Growing up in Bombingham

Birmingham, Alabama was not a sane and safe place for John and Angelina Rice and their daughter Condoleeza.

The city was so torn apart by racial violence, it earned the nickname of Bombingham : it seemed an unlikely place to produce a future United States Secretary of State.

« Birmingham, Alabama : deep, segregated South. A place where you couldn’t go in the Woolworth and have a hamburger at the counter »

Doctor Condoleeza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State says her journey from the segregated South to high academia and then on to international diplomacy is a truly American story. In her recent family memoirs ( Extraordinary, Ordinary people), Dr Rice recounts how her parents and grandparents created a foundation for success in the heart of the Jim Crow South.

« This is really an American story.It is a story that says you can come from pretty humble circumstances and you can be expected to do great things if you have a few ingredients. I have parents who gave unconditional love and there isn’t really any substitue for it. My parents and really my grandparents and the community are very much the reason that I am who I am »

Granddaddy Rice, a sharecropper son, sold the years worth of cotton to pay for his freshman years in Stillman College. He received a scholarship that paid for the rest of his education and became a presbyterian minister.