



Fannie Jackson Coppin

1837 - 1913



Fannie Jackson Coppin

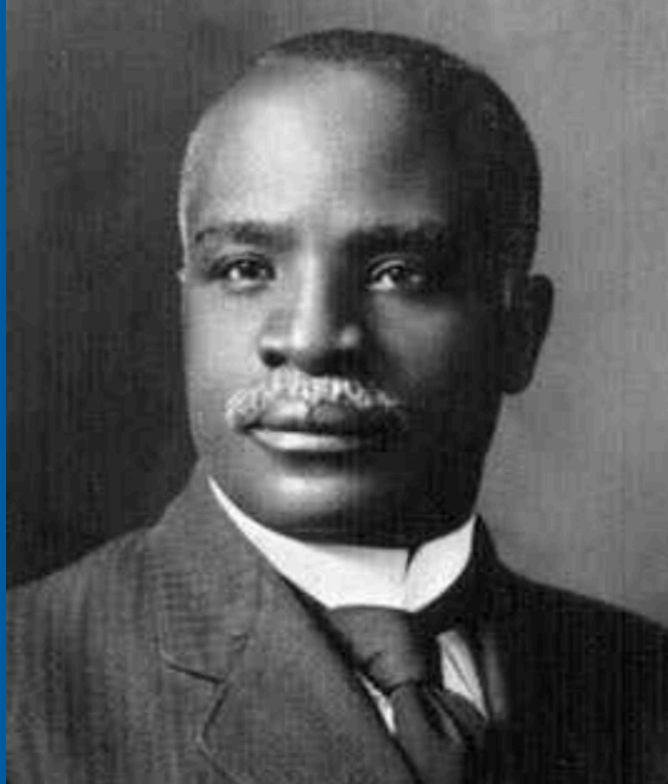
Fannie Jackson Coppin was born and enslaved in Washington, D.C. in 1837. She gained freedom when her aunt was able to purchase her at age 12.

BEST KNOWN FOR:

She was the first Black woman to hold the title of school principal in the United States.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- She attended Oberlin College, the first college to accept both black and female students. There, she established a night school to educate formerly enslaved African-Americans.
- In 1865, she became a high school teacher at the Institute for Colored Youth (ICY) in Philadelphia teaching Greek, Latin, and mathematics.
- In her later years, she became a missionary to counsel African women in Cape Town, South Africa.



Kelly Miller

1863-1939



Kelly Miller

Kelly Miller was a mathematician, intellectual, and the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University.

BEST KNOWN FOR:

Kelly became the first Black student to be admitted to Johns Hopkins University, where he performed graduate work in mathematics, physics, and astronomy.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- He was awarded a scholarship to Howard University, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in 1886.
- He served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University.
- Kelly retired from Howard University in 1934, but remained in high stature as a commentator on race relations and politics.



Mary Jane Patterson

1840 - 1894



Mary Jane Patterson

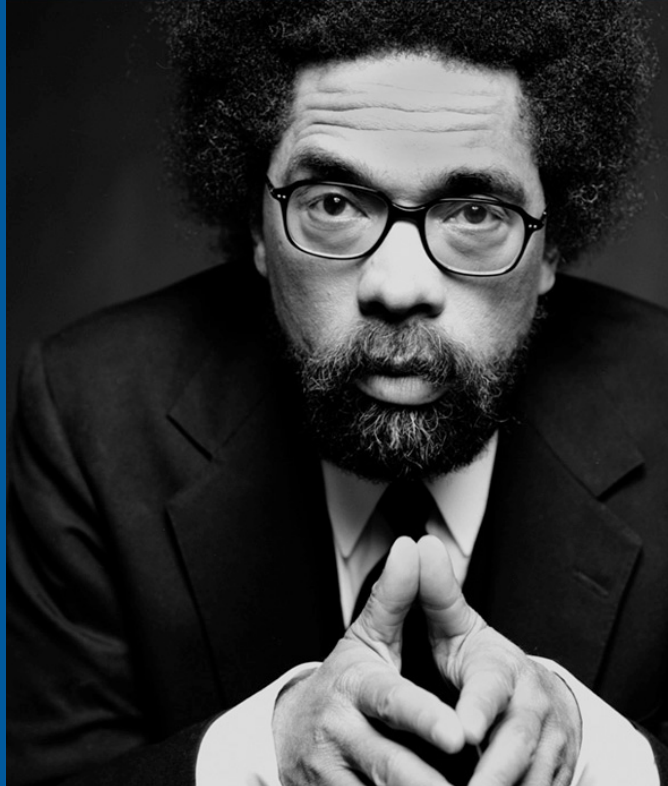
Mary Jane Patterson was born and enslaved in 1840 in North Carolina. Once her father gained freedom in 1852, the family moved to Oberlin, Ohio. She completed a year of preparatory coursework at Oberlin College, and then enrolled into a four-year program in Classical Studies culminating in a Bachelor of Arts degree.

BEST KNOWN FOR:

She was the first Black woman to earn a Bachelor's degree in the United States.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Later in her career, she moved to Washington, D.C. to teach at the Preparatory High School for colored youth, Dunbar High School.
- She served as the Dunbar High School's first Black principal from 1871-1874.
- During her time at Dunbar High School, she worked to establish a teacher training department and set high intellectual standards.



Dr. Cornel West

Born 1953



Dr. Cornel West

Dr. Cornel West grew up in Sacramento, California in the 1960's. As a young man, he participated in civil rights demonstrations and organized protests demanding Black Studies courses at his high school.

BEST KNOWN FOR:

After completing his undergraduate work at Harvard University, he enrolled at Princeton University to receive his PhD in 1980, becoming the first Black American to do so.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Dr. West has written or contributed to over 20 published books, most focusing on the roles of race, gender, and class in American society.
- He has appeared in more than 25 documentaries and films.
- Today, Dr. West holds joint appointments at the Harvard Divinity School and the Harvard Department of African and African-American Studies as Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy.



Dr. Ramona Edelin

Born 1945



Dr. Ramona Edelin

Dr. Ramona Edelin is a scholar, activist, and executive consultant with 40 years of leadership experience. She has used these strengths to uplift and advance African Americans.

BEST KNOWN FOR:

In 1977, she joined the National Urban Coalition, where she quickly rose to become President and CEO while helping to implement the *Say Yes to a Youngster's Future* program, which provided math, science, and technology assistance to youth and teachers of color in urban settings.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Dr. Edelin studied at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee for her Bachelor's degree, then pursued her Master's degree at the University of East Anglia in England, and completed her PhD at Boston University in 1981.
- She was born in Los Angeles, California in 1945, and traveled around the United States attending school as a young woman.
- Currently, Dr. Edelin is the Senior Advisor for the D.C. Charter School Alliance.



Dr. Nathan Hare

Born 1933



Dr. Nathan Hare

Dr. Nathan Hare is a sociologist, activist, and psychologist who is often called “the father of Black Studies.”

BEST KNOWN FOR:

In 1968, he joined the faculty of San Francisco State College (now SFSU) and became the program coordinator of the school’s Black Studies program, the first of its kind in the United States.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- He planned on becoming a professional boxer until a high school teacher suggested he attend college.
- When the San Francisco State College refused to allow the program to be run autonomously by the Black community, he joined a 5-month student protest, which ultimately led to his termination at the College after just two semesters.
- In 1979, Dr. Hare co-founded the *Black Think Tank* with his wife, Dr. Julia Hare, which endeavors to analyze and describe the overlooked social and cultural factors impacting Black Americans.



Fannie C. Williams

1882 - 1980



Fannie C. Williams

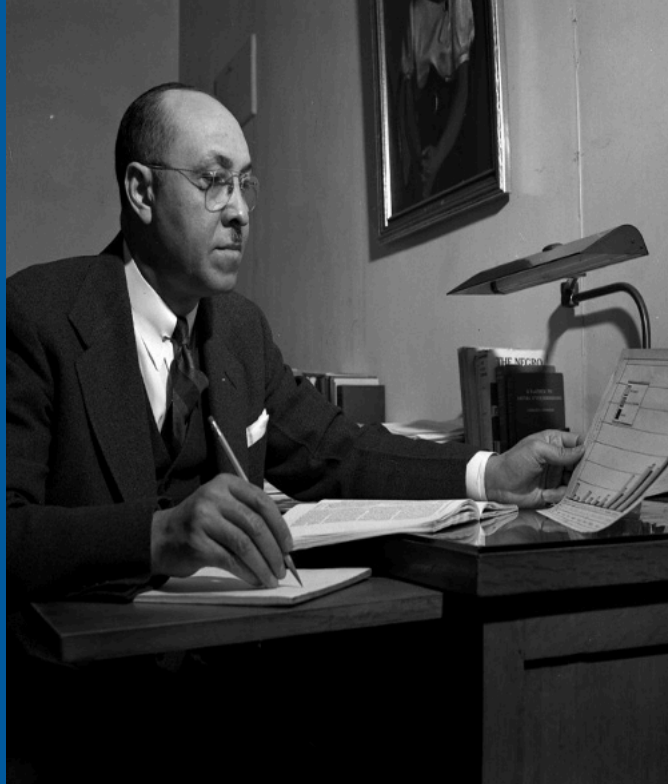
Fannie C. Williams was a teacher, principal, and pioneer in the field of Black education in the South.

BEST KNOWN FOR:

She opened the first preschool for Black children in New Orleans, and promoted quality testing to measure student success long before it was required by the school board. She was the first president of the Board of Management of the African American branch of the New Orleans YWCA, was a member of the Advisory Committee for the Department of Public Welfare, and sat on the Board of Directors for many local organizations.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- She believed in a holistic approach to children's education, which included mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual growth.
- She began a school health program to motivate healthy habits, and encouraged local doctors and dentists to provide free services for students.
- Today, the Fannie C. Williams Charter School in New Orleans honors her legacy.



Dr. Ambrose Caliver

1894 - 1962



Dr. Ambrose Caliver

Dr. Ambrose Caliver dedicated his life to the improvement of education for Black Americans, with a special focus on adult literacy.

BEST KNOWN FOR:

Dr. Caliver worked to raise awareness about the disparities in education between blacks and whites, especially in the South. He also created a nine-part NBC radio series, "Freedom Peoples," to highlight the history and achievements of Black Americans.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Dr. Caliver's career began in Tennessee, where he graduated from Knoxville College with a B.A. in 1915 and was soon hired to implement a new vocational education program at Fisk University in Nashville.
- He went on to become Dean of Fisk University in 1927, and earned both his M.A. and PhD during his time there.
- Dr. Caliver spent his later years serving as an advisor on many national and international projects advancing adult education and the education of Black Americans.