

FANNIE BARRIER WILLIAMS

“ I DARE NOT CEASE TO HOPE AND ASPIRE AND BELIEVE IN HUMAN LOVE AND JUSTICE ... ”



1850



February 12, 1855 Fannie Barrier Williams was born in Brockport, NY. She was the youngest of three, having a brother and sister. Her father was a barber, coal merchant, and leader in the local Baptist church.

1860



October 16, 1859 John Brown led a small band of less than 50 men in a raid against the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Their aim was to capture enough ammunition to lead a large operation against Virginia's slaveholders. Brown's men, including several Black people, captured and held the arsenal until federal and state governments sent troops and were able to overpower them.

1870



Williams graduated from the State Normal School at Brockport, becoming the first African American graduate of the school. Her education at the school certified her as a school teacher.

1872 Victoria Woodhull becomes the first woman to run for U.S. President

Directly after graduating Fannie pursued her love for the arts, studying at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music and the School of Fine Arts in Washington D.C. These pursuits likely influenced her advocacy of the importance of the arts in education.

1880



1870 - 1887 Williams taught and traveled throughout the Southern United States, oftentimes experiencing Jim Crow. She then moved to Washington D.C., where she met her future husband.

Aug 1887 Williams married S. Laing Williams, after meeting in the nation's capital.

1887, Williams moved to Chicago. It is at this point where her career takes off and she works increasingly as an activist.

1890 Wyoming becomes the first state to grant women the right to vote in its state elections.



1920

1920 Harlem Renaissance In the 1920s, the great migration of Black Americans from the rural South to the urban North sparked an African American cultural renaissance that took its name from the New York City neighborhood of Harlem but became a widespread movement in cities throughout the North and West.

April 6, 1917 The United States declares war on Germany and enters World War I

June 28, 1919 Treaty of Versailles - Allied and German representatives sign the treaty of Versailles ending World War I. From 23 nations and allied territories, an estimated 17,000,000 die during the four years of war. The treaty and League of Nations is rejected by the U.S. Senate.

April 15, 1912 The sinking of the titanic

June 1909 NAACP Founded In June 1905, a group led by the prominent Black educator W.E.B. Du Bois met at Niagara Falls, Canada, sparking a new political protest movement to demand civil rights for Black people in the old spirit of abolitionism.

1900



April 21 - August 13, 1898 The Spanish-American War begins. In the aftermath of the explosion of USS Maine in Havana Harbor in Cuba, the United States intervenes in the Cuban War of Independence. The war resulted in the United States emerging predominant in the Caribbean region, and acquiring Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. It also leads to United States involvement in the Philippine Revolution and later to the Philippine-American War.

1896 In 1893, Williams, Mary Church Terrell, and others founded the National League of Colored Women. The two women later helped create the National Association of Colored Women in 1896.

1893 Williams spoke twice at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. She addressed the lack of African American representation at the event among other topics.

1891 Fannie Barrier Williams teamed up with Dr. Daniel Hale Williams to found the Training School for Nurses in Chicago. This school opened up opportunities for African Americans in the realm of healthcare as the school accepted Black students.

1930



1921 Husband dies. Fannie becomes less active in her public work.

1924 After many essays and speeches on the progress and plights of African Americans, Williams in her later years decreased her activities. However, in 1924 she was appointed to the Chicago Public Library Board, becoming the first woman and African American to hold the position.

1926 Fannie moves back to Brockport to live with her sister.

May 20-21, 1932 Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman, and second pilot ever to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic.

1940



Dec 7, 1941 The Empire of Japan attacks the United States at Pearl Harbor initiating America's entrance into World War II.

1941 African Americans in WWII "Four Freedoms" More than 3 million Black Americans would register for service during the war, with some 500,000 seeing action overseas.

March 4, 1944 Fannies death at the age of 89

February 16, 1945 The Alaska Equal Rights Act is signed into law. The act is the first state or territorial anti-discrimination law enacted in the United States in the 20th century. Elizabeth Peratrovich, a Tlingit woman who was Grand President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, spearheaded the effort to end discrimination against Alaska Natives and other non-white residents.

1950

“ WHETHER I LIVE IN THE NORTH OR THE SOUTH, I CANNOT BE COUNTED FOR MY FULL VALUE. BE THAT MUCH OR LITTLE. I DARE NOT CEASE TO HOPE AND ASPIRE AND BELIEVE IN HUMAN LOVE AND JUSTICE. BUT PROGRESS IS PAINFUL AND MY FAITH IS OFTEN STRAINED TO THE BREAKING POINT. ”

1920 The 19th Amendment is ratified and grants women the right to vote. It declares: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."