

# MARSHALL, MARY M., 1946- Mary M. Marshall collection, 1870-2006

Emory University  
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## Collection Stored Off-Site

All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

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## Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Marshall, Mary M., 1946-  
**Title:** Mary M. Marshall collection, 1870-2006  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1462  
**Extent:** 13.125 linear feet (14 boxes), 1 extra-oversized papers folder (XOP), and AV Masters: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)  
**Abstract:** Collection of African American historian Dr. Mary M. Marshall, consisting of photographs, printed material, writings, books, degree certificates, and awards relating to Marshall's family, Margaret Rosezarian Harris, Hildegard Simms, and Pauline Edwards Thompson Spalding, as well as her research on Lucy Craft Laney and the Hanes Normal and Industrial Institute.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Special restrictions apply: Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact the Rose Library at least two weeks in advance for access to these items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.

The contents of Box 14 have been restricted by the donor and will be closed to researchers until February 1, 2040, or the donor's death, whichever occurs first.

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**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

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**Additional Physical Form**

Parts of The Fig Tree Collection are available as part of an article written by Dr. Mary M. Marshall and published online: <http://1world1family.me/augusta-ga-19th-century-african-american-father-and-son-photographers/>

Some of the photos related to Lucy Craft Laney and owned by Dr. Mary M. Marshall appear in this video produced by the Georgia Women of Achievement organization about Laney: <https://youtu.be/IRiEJdz6tco?list=PLC9lgsHMQgFIZDyAqcouex9rF2z18erq5>

An interview with Dr. Mary M. Marshall and family photos also appear in a video produced by Family Pictures USA located at: [https://youtu.be/8YbBMScA\\_uA](https://youtu.be/8YbBMScA_uA)

**Related Materials in Other Repositories**

The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History

**Separated Material**

The Rose Library holds books and periodicals formerly owned by Dr. Mary M. Marshall. These may be located in the Emory University online catalog by searching for: Marshall, Mary M., former owner.

**Source**

Gift of Dr. Mary M. Marshall, 2018

**Custodial History**

Dr. Mary M. Marshall inherited her family papers, also known as The Fig Tree Collection, via her great-grandparents, Mary and Willie Williams, and their daughters, Mattie, Mary Francile, Jimmie Lee, and Marion. She is the friend and custodian of the papers of Margaret Rosezarian Harris, Hildegard Simms, and Pauline Edwards Thompson Spalding, which are included in this collection. Curator of African American Collections, Pellom McDaniels, III, packed the collection at Marshall's home in New York, New York, in 2018 and shipped them to the Rose Library.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Mary M. Marshall collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Appraisal Note**

Curator of African American Collections, Pellom McDaniels, III, acquired the collection as part of the Rose Library's holdings in African American history. During processing in 2019, Rose Library staff removed and returned to the donor approximately 1.5 linear feet of duplicate and out of scope materials, including printed material and posters. Appraisal decisions were made by Accessioning Archivist, Meaghan O'Riordan, in consultation with McDaniels.

**Processing**

Arranged and described at the file level by Meaghan O'Riordan, 2018-2019.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Dr. Mary Magdalene Marshall (1946-) is an African American historian. Her grandmother was Mattie Louise Williams Bell (1900-1972). She earned Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Pathology, Audiology, and English from Howard University (Washington, D.C.) in 1968. Marshall earned a Master of Arts in Developmental Reading from New York University (New York, New York) in 1971. She completed first a Masters in Philosophy (MPhil) in Religion and Society and then a Ph.D. in 19th Century Studies with a focus on African American Women in the 19th century at Drew University (Madison, New Jersey) in 1998. Her dissertation, *"Tell Them We Are Rising": Black Intellectuals and Lucy Craft Laney in Post-Civil War Augusta, Georgia*, was on the Haines Normal Institute and its founding by Lucy Craft Laney.

Marshall has worked in education at several institutions, including the City College of New York (New York), Hunter College (New York, New York), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, New Jersey), Drew University (Madison, New Jersey), and New Jersey Institute of Technology (Newark, New Jersey). Marshall has done extensive genealogical research into the history of her family and produced 200-300-page family trees documenting this research. She also curated an exhibit at Drew University in 1990 called "The Fig Tree Collection: Memorabilia and Photographs of an African American Family, 1860-1940," reflecting this research. Several papers and presentations followed this exhibit built either on her genealogical research or her research on 19th Century African American women.

Marshall is the recipient of several honors and awards, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Graduate Fellowship at New York University (New York) in 1972; the Paul Robeson Fellowship at the New Jersey Institute of Arts & Humanities Education (New Brunswick) from 1994-1995; the Minority Career Program Doctoral Fellowship at Drew University (Madison, New Jersey) from 1989-1998; and an induction into Societas Docta, Inc., a national professional association for minority women with doctoral degrees.

Marshall is also the friend and custodian of the papers of Margaret Rosezarian Harris, Hildegarde Simms, and Pauline Edwards Thompson Spalding.

Margaret Rosezarian Harris (1943-2000) was born in Chicago, Illinois. At age 3, she was recognized as a musical prodigy and gave her first piano recital at Chicago's Cary Temple Auditorium, performing more than twenty short pieces from memory. She toured the United States until age 6. At age 10, after performing a Mozart concerto with the Chicago Symphony, she won a scholarship to the Curtis Institute of Music (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). Harris earned undergraduate and master's degrees from the Julliard School (New York, New York). In 1975, she became the first black woman to conduct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (Michigan). Harris died in 2000 in New York City.

Hildegarde Louise Simms (1915-2001) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1934. In 1937, she served as a member of the United States Nurse Corps during World War II and completed a three-year certificate from the Merry Hospital and School for Nursing. She completed a Bachelor of Science at Columbia University (New York, New York) in 1944. Simms died in 2001 in New York City.

Pauline Edwards Thompson Spalding (born Pauline Hamilton Edwards) was a psychiatrist and member of the American Psychiatric Association. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College of the City of New York in 1941. She completed her medical degree from the College of Medicine at Howard University (Washington, D.C.) in 1944.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of photographs, printed material, writings, books, and degrees and awards relating to Dr. Mary M. Marshall's family collection handed down generationally by her family (known as The Fig Tree collection), and her research on Lucy Craft Laney and the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. Also documented in the collection is the Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia, where four generations of the Williams family have been members. The collection also includes the Margaret Rosezarian Harris papers, the Hildegarde Simms papers, and the Pauline Edwards Thompson Spalding papers.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged alphabetically by creator of material.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Content
13	-	Bible, undated
11	-	Books and periodicals, circa 1954-1998 [1]
12	-	Books and periodicals, circa 1954-1998 [2]
2	3	The Fig Tree Collection , greeting cards, 1998 Marshall inherited what she calls the Fig Tree Collection from her grandmother, Mattie Louise Williams. That collection is comprised of photographs depicting older generations of the Williams family. Marshall created an exhibit around those photographs and what she learned about her family history from studying them. She called it the Fig Tree Collection because as a child she had a large fig tree in her backyard in Georgia. This fig tree became a central figure in stories told to her by her grandmother and great aunts about her family.
3	-	The Fig Tree Collection, photographs #1-#10 depicting African Americans, 1900-1910
4	-	The Fig Tree Collection, photographs #11-#17, circa 1870-1925
7	-	The Fig Tree Collection, photographs and exhibit materials, circa 1883-1998
1	5	Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, Centennial Reunion, 1986 July 2-6 [1 of 2]
1	6	Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, Centennial Reunion, 1986 July 2-6 [2 of 2]
1	7	Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, Haines National Alumni Association, and Lucy Craft Laney materials, 1954-1991
2	4	Harris, Margaret Rosezarian, academic records, correspondence, photographs, and printed material, 1942-1970 [1 of 3]
2	5	Harris, Margaret Rosezarian, academic records, correspondence, photographs, and printed material, 1942-1970 [2 of 3]
2	6	Harris, Margaret Rosezarian, academic records, correspondence, photographs, and printed material, 1942-1970 [3 of 3]
8	-	Harris, Margaret Rosezarian, Fig Tree Collection, Dr. Mary M. Marshall and Mary Marshall's family, binders with correspondence, degrees and awards, photographs, printed material, research files on Lucy Laney, and school records, circa 1896-2001
1	1	Marshall, Mary M., Dr., childhood report cards and high-school yearbook, 1954-1964
AV1	-	Marshall, Mary M., Dr., commencement at Drew University, 1998 May 23 [original: VHS, 2]
1	2	Marshall, Mary M., Dr., Drew University doctorate diploma, 1998

- 9 - Marshall, Mary M., Dr., The Fig Tree Collection, and Pauline Edwards Thompson/Spalding, binders with correspondence, photographs, and printed material, includes postcards, circa 1900-2006
  - 4 - Marshall, Mary M., Dr., photographs #18-#20 depicting Dr. Mary M. Marshall, Lani Guinier, and Bill Cosby, undated
  - 5 - Marshall, Mary M., Dr., research files and family papers, including degrees, drawings, and printed material, 1883-1993
  - 1 3 Marshall, Mary M., Dr., "'Tell Them, We're Rising!': Black Intellectuals and Lucy Craft Laney in Post-Civil War Augusta, Georgia," doctoral dissertation, Drew University, 1998 [1 of 2]
  - 1 4 Marshall, Mary M., Dr., "'Tell Them, We're Rising!': Black Intellectuals and Lucy Craft Laney in Post-Civil War Augusta, Georgia," doctoral dissertation, Drew University, 1998 [2 of 2]
  - 6 - Posters, 1991-2005
  - 7 - Posters and drawings, undated
  - 7 - Simms, Hildegard, degrees, 1934-1944
  - 2 7 Simms, Hildegard, photograph and yearbook, circa 1972
  - 10 - Slides, many labeled as belonging to Hildegard Simms
  - 2 1 Springfield Baptist Church, dedication program, 1990
  - 2 2 St. James M. E. Church, New York, New York, "The Jubilee," concert program, 1880
  - 2 8 Thompson/Spalding, Pauline Edwards and Eric Thompson, academic degrees and correspondence, 1941-1991
  - AV1 - *Through a Lens Darkly* documentary [original: DVD]
  - 14 - Restricted material
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