

Midwife

Joyce Flowers was a midwife between 1914 to 1949 in South Texas. She was born in Albania in 1844 as Mirela Veliu. Around 1872 when she was 28 years old, she went to England to study nursing. Her father Aristotle had moved from Icaria to Albania following the wool trade in 1840. His children grew up knowing their Stavrosian connection. Mirela, his oldest daughter, wanted to be a close part of the Stavrosian community. She became a nurse to fulfill this dream. She moved to England in 1872 for her education. Now as a nurse in 1876 she was getting on the job training with the British army. She felt she had to change her name in order to fit in, so she became Annabell Milles in 1875.

Annabell finished school and her work with the British Army gave her experience in dealing with loss of blood trauma. She stayed with the unit until 1878 when she went with a missionary group to central Africa.

Here she learned to birth babies, helping women that had no access to regular medical care. This set her life's work as a Midwife into motion. Her work in Africa took 20 years. She returned to England in 1898 spending her time as a Midwife with Stavrosian families. By 1910, Annabell had come to America and met Stavrosian families in Texas. She started back up in 1914 until 1949; 35 years of service. She finally retired at age 105.

She picked a new name for herself to write a paper on Midwife skills and the need for such a career. In 1950 she became Joyce Flowers. Joyce finished her papers that became a book that was used in Africa to help educate women in the art.

It was 1952 when Joyce went to central Africa to visit a small school that was using her book to teach the girls. She became sick while there and Joyce was unable to return to her home in England. She died in 1952 at 108 years old on a hot African night. A German missionary held a funeral for her. He kept in custom for her and held a fishing trip on a local river keeping her last Stavrosian right. A copy of her book was found by the pastor, and he sent it to the library.

The report was sent in by the Berlin office.
It was part of the papers that belonged to
A German missionary. Translation by
Allan Sayers, Librarian Linguist, London.
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