. She began her teaching career at the old Havana Middle School - now Havana Park - for half of a year, before teaching at Carter-Parramore Academy. She then worked at James A. Shanks Middle School, followed by the former East Gadsden High. She was then the assistant principal at the former Gretna Elementary School and at George W. Monroe Elementary, before taking her last assignment at an alternative school called Gadsden Central Academy.

Despite Galvin's extensive education career, she originally wanted to be a news reporter. In college, she majored in English with a minor in Journalism. One inspiration of many educators from her youth was Ernestine Richardson: a Palace A.M.E. member, Physical Education coach, and girls' basketball coach. She graduated in 1979 but did not attend school in Havana until the 7th grade, having gone to school in Quincy until then, despite the sports-induced inter-town rivalry. Galvin's husband, Melvin Wells, is originally from Quincy, though the rivalry has reduced over time as the towns now have to share one high school for the entire county.

Growing up in Gadsden County for Galvin was great, though it was very different than it is in 2021. The Havana community was prevalent, and everyone helped raise each other's children. One character from her youth was Rufus Brown, or "Mr. Rufus". He was a handyman who lived right by the church and always helped out her mother, but he had a very big personality and kept everyone laughing.

Galvin married Melvin Wells in 2007 and has one daughter, two stepsons, and three grandchildren. Maddox, her daughter's daughter, is almost three and lives in town. The other two, Sydney and TJ, are one of her stepson's children, and live in Atlanta at the ages of almost two and three.

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Content Description

This collection relates to Carla Galvin, who grew up in Havana, Florida, and now lives in Quincy, Florida. Now retired, she worked as an educator and administrator in the Gadsden County school system. This collection contains an interview registration form and a digital video disc interview of Galvin.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Havana History and Heritage Society

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open to all researchers.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Gadsden County (Fla.)
- Havana (Fla.)
- African American educators
- African American women educators