

Facts about Mary Eliza Church Terrell

Did you know that Mary Church Terrell was born on September 23, 1863, in Memphis, Tennessee, to former slaves;

Mary Church Terrell's father, Robert Reed Church, was a successful businessman and one of the South's first African-American millionaires;

Mary Church Terrell's mother, Louisa Ayers Church was a successful business owner of a chain of beauty salons;

Mary Church Terrell attended the Antioch College laboratory school and Oberlin College;

Mary Church Terrell was one of the first African-American women to attend college;

Mary Church Terrell taught at the M Street Colored High School, now known as Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in DC;

Mary Church Terrell was the first African-American woman in the United States to be appointed to a school board;

Mary Church Terrell believed that the end to racial discrimination could be achieved through education, work, and community activism;

Mary Church Terrell's activism was sparked by the lynching of an old friend, Thomas Moss, in 1892;

Whereas Mary Church Terrell used her position to fight racial and gender discrimination;

Mary Church Terrell participated in antilynching campaigns alongside Ida B. Wells-Barnett;

Mary Church Terrell led the fight to desegregate eating places in the District of Columbia;

Mary Church Terrell was 86 at the time she launched the campaign to enforce civil rights laws in Washington DC;