

The Heritage Herald

A Publication of the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History in Houston County - 1st Qtr. 2019
Barbara A. Wooten, Newsletter Editor



Est. 1886

Sharing the Past  Shaping the Future

Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History

Meeting Schedule

Time: 10 AM

Location: Heritage House

May 18, 2019	Meeting
June 8, 2019	Conference Call
July 13, 2019	Meeting
August 2019	No Meeting

Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History

Dr. Thelma J. Douglass
Mary Allen Museum President
P. O. Box 324
Crockett, TX 75835

Email: maryallenmuseum2018@gmail.com

Blog: maryallenmuseum.blogspot.com

Website

<https://maryallenmuse.weebly.com/>

www.Facebook.com/under new construction

Mary Allen Museum Event – June 29, 2019

Block Party on College Hill

2 – 5 pm

Inside This Issue

From the President	Page 2-4
Founders Day	Page 5-6
Story Synopsis	Page 7
Tribute to the Mayor of Crockett	Page 8
Elma Jean Kennedy	Page 8
Reflection on the Archive	Page 9
Board Members	Page 10
Meet the New Board Members	Page 11-12
Vanishing History/Mary Allen College	Page 13
Comments from the Mayor	Page 14
Wall of Honor	Page 15



Dr. Thelma J. Douglass



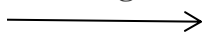
**A Recapitulation of Mary Allen Museum's Harvest: A Year in Review
President's Message**

We have experienced a harvest of accomplishments and highlights with the Mary Allen Museum (MAM) Board of Directors and Advisory Board Committee utilizing their skills and expertise. Even though we are a Board of acumen in business, education, law, military, art, administration, engineers, and much more, we believe knowledge is a continuous process in the continuum of life. One of the year's highlight was our Autumnal Leadership and Development Retreat.

Dr. Julianne Cenac, a professional consultant CEO of Leader Channel, presented information in defining our leadership styles and how pertinent those styles are in team cooperation and organizational leadership. Viktor Le Givens Ewing, Chair, did a marvelous job in coordinating the retreat.

Dr. Julianne Cenac

Dr. Thelma J. Douglass



Leadership Lunch Break

Other events were our community participation in the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce 'Christmas On the Square' and the community recognition of outstanding citizens at the Crockett Annual Award Banquet, 'An Evening In Paris'. The program venues provided an opportunity to interact with the diverse commerce members.

All work and no fun make us ready to celebrate in a family setting during the Christmas season. Board of Directors and Advisory Board Committee members' family and children came together and shared their culinary food dish. No one was edacious after feasting on food multiplying like the two fish and five loaves with twelve baskets left over. Adults and children played games of the past like Chinese checkers and modern-day charades on an iPad device. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food, family fellowship, and festivities.

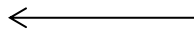
The Board of Directors met consistently during the year making strategic decisions to enhance and improve the Mary Allen Museum, while at the same time, spearheading systemic strategies to restore or rebuild the Administration Building on the college hill. We have diligently prepared proposals for funding sources and The Historical Commission. Board member, Viktor Givens Ewing, City Manager John Angerstein and MAM President Dr. Thelma J. Douglass traveled to Austin for The Historical Commission Board Meeting. The Mayor, City Manager and MAM President received from a construction engineer that the building is not safe. The City Manager had the fire department to place tape around the building. The MAM President spoke with Mrs. Clebourn, MAM Treasurer, who ordered and posted no trespassing signs on the property.

We advertised and wrote articles through our Newsletter, edited and published by Barbara Wooten, keeping the community informed of our activities. We encourage community support through the media. The Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce distributes our Newsletter to the members. The Mary Allen Museum President graced the City Council to share with stakeholders in Crockett the Museum vision and mission.

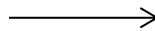
Founder's Day Dr. Loria Miles, Chair, proved to enhance and encourage community participation. Rev. Jim Tom Ainsworth, First Presbyterian Church, reminded us of the Presbyterian historicity of Mary Allen College. Dr. Ianthia Fisher shared the past with the Emancipation Proclamation. Rev. Henry Lovelady, guest speaker, creatively captured the contextual content of scripture and compared it to an addict for Christ Jesus.



Rev. Jim Tom Ainsworth



Rev. Henry Lovelady



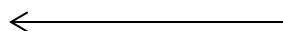
Mrs. Roberta Mason, Mistress of Ceremony, interviewed Mrs. Johnnie Brooks Dale-Thompson. Mrs. Thompson stole the show when she played the piano.



L to R: Mrs. Thompson & Mrs. Roberta Mason



President Dr. Thelma Douglass presented Mrs. Dale Thompson a certificate.





The Youth attending the event playing Charades at Christmas

Our Houston County Attorney Session gave certificates of appreciation to all participants and culminated the program with words of wisdom. All donors, participants, and sponsors were recognized in the Houston County Courier for their contribution and support. The various media Houston County Courier, The Messenger, African American News and Issues, KTRE TV, KIVY, and 104.3 JOY FM highlighted the Second Annual Mary Allen College Day Program. We appreciated the sponsors for the program, Bethel Baptist Church, Crockett Economic and Industrial Corporation, Chuck Wagon Restaurant, First Presbyterian Church, Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, Moosehead Café, and Thomas Markle Jewelers in The Woodlands, Texas.

The essence of our theme sharing the past in shaping our future recaps and captures Mary Allen College history in Tulane University at the Amistad Research Center. Viktor Givens Ewing, David Ewing and Dr. Thelma J. Douglass travelled to New Orleans to research the boxes of papers, pictures, and documents. We only touched the surface in the three-day journey to research our history.

Prairie View A & M University architects, contractors, construction engineers, and engineering students commit to the advancement in recapturing, restoring, and reviewing the opportunity to examine the building structure to determine salvageable bricks for rebuilding. We are excited to receive assistance from Professor Norwood. This recapture of highlights articulates our vision and mission statements:

Vision Statement: Mary Allen College and Museum entity is to be an academic intellectual institution and skills training center that serve as a historical landscape for a cross culture society in Houston County and the global world.

Mission Statement: Mary Allen College Museum exists to continue the collaboration and partnership journey to enhance academics, cultural opportunities, and the historical legacy of Crockett and Houston County conceptualized on college hill.



MAM Presidents

Dr. Thelma J. Douglass (Current President)

Mr. Larry Robin

Mrs. Jean Shepherd

Mrs. Eloise Wooten (for Mrs. Agnes Rhoder)

Mrs. Sandra Berry (for her mother, Mrs. Callie Braggs)

Mrs. Jesselyn Reese (not in photo)

Founders Day What a Treat!!!!



I, Dr. Loria Givens-Miles, have had the privilege to coordinate the Mary Allen Founders Day Program for the past two glorious years!! I will tell you a little about me. I am a recent transplant to Crockett, Texas. I resided in the Houston area for almost 30 years (Katy and The Woodlands). Currently I am an administrator for Crockett ISD. I have been in administration for over 15 years primarily in the Houston area as an interventionist, specialist, assistant principal and principal. God also blessed me with the opportunity to work as an adjunct professor for Houston Community College. Currently I am married to Mr. Chip Miles better known throughout East Texas as Miles the Barber and I am the proud mother of three outstanding sons Marcel, Laurent (Viktor) and Michael Ewing. Not to mention my beautiful grandchildren.

It has truly been an honor coordinating the Mary Allen Founders Day Event. The event was started by Mrs. Jesselyn Reese (former president) and taken to unbelievable heights by Dr. Thelma J. Douglass (current president).

The goal of this outstanding community event is to bring awareness to Mary Allen College while rallying the Houston county community. This has been done by exalting former students (Mrs. Nancy Givens and Mrs. Johnnie Mae) while honoring prominent leaders in the community with ties to Mary Allen College. Last year the featured guest speaker was Mrs. Mary Shepherd Lester, African American Teachers Hall of Fame, as she embraced her family's history with Mary Allen College. This year we had the honor of hearing Reverend Henry Lovelady exposed his story and love for Mary Allen College. Each year we have community members associated with the college and their descendants not only assist with the programming, but also donate their time and goods. Our primary focus for 2019 was the induction or inauguration of Dr. Thelma J. Douglass into the position president.

Honestly, the program would not and could not have ever existed without the help of a great Board of Directors. Together we worked very hard to not only uplift Mary Allen College, but also uplift the Crockett, Texas community.



These are pictures of the audience who participated in the Founder's Day activities.



Truly looking forward to what the future holds! We will continue to put God first and walk in our purpose as board members. Most of all I thank the Crockett, Texas community for entrusting me with the coordination of such a momentous occasion.

2nd Annual

Mary Allen College

Founder's Day

Mary Allen Museum Board of Directors:

Dr. Thelma J. Douglass, President	
Shirley Murray - 1st Vice President	Jean Shepherd - 2nd Vice President
Earlene Clebourn - Treasurer	Alicia Bailey - Secretary
Sandra Berry Viktor le Givens Houston County Attorney - Daphne Sessions	Mayor Joni Clonts Dr. Loria Ewing-Miles - Chair Gloria Wooten

The Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History Board of Directors appreciate the support of Crockett, Houston County, State and National community! We are thankful to our program participants, sponsors, and donors. A special thanks to the African American News Issues, Houston County Courier Newspaper, 104.3 JOY FM, 92.7 FM KIVY, KTRE-TV Lufkin, and the Messenger Newspaper for their media coverage. We are grateful to Honorable U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady for recognizing Mrs. Johnnie Mae Brooks Dale-Thompson, a 1945 Mary Allen College Alumna, in the permanent United States Congressional Records.

Donors:

Carolyn McKnight	Joe Martin	Linda Neel
Rosalie Chase	Ima J. Elem	Bobbie S. Easterling
Robert Walter Wooten	Daphne Session	Racheal Anne Allen
Clifton Snodgrass	Harold Clebourn	Johnetta Brown
Lamech Thomas	Dr. Thelma Douglass	Leon Brooks
Jessica Brooks	Hilliard and Ruth	Lawrence Kennedy
Nancy L. Givens	McKnight	Jackie Riley
Broderick Davis	Alicia Gay Bailey	Emanuel Seth Williams
Demetria L. Griffin	James Jordan Gentry	Jacquelyn M. Robertson
Darcy Leigh Mullins	Jeffield Jefferson	Toya Clebourn-McPherson
Sue Cook	Benita Pecore	Betty Thomas
	Mayor Joni Clonts	Gloria Wooten

Mrs. Johnnie Mae Brooks Dale-Thompson

Sponsors:

Moosehead Cafe - Honorable Mayor Joni Clonts
 Thomas Markle Jewelers - The Woodlands, Texas
 Chuck Wagon - Mrs. Regina Tillis
 First Presbyterian Church
 Good Fellowship Church -Pastor Leon Wallace
 Bethel Baptist Church
 Crockett Economic Industrial and Development Corporation

Story Synopsis of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Brooks Dale-Thompson



Kevin Brady's Office Honors Mrs. Dale-Thompson

Johnnie Mae Brooks-Dale Thompson was born September 17, 1925, to Nettie Eddin Brooks and Leon Walter Brooks at 3401 Stonewall St., in 5TH Ward, Houston, Texas. They had one 3-year old daughter, Lois Marie. The family lived across the street from Gregg Street Presbyterian Church. She was baptized at her parents Church, Mt. Olive, Reverend T. T. Bradford, Pastor, when she was seven years old. She also attended Gregg Street Presbyterian Church; Reverend J. H. M Boyce, Pastor.

Johnnie Mae enrolled in Bruce Elementary School at age four, in 1929, and attended there through the fifth grade. She then enrolled in Phillis Wheatley in the sixth grade and attended until she completed all courses required for graduation, at the age of 14, in the summer of 1940.

Johnnie's parents bought a piano when she was seven years old for her and her sister. Private lessons were given by Mrs. Margaret Boyce (Rev. Boyce's wife) and Mrs. Ina Singleton. In Mary Allen, she spent lots of time in the Music Building playing on the piano. She also took courses at Texas Southern University, U. S. School of Music corresponding courses in 1955, and violin lesson at Mrs. Freeman's Studio on Southmore St., in 1956.

Rev. Boyce recommended Mary Allen Jr. College as a fine school. It had been an all-girls seminary and was now a coed college which emphasized courses in Home Economics and Agriculture. It had a safe homey, religious environment. Johnnie graduated in Spring, 1942, and enrolled in Tillotson College, Austin, Texas in September 1942. She attended there until the fall semester, when she had to withdraw because of illness, and was able to complete a required course to graduate in the Spring, 1944. When she learned Mary Allen had become a Senior College, she applied and was accepted in the Spring 1945 Class. Mary Allen was then under the control of the Missionary Baptist Convention of Texas, Rev. G. L. Prince was President, and religious training was emphasized.

Students in Mary Allen College were given jobs in the lunch room, mail room, library, and co-op (an on-campus store to obtain school supplies and sandwiches), and laundry. No excuses. They were not paid employees and learned how to work and be responsible. She graduated in the Spring Class of 1945.

In 1950, she enrolled in Texas Southern University to work on her Master's Degree. Johnnie received her Master's Degree in 1951; continued to substitute in HISD and work odd jobs.

In 1952, a TSU classmate, John Lusk introduced Johnnie to John Wesley McIntosh, who needed a teacher that played music. He introduced her to Superintendent Silvers, who hired Johnnie, September 1952, in Wharton, Texas. Johnnie worked at Harper Elementary School in the third and fourth grades, assisted music and band teachers until she transferred to J. W. Oates Elementary in September 1970. She worked there until her retirement in 1981.

Alumna's speaker Class of 1945, 93-Year-old Mrs. Dale-Thompson story continues as she was honored at the Second Annual Mary Allen College Founder's Day Program held in Crockett, Texas February 16, 2019, at the Good Shepherd Fellowship Church. Interviewed in a late-night style setting on stage by Roberta Mason an outstanding orator, Crockett retired teacher and historian of Crockett, Mrs. Roberta Mason and Mrs. Brooks Dale-Thompson had one common thread as their conversation continued: both received degrees in Home Economic.



The audience was enamored by Mrs. Dale-Thompson wonderful rendition of "This Little Light of Mine." The people were amazed with her performance as she played the piano with poise, precision, and personality. Her talents were displayed in her creative expression of sewing, crocheting, and quilting. A room filled with her beautiful dolls, quilts, plastic dog design, and much more spotlighted her creativity skills in Home Economics.

We are blessed to see and hear a smart and intelligent 93-year-old honor society graduate of Mary Allen College. She rode in style to Crockett to tell her story in a limousine sponsored by Thomas Markel Jewelry of Houston, Texas.

The Honorable U. S. Congressman Kevin Brady recognized Mrs. Dale-Thompson in the United States Congressional Records. We salute Mrs. Dale-Thompson as her story continues to be written and shared.



**A Tribute To Mayor Joni Clonts
April 2019**

On behalf of the Mary Allen Museum African American Art and History (MAM) Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your kindness and dedicated service to the City of Crockett in your participation as an Ex-officio member of MAM. With your busy schedule, you are consistent in attending the Board meetings and your creative ideas are current, on the cutting edge, and forward thinking in development.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of MAM, your support is evident in your donation-in-kind of a large table and chairs, providing brownies and pies for sale in our booth at the Crockett Christmas on the Square, and preparing the delicious dish of chicken and dressing at our Christmas gala.

You exemplify the Biblical adage that “it is good for people to dwell together in unity and how can we accomplish any task unless we walk and agree.” You and John Angerstein walked the Mary Allen College property and offered prayers to our Heavenly Father concerning the land and building. Also, you and the City Manager wrote letters in support of the visit and presentation to The Historical Commission. Your communication with the construction engineer produced favorable results. You along with the City Manager had the fire department to tape off the deteriorating building to warn people not to trespass on the property.

We appreciate your contribution to our Heritage Herald Newspaper. The proclamation for our Second Annual Mary Allen College Founder’s Day was professional and well received. Through your business, the Moosehead Cafe you helped sponsor the food for the Second Annual Mary Allen College Founder’s Day.

You have often said, “you like helping people.” Acrostically speaking you have said Yes On Unity in helping us to re-establish the essence and importance of Mary Allen College. For all that you do, we thank you.

Sincerely,

The Board

*The Mary Allen Museum
Board of Directors
acknowledge the
celebration of the life of
Mrs. Elna Jean Kennedy,
the long reigning and last
President of the Mary
Allen College National
Alumni Association, before
it dissolved in 2017. Our
condolences are to the
family and friends of this
outstanding leader of the
alumni organization.*

Celebrating The Life Of
November 29, 1934

April 2, 2019
Elna Jean Kennedy
Funeral will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019
Viewing: 9 AM
Service: 11 AM
New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church
3221 Bain St
Houston, Tx 77026
Rev. Charles E. Turner, Pastor
Internment
Houston National Cemetery (VA)
Committal Service 10:45 AM
Services Entrusted To Hardon Funeral Services Inc.
936-653-8009 Collinspring, Texas



Viktor I. Ewing Givens (observing the structure) is a performance artist from Houston TX, who recently relocated to Crockett to steward ancestral lands. Avid writer and sculptor Viktor seeks to share his creative gifts with the Houston County community through his involvement with Mary Allen Museum and larger community.

Reflecting on the archive The sameness of change

Dear Ancestors,

It's your great grand someone or another writing you simply to say hello and share that contrary to popular belief, I know your passing doesn't translate to an absence or loss rather, it signals a transformation into something new. Grannies always said that "in death we do nothing more than walk through the clothes line stretched across the stratus of eternity and stand on the other side, and although our physical is no longer, we have the light from the ether to cast a shadow on the fabric of time so we can be recalled and remembered."

There have been many changes since you've motioned and plenty that have remained the same. I've been working diligently in exploring that middle place that rests 'between the changes and the sameness: by collecting remnants of your lives, sediments of your living. Most recently I visited the Amistad research center in New Orleans to have a closer look at the Mary Allen Archive donated in by Agnes Rhodes to Tulane University back in 2000. Joined by the Mary Allen Museum president Dr. T. J Douglass and David Ewing, my nephew as research assistant, we were able to comb through old student report cards, read institutional correspondences, and peruse vintage photographs of the rich student life that once graced Historic college hill.

After two days of intense archival review and historical reinterpretation I am left with the existential questions of why and how? Since relocating to the bosom of the south I've been brought closer to the realization that America has changed. That the landscape of the rural south has changed, a change in a direction vague, inconspicuous and all the while promising. The once riddled place of grueling labor is now plagued with depressing unemployment, the pastures and fields once lined with rows of cotton and tobacco now lay empty, bare and are haunted with nimble hands of specters from times past. Jim Crow still caws but the feathers mange, tongue is swollen and wings crippled with pain.

The loose noose now tangled in vines clinging clung to the trunk of the old magnolia tree. Ransacked and rotting are the praise houses, those once white board sanctuaries now stained in spores, mold and decay. Joints for juking no longer play the notes of forbidden tunes.

Such is the look of the Emancipations Jubilation, dramatically decreased in occupants, dramatically vacant and neglected the South cries out in mourning, in forgotten unrest.

My brief time spent in the rural south has brought me closer to the reality that the ancestors are calling, they speak across the horizon of immediate dimensions of reach, to remind us that we are not alone, and that there have been left for us sediments in the fields of heirloom pastures, secrets that we may come to know, recall and remember the ethos of remembrance.

What will the Southern region of America become in the wake of a global technological society? In the wake of automation? In the wake of international agriculture and foreign trade, in the wake of rapidly evolving ideas on spirit consciousness? In the wake of complex expressions of sexuality and the reconstruction of the family unit? What will the south become? What has the south become? How will there be a reconciliation of urban with the rural, the north with the red dirt roots and the land spaces in-between. What happened to our quilts, salves and roots? Who is stowing cans and jars of preserves for hunger prevention? What happened to the songs, and the claps and ring shouts? Safe houses and river cleansings? Has the mythology of the plantation ridden south run its course? Is it time for a new myth, a new narrative for the black body looking back at the rural bush? How might a continued strategy towards liberation include inherited sacred freedom land spaces left behind for us to carry forward?

The progressive of closure and eventual collapse of Mary Allen College speaks to a larger institutional dismembering that stands beyond academics. Mary Allen was an incubator for sociocultural love, it warmed, fed, taught celebrated and affirmed the brilliance of its members and is deserving of rightful recognition and resuscitation.

I have no idea where all of this will lead, but I do know that it is healing me. I do know that it is changing the world and hope that it makes you proud.

With humility and grace,
Your derivation
Viktor. L Ewing Givens.

Mary Allen Museum - BOARD MEMBER

Officers

Dr. Thelma J. Douglass, President
Shirley Murray, 1st Vice President
Jean Shepherd, 2nd Vice President
Alicia Bailey, Secretary
Earlene Clebourn, Treasurer

Directors

Sandra Berry
Honorable Mayor Joni Clonts
Karen K. Duncan
Viktor Le Ewing
Dr. Loria Ewing-Miles
Honorable Attorney Daphne Session
Gloria Wooten

Advisory Board

Viktor L. Givens Ewing, Chair
Barbara A. Wooten – Coordinator Engineer
Ron Forehand, Minister and Owner Crockett Printing
Najah Burks Pittman Forehand, Crockett Printing
Nancy Givens, Retired Educator
Dr. April Lovelady, Administrator
Franchelle Lucas, Fre whun Artist Collection
Chip Miles, Business Entrepreneur
Elmer Murray, Retired City Administrator
Soccora Conner Sanders, Intele Travel



Welcome – Daphne Session
New Mary Allen Museum Board Member



Daphne Session is the County Attorney for Houston County, a position she has held since 2009. She is the First African American attorney in Crockett, Texas.

Daphne graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in criminology and corrections. She worked at Texas Youth Commission - Crockett State School and the Anderson County Adult Probation Department before attending law school. Daphne attended Texas Tech University School of Law and in May 1999 she was awarded her law degree.

In her career as an attorney, Daphne served as assistant district attorney in Anderson County, Houston County, and Smith County until 2006, when she opened a private practice in Rusk and Crockett. She maintained her practice until she was elected Houston County Attorney.

As County Attorney, her office has handled the prosecution of hundreds of misdemeanor cases, juvenile cases, CPS cases, and protective order cases.

Daphne is a member on several state, regional, and local boards and organizations.

Daphne is a member of Mt. Pleasant CME Church in Rusk, Texas. This is the church she has attended since childhood. She is the Youth Director and teaches the primary children Sunday school class. Her parents are Walter and Maxine Session, both retired of Rusk. She has two older sisters, Kathy Session Harris and Terri Session Franklin, both teachers in the Rusk school district.

Welcome –Karen K. Duncan
New Mary Allen Museum Board Member



Karen K. Duncan graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.B.A. in Marketing and attended M.I.T. in AT&T Executive Studies Program. She is a retired Information Technology lead project manager. Her resume summary indicates she is assertive, engaging manager with extensive multi-disciplined IT and leadership experience: proven record of establishing IT as a business partner with goals toward value creation: and recognized for creating winning, team-based organizations that achieve and sustain superior performance. Her pragmatic, results-oriented style; demonstrates a “can-do” attitude while building trust and respect in the workplace.

She is a change agent and effective communicator with a high value for personal accountability that utilizes best practices and benchmarking to improve processes and cut costs. She is skilled at bringing together diverse groups to achieve company goals.

She held manager positions in Shell Oil Products US in Information Technology. Employed at TEXACO, INC. she held various IT positions of increasing responsibility with experience in Exploration and Producing, Natural Gas, NGL, E&P Technology, Refining and Marketing and Lubricants operations. Other employment included Gordon Jewelry Corporation Manager Telecommunications and THE BELL SYSTEM AT&T Information Systems.

Karen Duncan’s Professional Volunteer Experience entails:

Lead - Professional Development Team Project Management Institute - Region 6 Best Practices Committee,
Vice President – Marketing, Project Management Institute - Houston Chapter, Industry Advisory Committee -
Charter Member, DeVry University - Higher Education, Shell Oil Products US - Mentoring Program, Shell Oil
Company – College Recruitment Assessor, Shell WAVE (Women Adding Value Everywhere) Network,
Texaco, Inc. – College Recruiter, College recruiter at Texas A&M, Professional Memberships, Southwest
Telecommunications Association, Association of Women in Computing, Women in Technology International
(WITI) American Petroleum Institute, Public Relations Society of America – Houston Chapter, Project
Management Institute- Houston Chapter, Greater Houston Partnership.

Other Activities of involvement:

Texas A&M University Association of Former Students
Houston County Aggie Club
First Presbyterian Church – Pianist
Women’s Circle and Worship Committee
Lynch Chapel Cemetery Association – Alto, Texas
Sumner Cemetery Association – Cabot, Arkansas.



Vanishing History - Mary Allen College

By SARAH NARON

Photos by JON HOBSON, STUDIO15PHOTO.COM

CROCKETT – As preparations are made for the demolition of the former home of Mary Allen College, a building which has long been a part of the downtown Crockett area, the members of the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History Board are discussing ways to preserve the facility's historical significance.

"First, we have to get someone to come in and work with the bricks that we have there already and see what we can do; if there's a way to keep any portions of the wall for historical value or even if we could keep that wall inside another building," Dr. Thelma J. Douglass, Mary Allen Museum

President, explained. "We're thinking big."

The possibility of selling some of the building's bricks as a fundraiser to allow for the rebuilding of the facility is also being considered, Dr. Douglass said.

"We're looking at having some kind of function there – near the street area, of course – where we can have a big celebration before the facility is torn down," Dr. Douglass added. "We are concerned about the safety and the liability of the building in its current state."

Mary Allen College was established in 1886 as a college for African-American women. Presently, the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History Board is striving to preserve the college's history and carry it forward into the future.

Reprint by Permission from The Messenger

Magazine Personnel

MARCH 2019 ★ TEXAS FARM & HOME 7



City Manager, John Angerstein

And

Mayor Joni Clonts

The Mary Allen College Building Comments from the Mayor Honorable Joni Clonts

We are looking forward with hope that the Crockett Community experiences the rich history of Mary Allen College. I shared with Dr. Douglass that I would like to write a note regarding the Mary Allen College building. First, at one time this was a beautiful building and such an asset to our community. Secondly, it can again be an asset to our community, by bringing back memories of the splendor and beauty of it's past.

As the mayor of Crockett, I contacted an engineer a few months ago. The engineer told me that back in 2012 a letter was sent out stating that the building was in a very dangerous situation and something had to be done. I told her that Dr. Douglass was the newly elected President of the Board of Mary Allen College and was not aware of the letter. Also, I informed the engineer that Dr. Douglass and the City of Crockett were aware of the deteriorating condition of the building. Therefore, for safety issues the building should be torn down. One suggestion that the engineer had was that we stack the bricks and store them out of the weather so that they may be used for our future building project. I thanked her for the suggestion, I told her of the plans that have been discussed at our meetings. Such as a prayer garden, memory wall, and how the bricks could be used as walk ways engraved with names of people who donate.

We need to remember that together we can make a difference and know that we are making a difference with the Mary Allen College building. Let us make it happen to see our plans put in place where people can visit and think about the students who walked the halls and the teachers who strived to make a difference in the lives of the students who were blessed by attending Mary Allen College. We as a community can do it. If you would like to volunteer your time or share your resources in this noble effort to restore or rebuild this building, please send your information to Mary Allen Museum, P. O. Box 324, Crockett, Texas 75835 or send an email to maryallenmuseum2018@gmail.com.

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 2020 Campaign, the Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History, Inc. is developing the Mary Allen College Wall of honor. This is a campaign to help fund the Mary Allen Museum and College Building Restoration.

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, maryallenmuseum2018@gmail.com that you have mailed a payment.

Mail checks to:

Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History, Inc.
P. O. Box 324
Crockett, Texas 75835

Dr. Thelma Douglass, Project Organizer
Viktor Le Ewing, Project Form Art Organizer
Dr. Thelma Douglass, President

Mary Allen College



WALL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE ORDER FORM

ORDER INFORMATION: Please print legibly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____ Phone (____) _____

FAX: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (payable to) Mary Allen Museum of African American Art and History, INC.

Certified checks and money orders accepted

PLEASE PRINT: the name and affiliation year of the one to be honored (Plaque name)

Name of Honoree

Year Affiliated