



# Chronicling the Continuation of a Landmark

A Publication of the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History (MAM)  
Barbara A. Wooten, Newsletter Editor

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**Mary Allen Heritage House (MAHH)**

**Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History  
MAM**

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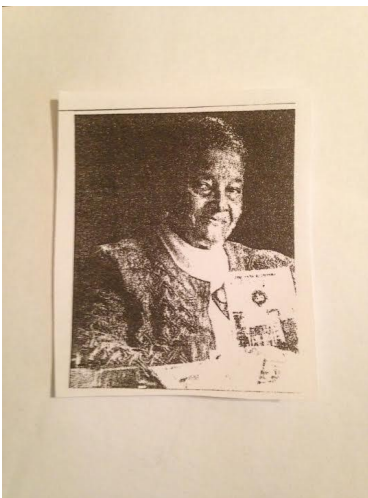
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**Standing on the Shoulders of a Giant**

## *From the President of MAM – Jesselyn Reese*



Callie Wynne Bragg, one of 10 children of the late Steve and Hattie Wynne, of the Fodice Community in Houston County, graduated from Mary Allen Jr. College in 1943. Her father was a sharecropper. Bragg attended Crockett Colored High School and reported that “Of the 43 graduates of her Class of 1943, 90% of the students attended Mary Allen “because it was just right there.” She earned her bachelor’s degree from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas and continued on to attend Atlanta Clark University obtaining a master degree from the University of North Texas. Mrs. Bragg taught in Dallas ISD for 31 ½ years and later began to focus on the restoration of Mary Allen College.

As Founder, and first President of the Mary Allen Museum, Mrs. Bragg gave her all to restore Mary Allen College’s education legacy. The thought of Mary Allen having been reduced to a crumbling relic brought her to “tears most of the time,” she once stated. The school closed in 1978 when Mrs. Bragg began the crusade to save what was left of Mary Allen College.

Her goal was to reopen the administration building as a multiethnic arts center and museum that pays tribute to Mary Allen's history. Mrs. Bragg once said, “I’m trying to plant a tree even though I may never enjoy its shade.” Encouraged by Crockett preservationists and alumni across the country, she organized a board of directors including officials and local citizens, developed a mission statement, received 501c3 status, and launched the first fund-raising campaign to pay off the remaining debt of purchasing the property from a local businessman. The work that she did “Means a lot to us,” said Birdie Houston, alumnae and President of Mary Allen’s Dallas Alumni Chapter.

One of the officials who met with Mrs. Bragg during the initial preservation discussions was Eliza Bishop, an 81-year old Crockett resident and Houston County Historical Commission Chairwoman. Ms. Bishop had already worked to list the Mary Allen Seminary on the National Registry of Landmarks in 1978. She joined the Board to help with the mission of restoration. “I grew up on that hill and can remember seeing the little girls going to seminary in their uniforms ... [Mrs. Bragg] has a dream to preserve that history, and I feel we can realize it,” Ms. Bishop told a local reporter.

In 2000, Callie Bragg, Eliza Bishop, and Tim Culp, of the Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation (CEIDC) submitted and received a \$17,500 matching funds grant from the Texas Preservation Trust Fund. Mrs. Bragg also invested more than \$26,000 personally, toward the \$95,000 required to purchase the school’s administration building and surrounding 11.5 acres. The remaining \$34,000 was raised through donations and fundraising events throughout Crockett over a period of 10 years.

By 2001 the campus was overgrown strewn with discarded tires and broken furniture. Today the Board continues work to plant Callie Bragg’s ‘tree.’ Although the Board has cleared much of the overgrowth and discarded the tires and broken furniture, we continue to pursue grants and fundraising events to maintain the landscape, stabilize the building, and fulfill the original mission of the charter board. With the continued help of a dedicated working board and volunteers throughout the City of Crockett, we will plant that tree! We stand on the shoulders of giants like Mrs. Callie Wynne Bragg. In the next issue, we will share the story of another.

# Mary Allen Museum



DONATE to the MARY ALLEN FLEA MARKET – FUNDRAISER  
1503 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Flea Market OPEN 9AM – 4PM FRI. & SAT.

June 17, 18  
August 12, 13  
October 14, 15

**Items may be garage sale items, old, new, antiques, paintings, picture frames, purses, shoes, furniture, crafts, jewelry, gently worn clothing, children's items, etc.**

Drop off date and times by appointment  
713-213-0350  
Contacts:  
J. Reese/J. Shepherd/E. Clebourn

Childhood friends of mine, Emma Hunter and her Sister, Lois have contributed to MAM fundraising efforts over the years. Our paths inevitably lead to Crockett, our hometown. On various occasions we discover that we all happen to land in Crockett at the same time on the same date. We invariably laugh together, joke together, and commiserate about high school days, and finally the joys and challenges of Crockett and the world.

On each "Crockett Retreat," we talk about MAM. On a specific 'Retreat,' "Emma-Ruth" (as I knew her back when) and I discussed the progress of the Mary Allen Museum's Oral History project. Emma commented I KNOW A MAN that you might want to interview! 😊 Emma indicated that she attends the same church as a 1930's student of Mary Allen College, Mr. Ira B. Scott. She connected me with Mr. Scott for whom the E.O. Smith School's Houston library was named. Mr. Scott was the second principal at E.O. Smith High School.

The next time you visit the Mary Allen Heritage House, watch the videoed interview with Mr. Ira B. Scott, who is also an active "Q" (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity) at age 91, and was being honored at the National meeting the month that we interviewed him!!!

*We all should that the time to TALK, SHARE, ASK QUESTIONS, because you never know whom you will meet.*

If you know someone who attended, or was employed at Mary Allen College, call 713-213-0350, Oral History Project.

Jesselyn Reese



## MAM BOARD MEMBERS

### Officers

Jesselyn Reese, President  
Thelma Douglass, Ph.D., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice  
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Director Emeritus, Steve Lewis

### Partners

Crockett Economic & Industrial



Mary Allen Museum is gearing up to landscape the grounds once again in our grounds cleanup project the last week in May.



We have the manpower lined up, however **we need** the following equipment loans/ donations from our Community:

**NEEDED:**

- 2 Riding mowers**
- 1 Tractor**
- 2 Sling blades**
- 2 weed eaters**
- 1 power saw**



Please call Mrs. Clebourn at 936-204-4993, or Ms. Berry at 469-471-2873.

Thanks!

**Let's Make It Happen!**

**Mary Allen College**

**Wall of Honor**

Mary Allen College alumni, administrators, faculty, staff, family, and friends

We are extending an invitation for you to share in the commemoration and continual legacy of the beloved Mary Allen College. As part of the initiatives for the 2016 season the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History, Inc. is developing the Mary Allen College Wall of honor.

Recognize a Mary Allen College alumni, administrator, faculty, or staff today on the ***Mary Allen College Wall of Honor*** in the Mary Allen Heritage House located in Crockett, Texas the official headquarters for the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History, Inc. We are excited to display the names of those who graced the hallowed halls of Mary Allen College.

Be instrumental and proactive in keeping the legacy alive of family and friends who attended or worked at Mary Allen College (M. A. C.). As tours are conducted and people visit from across our global society, they will see the names of M. A. C. administrators, faculty, staff, personnel, or students indelibly imprinted on the picturesque plaque on the wall of honor.

The prices to secure a name on the plaque are \$250 for bronze, \$375 for silver, and \$500 for gold. Please fill out the ***Mary Allen College Wall of Honor Commemorative Plaque Order Form*** and submit a check, certified fund, or money order to Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History, INC. in the amount you select for each name to be placed on the wall. Please notify us by email, [maryallenmuseum1986@gmail.com](mailto:maryallenmuseum1986@gmail.com) that you have mailed a payment.

**Mail checks to:**

Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History, Inc. (MAM)  
c/o Dr. Thelma Douglass  
P. O. Box 5464  
Humble, Texas 77325-5464

Dr. Thelma Douglass, *Project Organizer*  
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Mary Allen College

ORDER INFORMATION: Please print legibly

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