



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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For additional information, please view an 8-minute video on Mary Allen College [HYPERLINK "https://youtu.be/LiS3z0Esj9Y" \t "_blank" https://youtu.be/LiS3z0Esj9Y](https://youtu.be/LiS3z0Esj9Y) or visit the Mary Allen Museum website, maryallenmuseum.org.

If you have additional questions you may contact us at 936-293-8542

Inside this Issue

- From the President – Page 2
- Board Members – Page 2
- Agnes Bell Rhoder – Page 3
- The Happenings – Page 4 - 5
- MAM Heritage House Collection – Page 6 & 8
- Save the Dates – Page 7
- Top Donors – Pages 9
- Rosa Mae Bookman Rodgers – Page 10
- MAM Partners – Page 11
- Wall of Honor – Page 12

From the President of MAM – Jesselyn Reese



Dear Alumni, Partners, Donors, Friends, Volunteers, & Neighbors,

I am honored to serve another year, beginning August, 2017 as President of the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History, Inc. I believe 2018 will be a year of prosperity for our organization and neighborhood. We have witnessed an increase in awareness and giving this year. Members of the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce (past 2 years), MAM held a variety of community activities this year to include 12 Mary Allen Heritage House Tours, a Juneteenth Commemoration and Ice Cream Social, Book Review, “Warmth of Other Suns,” Black History Celebration, Genealogy Workshop, Mary Allen College Landscaping Campaign, and Yard Sale Fundraisers.

Additionally, MAM participated in Davy Crockett Days and two Parades this year: The Juneteenth Parade, and the Crockett ISD Homecoming Parade.

Without **your** support, these activities could not have been successful. Whether Crockett, or no matter where one lives, a great organization is supported by individuals as yourselves, with vision and purpose. My observation of the people featured in this, as well as past Newsletter issues, have given tirelessly of themselves to the cause of the Mary Allen Museum. These individuals exhibit the qualities, not only of vision and purpose, but also of friendliness, respectfulness, and awareness. They consistently display random acts of kindness and freely share resources and resourcefulness. I like to think of these individuals as members of the ‘Mary Allen Museum Family’! I am grateful; we all are grateful for your legacy of greatness and giving.

Thank you, **Mary Allen Family** for all that you do, volunteering, donating, for subscribing to our E-Newsletter, “Liking” us on Facebook, supporting activities, visiting our Website and BlogSpot and for just ‘staying-in-the-loop.’ We look forward to your **continued** involvement with the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History in the year(s) ahead!

Sincerely,

Jesselyn Y. Reese, M.A.

President, Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History, Inc.

MAM BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

Jesselyn Reese, President

Larry Robbins, 1st Vice President

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Shirley Murray – Elnora J. Shepherd

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Barbara A. Wooten – Coordinator

Bridget Lamb - Debra Lamb

Partners

Crockett Economic & Industrial Development Corp

Houston County Historical Commission

Mary Allen College National Alumni Association



Agnes Bell Rhoder, 9th president of Mary Allen College

From student, to registrar, to missionary (and at times secretary) **Dr. Agnes Bell Rhoder** will forever be known for her tireless efforts as an advocate for the continued existence of Mary Allen College. A staunch believer in the Mary Allen College brand, the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Texas (who oversaw the institution from 1944 until its eventual closure) recognized her contributions to the institution's wellbeing. Throughout the latter half of the 1950s and 60s, Mary Allen College struggled to maintain its existence with many of its students having been drafted into the Vietnam War. By the 1970s, the institution was led by Dr. Ira Clark (the eighth president). During this period the institution had lost its accreditation and it became increasingly difficult to maintain the

college as a result. By 1972 Dr. Clark had resigned and the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Texas proposed the closure of Mary Allen College

Still, although it would go on to advertise the closing of the institution, the Board chose to make one last attempt to secure the legacy of their beloved institution. In doing so, they chose to hire the institution's most trusted employee as president, Mrs. Agnes Bell Rhoder. As such, she became the ninth (and first female) president of Mary Allen College. Through her leadership, she would go on to protect and secure the legacy of Mary Allen for another four years. The institution finally closed its doors at the end of the 1976-77 academic years, due to a lack of financial solvency.



Dr. Kimya Dawson-Smith had the opportunity to befriend and interview Ms. Agnes Bell Rhoder before she passed away. As a result, she has written a phenomenal book that depicts Ms. Rhoder's life and touches on subjects confronting present-day and past HBCUs. She hopes to make the book available to the public in the spring of 2018.

The Happenings



Ms. Alisha Denman Bailey, New Secretary of the Board of Directors



L-R Henry Smith, Cliff McCullough, Rosemary Kyle, Billy Reese
Attend the Book signing Event at the Heritage House



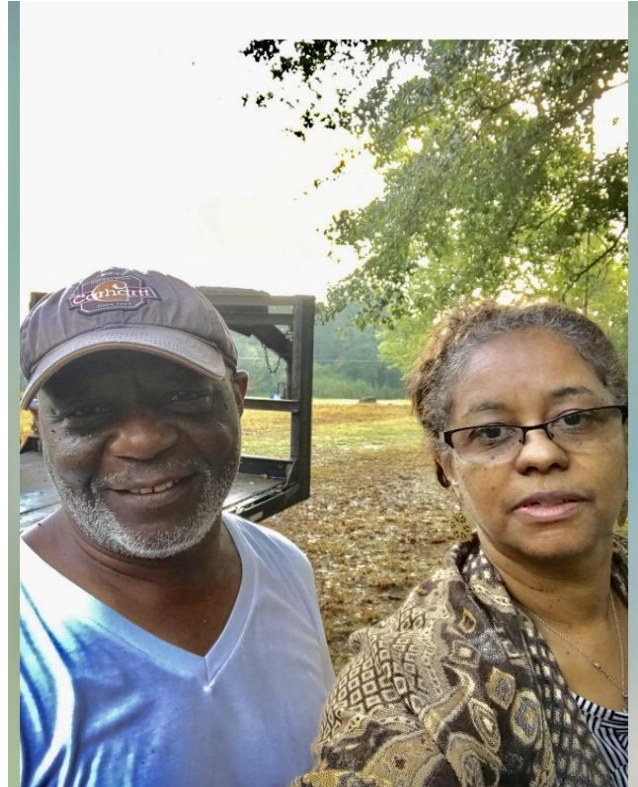
Volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church Provides Food
For the August Community Work Squad



The Happenings



Donor, Rev. Ray Emmanuel, & VP Larry Robbins rests at the close of Day one of four



Vice President, Robbins and President Reese at the campus, pause for a Selfie before Day two works begins at 7:30am



Larry Robbins – “Last Man on Deck” Loads the trailer with equipment, tools, tables and chairs at the end of the clean-up effort

Mary Allen Heritage House – Collection

~MARY ALLEN COLLEGE BULLETIN~

Pictured below are pages from an original Mary Allen Junior College Bulletin (Catalog). The cover photo is the entrance to Mary Allen Hall, which was later named Mary Allen Seminary. It was a four-story brick and is the oldest and only landmark that remains on the campus. This building housed administrative offices, an infirmary, nurse's quarters, dormitory and lounge for women, some classrooms, and the President's apartment. At the time this catalog was printed (date not shown), "Officers of Administration" were: President, Ira L. Clark, Vice-President, B.A., M.A., LL.D, Selmus Curtis, A.B., M.S., Dean-Registrar, Agnes B. Rhoder, B. TH, B.S., M.ED, Business Manager-Dean of Men, Rev. A.H. Whitfield, B. TH., Dean of Women, Mrs. Fannie R. Ward, B. TH., Librarian, Ms. Mae Helen Love, and Dean of Religion, Rev., J.T. Groves, B. TH., D.D. There were nine (9) buildings on campus as described below. It is the dream on the Mary Allen Museum Board of Directors to replicate these outlying buildings with the Museum (The oldest building) as center.

Mary Allen Junior College Bulletin



This is the entrance to Mary Allen Hall. The four-story brick structure, oldest landmark on the campus, houses administrative offices, infirmary, nurses' quarters, dormitory space and lounge for women, some classrooms, and the President's apartment.

Crockett, Texas

COLLEGE BUILDINGS

MARY ALLEN HALL. Mary Allen Hall is the oldest landmark on the campus. This building is a four-story brick structure which houses on the first floor the administrative offices, and some classrooms. The second floor houses the infirmary, young women's lounge, nurses' quarters and the President's apartment. The third floor provides dormitory space for young women.

MACMILLAN HALL. A three story brick structure which houses on the first floor the dining and kitchen facilities. The College Chapel is located on the second floor and the third floor provides dormitory space for young men.

THE SCIENCE HALL. This building houses the home economics department, the music classroom and practice rooms, the biological and chemical laboratories.

THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION BUILDING. This is a modern structure which houses the Religious Department and two additional classrooms.

S. R. PRINCE HALL. The S. R. Prince Hall, a recently renovated concrete structure, will house 60 men students, Industrial Education Workshop and three classrooms.

THE TEACHERS COTTAGE. Two frame buildings across the street from the main campus serve as living quarters for the faculty and staff members.

THE G. L. PRINCE HOSPITAL. The college affords a well equipped modern hospital. This establishment, which is a credit to any city or college community, serves both the school and the greater Houston County area.

THE CAMPUS INN. This is a small frame structure which houses the concessions needed by the student. It is also a social center for after class meetings.

THE LIBRARY. Annexed to Mary Allen Hall is the College Library which contains current periodicals, standard research volumes, and recent editions of bulletins and references. Books have been carefully selected with a view orientated toward the immediate needs of instruction.

Save These Dates



FALL

November 3-4 Mary Allen Heritage House



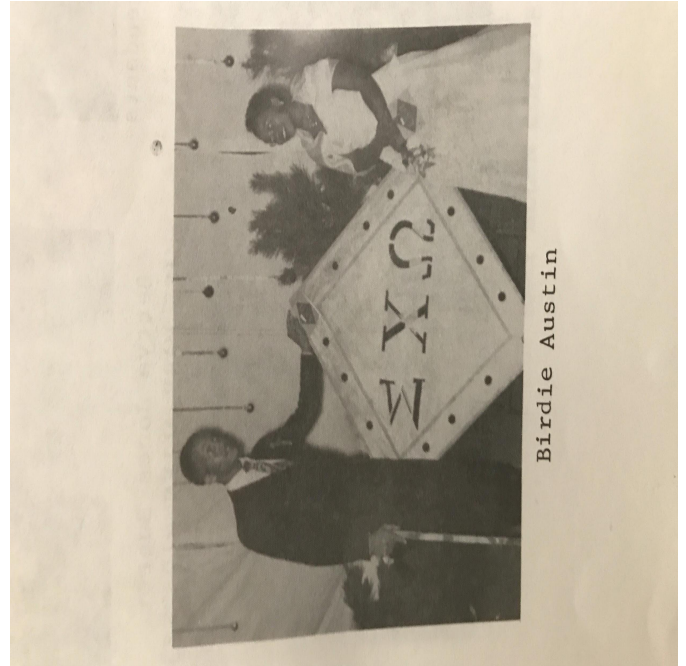
**MRS. MARY E. SHEPHERD-LESTER TO SPEAK
MARY ALLEN COLLEGE FOUNDERS' DAY
SAVE THE DATE! FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

FOUNDER'S DAY is Co-Sponsored
by
The FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Outreach Ministry

Mary Allen Heritage House – Collection



1947 Chemistry Major
Frankie L. Grant-Freeman



Birdie Austin

Birdie Austin – Class of 1948
"SIGMA CHI OMEGA FRATERNITY QUEEN"
1950



Driver: Dr. Loria Ewing
With her
Mother Mrs. Nancy Givens

Crockett Parade



President Jesselyn Reese (standing) Presents

The MAM Life Saver Award To

Mrs. Gracie Chizer Boston



**Our Partners, National Mary Allen Alumni Association –
TOP DONORS OF THE YEAR**

**ROSA MAE BOOKMAN
RODGERS**

1918-2017

Rosa Mae Bookman Rodgers, passed away peacefully on Sunday the 13th of August 2017, at the age of 99. Rosa Mae was born in Shiro, Texas, February 26, 1918 to Paul Bookman and Mattie F. Bookman.

Rosa Mae graduated from Navasota High School and later attended Mary Allen Seminary (College) in Crockett, Texas, the first African American Women's college in the state of Texas.

Rosa Mae married Wayne Rodgers in 1940. To this union two children were born Ruby Rodgers and Mattie Rodgers.

Rosa was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother and the Matriarch of this family, in addition, an amazing friend to many people in her community. She loved her church and always stressed education to her children and family.

Rosa Mae was preceded in death by parents Paul and Mattie Bookman, sisters: Sally Clara Davis, Glorious Bookman Crockett, and Sammie Brown. She is survived by one sister Pauletta Baugh of San Mateo, California, who is 94 years old, her daughters:



Ruby Rodgers Elliott of Silver Spring Maryland and Attorney Mattie Rodgers Ashley (Michael) of Houston, Texas, as well as eight grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousin and friends.

Services will be at Fifth Ward Missionary Baptist Church 4300 Noble St. Houston, Texas 77020. Visitation 10:00am - 12noon on August 26, 2017, Funeral Services from 12noon with interment to follow at Golden Gate Cemetery on Hirsch Road.

Donations can be made to: Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History, 803 N. 4th. Street Crockett, Texas 75835 Tel. (713) 213-0350, email: info @ maryallenmuseum.org or United Negro College Fund

Ross Mortuary, Inc.
"Service of Distinction"
3618 Lyons Avenue, 713

Mail All Donations TO:

Mary Allen Museum

P. O. Box 324

Crockett, TX 75835

Attn: Treasurer



Ms. Barbara A. Wooten

Editor-in-Chief of the Mary Allen Museum
Quarterly Newsletter

"Chronicling the Continuation of a Landmark"

Attending and presenting at the 2017 Juneteenth
Commemoration.



LINCOLN STEPHENS

CEO/Co-Founder and Man Of Lesiure in Dallas, Texas

Lincoln Stephens CEO/Co-Founder of The Marcus Graham Project is a former Advertising Account Management Executive, turned social entrepreneur. Lincoln is now the MAM website manager. As an accomplished community organizer, his nonprofit focuses on bringing diversity to the advertising industry through mentorship, exposure, and career development. He has been featured in Black Enterprise, Ebony, on CNN, and NBC. Most recently, he was honored with the University Of Missouri School Of Journalism's Medal for Distinguished Service in the Media Industry. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

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 2017 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 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
Viktor Le Ewing, Project Form Art Organizer
Jesselyn Reese, President