

Piece of Land, Peace of Mind

MY NINETY-EIGHT-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER IS MOST AT HOME in her garden. Like the rainwater that nourishes the red-clay Alabama soil she tends, gardening keeps her full of life. It serves as her connection to our landowning ancestors. I am not an avid gardener, but I find comfort in photographing her work. I took this photo on her ninety-fifth birthday. Her garden is sacred ground to both of us, serving as a symbol of our family's past, present, and future.

— JAI WILLIAMS, *photographer and writer*



Gravy is a publication of the Southern Foodways Alliance, an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi.

The SFA documents, studies, and explores the diverse food cultures of the changing American South. Our work sets a welcome table where all may consider our history and our future in a spirit of respect and reconciliation.

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