



NBASLH

# Resound)))

A publication of the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing

Summer 2013

## NBASLH

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Sept. 1, 2013 - Aug. 31, 2014

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## Hallie Quinn Brown

### *Unsung Heroine of Communication Sciences and Disorders*



MISS HALLIE Q. BROWN  
Hon. President of the N. A. C. W.

Recently, we were visiting friends in Pennsylvania. As is our tradition, we attended church on Sunday morning with this couple. The service included a 'crew' of spiritual dancers. Elegant in their style and glowing interpretation of a gospel song being sung by the massive choir of about 200 psalmists, the dancers ended by bending down their backs in stair-step fashion and having one light-weight dance member 'climb that staircase' reaching high up with her arms outstretched toward the heavens. A great ending for the performers that day! The church folks went wild by standing to their feet and rendering thunderous applause with shouts of 'glory' and 'halleluiah.'

The halleluiah chorus reminded us of an unfinished task we had both promised to complete about an unsung heroine in our profession of communication sciences and disorders whose back we stand upon! Some of you may recall that we featured a photograph and brief biography about our heroine as part of the NBASLH Exhibit during the 2012 ASHA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Others may have read about this stylish scholar who was featured in the on-line book by Hyter and Duchan (2011) titled, *A History of Speech-Language Pathology*. Meet our first known African-American Speech-Language Pathologist: Hallie Quinn Brown to whom we give honor and credence in this edition of *Resound*)))

In the early era of the profession of speech-language pathology, oral communication disorders such as stuttering and articulation problems were treated by 'elocutionists.' One example of an elocutionist was presented on the big screen in the 2010 Oscar-winning movie, *The King's*

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## NBASLH Will be at the ASHA 2013 Convention

### Stop by ASHA Booth #222



From 2012 ASHA Convention - Mr. Arnell Brady, Ms. Timberly Leite and Dr. Byron Ross



From 2012 ASHA Convention - Drs. Robert and Carolyn Mayo

# Hallie Quinn Brown

## *Unsung Heroine of Communication Sciences and Disorders*

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Speech. In this historical depiction of King George VI, whose severe stuttering and fear of public speaking were real and vivid, stuttering was treated by an elocutionist, Lionel Logue, who helped the King control his stuttering. Logue's intervention was crucial in providing George VI with fluency strategies and confidence, thereby allowing the king to make his famous 1939 radio broadcast declaring war on Germany and uniting England as a nation during the dawn of World War II. Such was the importance of the professional work of elocutionists at the turn of the century.



Hallie Q. Brown was an equally renowned elocutionist and educator in the late 19th century/early twentieth century and was a significant figure in the history of speech-language pathology in the United States. As with most persons of African descent, Brown's actual birth date is unclear. However, most references cite her date of birth as March 10, 1849. It is a fact, however, that she was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as the daughter of two former slaves. Active

with the Underground Railroad, in 1864 Hallie's parents moved to Ontario, Canada. It was in the Canadian schools that her talent as a speaker was first evident. Following President Abraham Lincoln's emancipation of American slaves on January 1, 1863, the Browns elected to relocate to Xenia, Ohio. There, Hallie attended nearby Wilberforce University, and graduated with her BS degree in 1873.

Upon graduating, Brown moved to Mississippi, where she found employment as a teacher of African-American children. Eventually, Brown accepted a teaching position in the African-American schools of Columbia, South Carolina.

While residing in Columbia, she also served as a dean at Allen University, a historically black institution of higher education, from 1885 to 1887. Eventually returning to her home state, from 1887 to 1891, Hallie taught night school in the African American community of Dayton, Ohio and then worked for one year (1892 to 1893) at Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Later, she returned to her alma mater, Wilberforce University, as a professor of elocution and as a member of the Wilberforce Board of Trustees.

Hallie taught elocution and literacy training to African-American children and women during a period in our country's history when it was not fashionable to teach people of color to read, much less to speak eloquently! Her own personal fame as a speaker and dramatic reader spread when she spoke on tours designed to promote interest in and raise money for her beloved Wilberforce University. She charmed audiences with recitations from the works of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and lectures on such subjects as "Progress of Negro Education," "Status of the Afro-American Woman Before and After the War," and "Negro Folklore and Folksong." Becoming popular throughout the United States as well as in Germany, France, Switzerland and

Great Britain, she had the distinction of appearing before Queen Victoria of England in 1899.

Besides making speeches, Brown also helped found or lead several reform groups. In 1893, she became involved in the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C. That same year, she helped establish the National Association of Colored Women. She served as president of this group from 1920 to 1924. Following her tenure as president, the organization appointed her as its honorary president for the remainder of Brown's life. Brown also became the American Methodist Episcopal Church's secretary of education in 1900. Hallie helped organize the Ohio State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and served as its president from 1905 to 1912.

She also actively campaigned for Republican presidential candidates, including fellow Ohioan Warren G. Harding. Over the course of her life, Brown authored several books, many of which detailed the plight of African Americans, including *Homespun Heroines and Other Women of Distinction* and *Our Women: Past, Present and Future*. Having lived an absolutely full and rich life, Hallie Quinn Brown died on September 16, 1949. She was 100 years old.

In summary, Hallie Quinn Brown was an African-American author, educator, evolving literacy and speaking coach and an equal rights advocate of African-Americans and women during

the late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. Stated differently, she was a speech-language pathologist who served as a stellar diagnostician and interventionist of speech, language and literacy issues exhibited by the people of her time. She also was a powerful orator, and used her highly sought after speaking skills to promote social justice for the underrepresented and underserved! By

Hallie Quinn Brown's willingness to bend down and lift us up on her back, we are better able to see and embrace where we have been, where we are and where we are going as communication sciences and disorders professionals, and as a people. All we need to do is to look, consider and be wise.

Submitted by NBASLH members Carolyn M. Mayo, PhD, CCC-SLP and Robert Mayo, PhD, CCC-SLP

### **References and Suggested Additional Readings**

- Clark Hine, D. (1993). *Black Women in America*. Brooklyn, NY: Carlson Pub.
- Brown, H.Q. (1926). *Homespun Heroines and Other Women of Distinction*. (Available from Amazon.com).
- Hyter, Y. and Duchan, J. Hallie Quinn Brown. In *A History of Speech-Language Pathology*. Retrieved July, 2013 from [www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/new\\_history/hist20c/hallie\\_brown.html](http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/new_history/hist20c/hallie_brown.html)
- McFarlin, A.S. (1980). Hallie Quinn Brown: Black woman elocutionist, *Southern Speech Communication Journal*, 46, (Fall 1980): 72-82.
- Ritter, K.F. (1974). Hallie Q. Brown: Teacher-Elocutionist-Writer. 1974 Ohioana Yearbook.

**If we stand tall, it is because we stand on the backs of those who came before us.**

*(Yoruba Proverb)*

## NBASLH Past Chair Welcomes New Chair, Dr. Rachel Williams

After two terms as Chairman of the NBASLH' National Board of Directors, Mr. Arnell Brady welcomes the new Chairman Dr. Rachel Williams. Mr. Brady will return to his full-time private practice in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Williams has an extensive track record of leadership. She is the past president of the Florida Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (FLASHA) and the president-elect of the Council of State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Presidents (CSAP).



NBASLH would like to congratulate the following individuals for being a recipient of a 2013 ASHA Award:

- ★ **Li Rong Lilly Cheng** – Honors of the Association
- ★ **Alex Johnson** - Honors of the Association
- ★ **Thalia Coleman** - Fellow
- ★ **Yvette Hyter** - Fellow
- ★ **Silvia Martinez** - Fellow



### Keep Your Information Up-To-Date!

Visit the NBASLH website ([www.NBASLH.org](http://www.NBASLH.org)) and make sure your NBASLH Account is up-to-date. Log on to the Member Center of the website, enter your Last Name and your Member Number. Once submitted, you are able to edit your account information, such as mailing address, email address, professional information and more.

The Member Center also gives you access to renew your membership, register for an event and search for a member.

**Log on today!**

### DO YOU HAVE



### TO SHARE?

Members are encouraged to submit items for consideration and publication in the **Resound**). Topics include articles of interest to the membership and areas that pertain to SLPs or audiologists.

Share your good news and accomplishments!

If you have a story, announcement or event you would like to place in the **Resound**), please send your information to:

Diane Yenerall, MPM, CAE  
NBASLH Business Manager  
[nbaslh@nbaslh.org](mailto:nbaslh@nbaslh.org)

## *Mark Your Calendars*

### **2014 NBASLH Convention and 2014 PRAXIS Review**

**April 10-12, 2014**

**Charlotte Marriott City Center  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Check the website soon for  
Call for Papers.**

**Deadline for submission is  
December 1, 2013.**

## **News From the Southern California Affiliate**

**T**he Southern California Affiliate met on August 6, 2013. A fall fundraising tea will be held September 22, 2013, in Long Beach, California. Plans are being made for participation in local school career fairs, boys and girls clubs, recreational centers and youth groups to raise awareness about speech pathology and audiology careers. The Career Advisory committee continues to mentor and advise African-American speech pathology and audiology students at local colleges and universities. We invite new members to join us as we seek to increase the number of African-American speech pathology and audiology service providers in this area. For more information, please contact Velma Brown at [velma91710@aol.com](mailto:velma91710@aol.com).

### **2013-2014 Officers are as follows:**

Velma Brown, President

Diatra Stearn, Secretary

Debra Moody, Treasurer

Brenda Coulter, Membership Chair

Soloris Greene, Career Advisory Chair