

TIMELINE OF THE LIFE AND ACTIVISM OF MARY CHURCH TERRELL

1863 - Mary Church Terrell is born on September 23, 1863, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Robert Reed Church and Louisa Ayres Church.

1867 - The Church family moves to Oberlin, Ohio, seeking better educational opportunities for their children.

1884 - Mary Church enrolls at Oberlin College, becoming one of the first African-American women to attend the institution. She studies languages and classics and excels academically.

1888 - Mary Church graduates from Oberlin College with a Bachelor of Arts degree, becoming one of the first African-American women in the United States to earn a college degree.

1891 - Mary Church Terrell becomes a charter member of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), an organization dedicated to addressing social issues and promoting civil rights for African-Americans and women.

1892 - Terrell co-founds the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C., which later merges with the National Association of Colored Women (NACW).

1896 - Terrell is appointed to the District of Columbia Board of Education, becoming the first African-American woman in the United States to hold such a position.

1898 - Mary Church Terrell delivers a powerful speech at the International Congress of Women in Berlin, advocating for civil rights and women's suffrage.

1904 - Terrell co-founds the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a prominent civil rights organization that advocates for the rights of African-Americans.

1906 - Terrell becomes the first president of the NACW, using the platform to address issues like lynching, segregation, and voting rights.

1909 - Mary Church Terrell participates in the National Woman Suffrage Association's march in Washington, D.C., advocating for women's right to vote.

1913 - Terrell and other African-American suffragists, including Ida B. Wells-Barnett, march in the suffrage parade in Washington, D.C., despite facing discrimination and segregation.

1914 - Terrell helps organize a successful boycott of Washington, D.C., streetcars, protesting their segregation policies.

1924 - Mary Church Terrell earns a master's degree in education from Oberlin College.

1930s - Terrell becomes a prominent advocate against racial discrimination in public accommodations, leading several protests and legal actions.

1940 - Terrell publishes her autobiography, "A Colored Woman in a White World," recounting her life experiences and activism.

1949 - Mary Church Terrell passes away on July 24, 1954, at the age of 90, in Annapolis, Maryland.

1966 - The National Association of Colored Women (NACW) merges with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), creating a powerful organization dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of African-American women.

1998 - The Mary Church Terrell House in Washington, D.C., where she lived for many years, is designated a National Historic Landmark.

2020 - Mary Church Terrell's legacy continues to inspire civil rights activists and feminists, as her contributions to the struggle for racial and gender equality remain a significant part of American history. Her activism serves as a pivotal example of intersectionality, advocating for the rights of both African-Americans and women during a time when multiple forms of oppression intersected.