

MISS HEMINGBOUGH



An Unbelievable Breathtaking Place of Restoration and Empowerment for the Soul and Healing of the Mind!!!

Hemingbough – an unbelievable breathtaking place of restoration and empowerment for the soul and healing of the mind; to reflect upon one’s own thoughts and soul within. Arlin Dease, former owner of Nottoway Plantation, had a vision many years ago to create a cultural arts center for the sole purpose of providing people with a place where they can collect their thoughts, their dreams and their perspective on life - a sanctuary, indeed. Hemingbough offers a lot more than meets the eye including a banquet hall, a bed and breakfast and the Greek amphitheater overlooking a 45 acre lake, all gracing 238 acres. What most of us do not realize is that Hemingbough is open to the public, at no charge, to roam the grounds and collect thoughts.

Many have shared with me, the true meaning of Hemingbough and WHA it has meant to them. Weddings, families, brides-to-be, but if you want the full details, you will have to ask, the one and only “Miss Hemingbough.” There must be a Miss Hemingbough, correct? Yes, there is. The lady of the house is entitled to her name through her job performance! Let her children rise up and call her blessed. You have earned that title and your job has been tremendously done. The life that Ida Cage brings into Hemingbough has been truly outstanding! She has run it all at some point in time – the guesthouse, the kitchen, the cooking, the cleaning. The long hours turned into very long nights!

Ida cage has been faithfully serving Hemingbough for the past 15 years, Ida has been cooking since she was five years old standing on a small wooden stool in the kitchen of a family friend, who taught her how to cook as a little girl. But for everything under heaven there is a season. A time to die, a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing. This is Mrs. Ida’s time to tell her story on her trials and tribulations and what she would allow you to know about her struggle with cancer. This will be the toughest article that I’ll ever have to write! Miss Hemingbough, herself, shared these details with me about her fight with cancer, while becoming a close friend to me. Giving me permission to include these details in writing this article, she prepares us for her condition eventually worsening. In 2009 Arlin got the phone call from Ida explaining the worsening of her condition. “Arlin, I’m sick,” she confided. “Well, if you’re sick, then I am sick!” he replied. “No Arlin, I’m really sick!” giving him details on how the cancer had returned! The battle began, once again. Loving mother of 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and wife of the late, Hal Cage, Ida Cage, gave me the permission to share her story with you. “I am not dead; I am able to speak DEVIL, YOU ARE A LIAR” was Mrs. Ida’s response to the results of her test with a confirmation that the cancer was there again, back in 2009. “My cancer was back terminally. I started chemo back in December 2009”, she told me. But it did not get to her, she had a life to still run and focus on events needing attending. “Life was too short to give up”, she would say. Mrs. Ida Cage, this very strong lady, very well respected by her peers, co-workers, friends and relatives was much stronger in mind and spirit than you could believe. Even preparing her own funeral arrangements, Mrs. Ida Cage would want you to

know, don't cry for her, she has arranged her own funeral including picking out her own casket and making sure everyone knew what their task was at the funeral. She has prepared well. She has been such a blessing for me and so many others. I believe that God divinely placed her and her family into my personal life!

I will continue to travel back and forth and walk these grounds forever experiencing that same divine territory that I found here in the beginning of peace and divine provision. Hemingbough is a magnificent open territory for restoration for the soul and divine healing. It's an open sanctuary to the lost, weary and stumbling; promoting peace and life through the sounds of nature.

A sanctuary, indeed. The serenity of knowing that God, himself, I believe walks these same grounds as well.

Written by: Gladys Davis Mulkey