



D.C. History Minute

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Mary Ann Shadd Cary : Journalist, Abolitionist, Educator

Between 1881 and 1886, 1421 W Street, NW was the home of Mary Ann Shadd Cary, an African American journalist, abolitionist, educator, and advocate for voting rights for women. By the time she settled in the District after the Civil War, she had already been a co-founder and later editor of the "Provincial Freeman" newspaper in Canada, one of the first women in North America to reach that journalistic milestone.

During the war, Shadd Cary had recruited black troops for the Union on behalf of the state of Indiana. When she settled in the nation's capital, she became principal of a public school. In 1870, Mary Ann Shadd Cary received a law degree from Howard University. She founded the Colored Women's Progressive Franchise in 1880, as an offshoot of her membership in the National Women's Suffrage Association. She died in 1893 and was buried at the Columbian Harmony Cemetery.

^^ This has been a moment in D.C.'s past brought to you by C.R. Gibbs and the Historical Society of Washington D.C.

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