

*History is our mission ...
To illuminate and preserve.*

History Museum of Mobile
111 South Royal Street

Phoenix Fire Museum
203 South Claiborne Street

Historic Site at Fort Condé
150 South Royal Street



David Alsobrook, Director

Post Office Box 2068

Mobile, Alabama

36652-2068

Phone: (251) 208-7569

Fax: (251) 208-7686

Museumofmobile.com

museumrelations@cityofmobile.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 24, 2013

**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE OPENS EXHIBIT NAMED FOR
LONGTIME VOLUNTEER AND HERSTORY HONOREE**

The History Museum of Mobile is proud to announce the opening of a new permanent exhibition of some of the finer things of life in Old Mobile, as a tribute to longtime volunteer and friend Mary Jane Slaton Inge.

The gallery, which will open to the public on Sunday, May 28th, is named for a lifelong resident of the Port City, Mary Jane Slaton Inge, who volunteered her services at the History Museum for many years.

The exhibit includes some of the museum's finest pieces, including Boehm porcelain, Baccarat crystal, Limoges china, souvenirs from several of Mobile's oldest mystic societies, sculptures, paintings, and other decorative arts.

A portrait of Inge has been commissioned and will be added to the exhibit this summer.

From the exhibit's text panel:

She possessed a deep and abiding love of Mobile and its civic and cultural life. Mary Jane served as a docent and volunteer at the museum for a number of years, sharing her love of Mobile with countless visitors both young and old.

She was a truly elegant Mobilian who left the city, and this museum, better than she found it. As a tribute to our friend and longtime volunteer, we offer this exhibition of some of the finer things of life in Old Mobile.

"Our mother, Mary Jane Slaton Inge, had intense interest in and passion for Mobile's history and particularly the History Museum of Mobile and its mission to document, preserve and present that history," said Zeb Inge, one of Inge's children. "She loved her work as a volunteer at the Museum, the people with whom she worked, and the challenge of using her knowledge of Mobile in researching Mobile's past and assisting in the development of projects and exhibits in connection with the Museum.

"We are honored as a family, and on her behalf, that this gallery has been established in her name to focus on those aspects of life in Mobile, represented by the items to be displayed from time to time in the gallery, which she believed should be an important component in the overall presentation of the city's history."

"I think of Mary Jane every day, and I miss her," said Dr. David E. Alsobrook, Director of the History Museum. "When I returned home to Mobile almost six years ago, she adopted me and took me under her wing. At that time I didn't fully understand how much I needed her wise counsel. But I do now. I think every director of a museum would be extremely fortunate to have

a person like Mary Jane to lean on during difficult times. She called me or visited on a regular basis. Sometimes we just chatted informally about what was going on in Mobile and in the museum.”

“Over the years she provided me with a wealth of information about the formative years of the museum. She also clearly conveyed to me her personal hopes for the museum’s future. Whenever I faced a particularly thorny issue or problem, we talked at great length about possible resolutions. However, she never told me what I *should* do; she merely laid out the best available options and let me reach a decision.”

“The gallery that we open in her honor features the artifacts that she specifically wanted to exhibit. She loved these things as much as she loved the History Museum. She wanted to share these things with our visitors. I think Mary Jane would be pleased.”

Inge was posthumously honored at the History Museum’s second annual Herstory ceremony in September 2012, in which several women of professional and philanthropic accomplishment were celebrated for their outstanding contributions to South Alabama’s history and culture.

For more information, contact Museum Relations Officer Daniela Werner at (251) 208-7652 or museumrelations@cityofmobile.org.

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE: Located in the Old City Hall/ Southern Market at 111 South Royal Street in downtown Mobile, the History Museum of Mobile documents the 300-year history of Mobile and the surrounding region. The History Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students. For more information, call (251) 208-7508.

###

History is our mission ... to illuminate and preserve.