

A House with a Black Picket Fence

As I stood on the safe side of the white picket fence, I looked out into the world and was not affected. My mom and dad were happily married and in good health. They ensured that their three children were well taken care of by working hard to put good food on the table. My siblings and I were smart, healthy, wore the finest clothes, lived in a fine house, and basically lacked nothing. Even Foxy pranced around the yard without a care in the world, except anticipating her next ration of dogfood. We lived the good life and there were no shameful secrets to keep locked behind the front door from prying eyes. If only my life was as good as my imagination!

If someone would ask me to describe Heidelberg, MS, I would sum up its description as the perfect place for a house with a white picket fence. When one thinks of the location for a house with a white picket fence, a small suburban or rural town comes to mind. With a population of less than 1,000 people and rows of trees separating houses for miles, Heidelberg, MS and its adjoining communities have always felt safe. It has always been a town where everyone knows each other or is related in some way. The town mostly consists of homes with about 10 stores along one strip that extends throughout the town. Growing up in Heidelberg didn't afford much diversity in people or things to do, but I can't say that the lack of diversity was much of a bad thing. My siblings and I didn't have the trials that came along with growing up in inner city areas: worrying about steering clear of gangs, drugs, frequent murders, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, etc. I'm not saying that these things didn't go on or that it couldn't have happened, but it was less likely, considering where we lived and the type of mother we had. I guess you can say that we were sheltered from a lot of things, but some things still had a way of finding our address. Although we lived in a perfect town for houses with white picket fences, we couldn't afford the fence.