

O.B.E., M.B.E., O.D., J.P.

Amy Bailey was born at Walderston in Manchester on 27th November, 1895. She was the daughter of William Frederick and Anna Bailey. Her parents were outstanding school teachers and it is from them that Amy inherited her love for teaching.

Amy attended Mt. Olivet School and Shortwood Teacher's College. Shortly after graduation from Shortwood in 1917, she became ill and while resting taught herself shorthand. With this skill she was able to become Shorthand Teacher at Kingston Technical School in 1919 where she remained until her retirement in 1958.

Miss Bailey pioneered the entry of Technical School students into the Civil service. In 1928 she made a plea to Governor Sir Edward Denham who was visiting the school. She explained that the students performed well but needed to be motivated and there was no available jobs after students finished school as they were not allowed to enter the civil service. She campaigned for the right of every Jamaican, regardless of colour, to be employed in stores and offices. She wrote many letters on the subject to the press, interviewed employers and urged students to attain excellence with which to over-ride prejudices. As a result students were allowed to sit the Civil Service Examinations and thus enter the service. For years Miss Amy's students produced some of the best results in this examination and several have reached the top by sheer merit.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Amy Bailey grew up in an era when to be black was inferior; and when being a woman without wealth was a social handicap, yet she emerged as an educator of balanced judgement and great influence.

For years she gave her voluntary service to countless underprivileged girls in the field of education and social service training. She was the leading figure in the feminist movement for equality of sexes and participation of women in public life.

Amy Bailey believed dignity to be the right of every human being. She also believed that the privileged had a duty to spread the message of dignity of labour.

HOUSECRAFT TRAINING CENTRE

With £100 from her bank account of £105 Miss Amy made the downpayment for the property at 4 Rosedale Avenue in Kingston, the present site for the school. She became one of the founders of the Housecraft Training Centre which was opened in January, 1946 with 6 students, 1 matron and 1 cook.

Miss Bailey is the founder of the Housecraft Training Centre which was opened in January 1946. The aim of the centre was to train girls to bring out the best in themselves - to teach them respect for themselves and for their jobs. They should begin to see their job as an art. Miss Bailey received no salary for her service at the Centre. In 1974 when the Government took over she got \$190 per month. But she maintains: "Real wealth is what you are able to produce in your fellowmen".

WOMEN'S CAUSES

Amy fought relentlessly for the liberation of women. She was co-founder and first Chairman of the Women's Liberal Club. This organization fought to give women an acceptable place in the world both inside and outside the home. This club was responsible for Mrs. Mary Morris-Knibb's election as the first woman Councillor of the K.S.A.C.

Amy believed fervently that women should qualify themselves in order to achieve their aspirations and not be rewarded with positions because of token adherence to the advancement of women.

She was also founding member of the Jamaica Federation of Women and the first female member of the Jamaica Union of Teachers.

FAMILY PLANNING

While in England raising funds for the Save-the-Children Fund Miss Bailey was advised that the real problem was too many children and she introduced birth control in Jamaica - so, from as early as 1936 she and Mae Farguharson, her best friend started teaching birth control on a small scale.

The official campaign started in 1939 at a meeting held at the Ward Theatre and chaired by Norman Manley.

WORK OUTSIDE OF JAMAICA

Amy visited England on a mission for the Save the Children Fund.

In 1938 she lectured at Glasgow Peace Conference and Oxford Group Conference, Intertaken Switzerland.

She also visited the United States on a tour to raise funds for the Housecraft Training Centre.

B/N BAILEY Amy

PRESIDENT OF THE SHORTWOOD OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION 1936-1937.

President Woman's Liberal Club.

President Kingston Technical School Group - 1940-1941

Vice-President Kingston Technical School Group - 1942

Secretary Kingston Technical School Group - 1942-1944

Vice Chairman Shortwood Old Student Association - 1944-1945

She has also served on the executive of the Bureau of Standards, the Social Welfare Board and the Price's Commission.

3. She received the Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence in 1988.

Awarded the Order of Distinction for Outstanding Public Service in 1978. ^{Made} and the Member of the British Empire for voluntary social service in 1960.

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Religion - Anglican

Recreation - Reading and Embroidery

Motto: Service is the rental one pays for one existence.

Interest: Social service and writing. She has published many articles in Jamaica and abroad on educational, social and political matters. She has also written many letters to and articles in the press, never afraid to go against the popular trend insisting that principles and not fads must guide a nation.



Educator and Social Worker

Amy Bailey... trained as a Teacher and taught at Kingston Technical School from 1919 until 1958 when she retired.

Remembered for her pioneering of the entry of technical school students in the civil service a phenomenon unheard of in the 1930s.

Amy Beckford Bailey, O.J., O.D., M.B.E.
1895 - 1990

Champion for the cause of young black Jamaican men and women. She fought against the discrimination of women.... indeed she strived relentlessly for equality without giving thought to race, colour, religion, or sexual differences.

She was the Founder of The Housecraft Training Centre - a facility which trained women as household helpers and men as waiters for the hotel industry and which instilled in them a sense of pride in their profession.

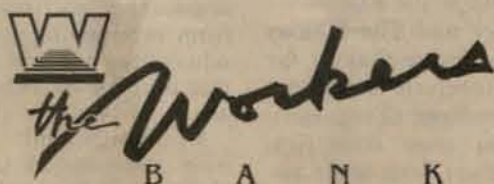
Amy Bailey... first female Councillor of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation.... the first recipient of the Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence.

Awarded The Order of Distinction for Outstanding Public Service in 1978.

She received The Order of Jamaica for Outstanding Services to The Women's Movement in Jamaica in 1990.

Amy Bailey a stalwart.... a proud Jamaican woman.

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B A N K

CELEBRATING

**BLACK
HISTORY**

MONTH