





Alma Mater

We love thee Alma Mater

For courage you've given

To master our problems, as here we have striven

And so down life's pathway,

our feet will be guided

By lessons learned within thy walls

Mary Graham High School

Thy sons and thy daughters who toiled here

together in work and in play,

in all kinds of weather.

We'll cherish the friendship of

teachers and school mates

And try to represent our dear

Mary Graham High School

HISTORIC BEGINNINGS

MRS. MARY E. GRAHAM

Mrs. Mary E Graham established the foundation for the formal education of Blacks in her home, because there was not a school in Grant Parish in the African-American Neighborhood that students could attend. She supplied all the necessary books, school supplies, wisdom, and leadership and created an educational environment that lasted for centuries. Mrs. Graham was born in July, 1863 in Woodville, Mississippi to John and Ellen Bowie. She had six brothers, and raised 27 children.

FROM THE LIVING ROOM TO THE CLASSROOM:

After realizing the need of a school for African Americans in Colfax, Mr. Andrew Tademy organized an elementary school in 1926. The school was the "first accredited" one for Blacks in Grant, Parish. The curriculum met all state requirements for elementary schools. The school consisted of seven grades, three teachers, including Mrs. Eliza Henderson and Mr. Tademy. Initially, the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught. Eventually, the curriculum expanded to include history, science, health and physical education, English, and music.

Professor Tademy died in October 1935 and Mr. Clarence Spottsville became the new principal at Colfax Elementary School. Slumping Economic conditions and increasing population of Blacks in Colfax, forced a movement of the school from Selma to Colfax. The school was recognized as Grant Parish Training School.

Mr. P. J. Winston became the Principal in 1936. He realized that better access and mobility to the school was needed to support the increasing number of potential students from surrounding areas, including Boyce Louisiana. He purchased a school bus to transport the students to and from school. In 1938, Mr. James Spottsville became the first state employed bus driver for Blacks in Grant Parish.

The students in the rural areas were inspired and supported by Mrs. Mary G. Mills White and Mrs. Mentie F. Harrison. Mrs. White began as a Librarian, but in time, became one of the most influential teachers, community activist, and educators in the Africa-American Community. She and Mrs. Mentie F, Harrison (Junior Teacher), and the entire faculty had the foresight that the students needed the support of parents and the entire community to survive and receive a thorough education in and out of the classroom. Classes were held at Grant Parish Training School for fourteen years and in 1950 the first new building on Graham Street was constructed on the campus.

MARY E. GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL:

At the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony it was announced that The Grant Parish Training School would become the Mary E. Graham High School in honor of Mrs. Graham. Mary E. Graham became the largest school in Grant Parish. Mr. Winston was the principal for 20 years. He was succeeded by Mr. Osborne D. Smith.

Mr. Smith served for 15 years and the school continued its growth with students and educational opportunities. The elementary grades remained self-contained, the Jr. High (7th-8th grades) were departmentalized. The high school was organized into the following departments: Agriculture, Business Education, English, Industrial Arts, Home Economics,



Mathematics, Physical Education (For Both Girls And Boys), Science, Music, Art, Dramatics, Library, and Extension- Home Economist.

New classrooms were added and a new gymnasium was constructed. Assemblies, special programs, class activities and all sports activities improved significantly and the school grew to become a Quad. A (AAAA) rating. Mary E. Graham became a state wide powerhouse excelling in Basketball and Music.

In the fall of 1971, the high school was integrated with Dry Prong High School, Dry Prong, Louisiana. Mary E. Graham remained opened as an Elementary and Jr. High School until the Fall of 1974, when it was integrated with Colfax Elementary and Junior High School.

Mr. Smith served as principal of Colfax Junior High School for one year (1974-1975, he became ill and retired. Assistant Principal, Mr. Louis T. White retired from the public school system in 1975.

FACULTY

Beatrice Allen	Sarah Govan	Dorothy Harvey James	Essie D. Patterson	Charlie Thompson
<i>Gwendolyn Clark Allen</i>	<i>Florice Hall</i>	Ellen T. Jerro	Lillie M. Patterson	Mrs. Todd
Pauline Allen	Indiana Hall	W.E. Jerro, Sr.	Janie Lee Phillips	<i>Ethel Valley</i>
Joseph Billes	Irvin C. Hall	<i>W.E. Jerro, Jr</i>	Joe Willie Ricks	<i>Johnnie West</i>
Grace Bowie	Mary C. Hall	Sylvester Jones	Veola Patterson Robinson	Abbie T. Davidson White
Roosevelt Bowie	Mildred Hall	Lorraine Kelso	James Smith	<i>George White</i>
<i>Cupid Brew, Jr.</i>	Mr. Hamlin	Emma L. Allen Kimble	Joseph (Dan) Smith	Louis (L.T.) White
Hazel H. Brew	Mrs. Hardy	Ethel Kraft	O.D. Smith	Mary G. Mills White
<i>Terry Brown</i>	Henrie D. Harris	Mrs. Lee	Vivian Y. Smith	Rosa B. White
<i>Amy Butcher</i>	Esther J. Harrison	Clarence McKinney	Clarence Spottsville	Lorraine Wilkins
Annie Lee Thomas Clark	Joseph Harrison	Lillie B. Clark Martin	Dazetta M. Spottsville	P.J. Winston
Bessie T. Conerly	Mentie F. Harrison	Corean Holmes Matthews	Susie S. Spottsville	
Mrs. Crowe	Ned Harrison, Jr.	William M. Mims	Iona Jones Stewart	
Elizabeth Earthly	Sarah Knox Harrison	<i>Clara Moore</i>	<i>Gladys Abraham Swafford</i>	
Ruth Emery	Thomas Hebert	Mary Montgomery	Andrew Tademy	
Mrs. Fontenot	Eliza Henderson	<i>Gladys D. Morris</i>	Gertrude Tademy	
Ruth Gilliam	Nellie Hickman	Florence McCleary	Mary Tademy	
Henry E. Godeau	Jewell B. Himes	Earnestine Nelson	James Thomas, Jr	

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MARY E. GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL

On this site stood the former Grant Parish Training School. Established in 1937, it served as the high school for the African-American population. In 1954 Grant Parish Training School became Mary E. Graham High School. Many young men and women passed through the portals of this institution. It will exist forever in their hearts and minds.