



Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, PhD

Educator and Civic Leader



Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey was born June 10, 1930 in Seneca, South Carolina. Roddey graduated from Oconee County Training School and received degrees from several colleges: a Bachelors of Arts from Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina, a Master of Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a doctorate from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

She worked in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System in North Carolina as a teacher and principal and was the first African American to serve as an administrator in a predominately white school. She became the first chair of the Afro-American and African Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC-C).

She started the first Head Start program in Charlotte, NC; co-founded the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture; founded and served as the first chair of the National Council for Black Studies; and co-founded the Theodore and Bertha M. Roddey Foundation. She has served on more than 50 boards and commissions and received numerous awards for her dedication. Her most cherished awards include the Thurgood Marshall Award of Education, Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Elizabeth Catlett-Delta Legacy "Women Making a Difference," and Eagle Fly Free Award from the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine.

Actively involved in the Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Maxwell-Roddey served as Charlotte Alumnae Chapter President, National First Vice-President, and the 20th National President. She worked with Habitat for Humanity, leading the process of building more than 350 houses in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa.

She retired from academics as the Frank Porter Graham Professor Emeritus at UNC-C. She is married to Theodore Roddey. She is the mother of one daughter, Tawanna Proctor and has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

AFRICAN AMERICAN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1</p> <p>1894 – Benjamin Elijah Mays, educator, social activist, mentor to Dr. King, and the president of Morehouse College was born in Epworth, SC</p> <p>1963 – The "Committee of 85" in Columbia votes to urge the city council to adopt a non-discriminatory hiring policy</p>
2	<p>3</p> <p>1921 – South Carolina's first African American federal judge, Judge Matthew J. Perry, was born in Columbia, SC</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1810 – Robert Purvis, the "President of the Underground Railroad", was born in Charleston, SC</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1955 – Jonathan Green one of the most important painters of the southern experience was born in Gardens Corner, SC</p>
9	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1965 – Tony Award winner and Academy Award nominated actress Viola Davis was born in St. Matthews, SC</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1922 – One of the first African American models in the United States, Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell was born in Edgefield, SC</p> <p>1963 – Leading Columbia merchants announce removal of segregation signs from fountains, restrooms, and dressing rooms</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1883 – Ernest Everett Just, scientist, was born in Charleston, SC</p>	<p>15</p>
16	<p>17</p> <p>1849 – Archibald Grimke, one of the first African Americans to attend Harvard Law School was born near Charleston, SC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1939 – Maxine Brown, R&B and soul singer was born in Kingstree, S</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
23	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1927 – Althea Gibson, first black Wimbledon champion was born in Clarendon County, SC</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1963 – A bomb explodes near University of South Carolina student Henri Monteith's home</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1963 – Sumter NAACP chairman James T. McCain serves as a key organizer for the March on Washington</p>	<p>29</p>
30	<p>31</p> <p>1885 – Edwin DuBose Heyward, author of <i>Porgy</i> was born in Charleston, SC</p>					