

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF RICHMOND BOOKMARK SERIES



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MAGGIE L. WALKER HISTORIC SITE

Maggie Walker

Biography

Full Name:

Maggie Lena Mitchell Walker

Birth Date & Place:

Born a daughter of a former slave and a butler
c. July 15, 1867
Richmond, Virginia

Schooling:

Richmond Public Schools

Lived:

110¹/₂ East Leigh St.
Richmond, Virginia

Death:

December 15, 1934

Achievements

1876-1878: She helped her mother collect and deliver laundry to white customers. Observed disparate economic opportunities for blacks and whites.

1881-1883: Joined Independent Order of St. Luke. She organized the first response in the United States to inequality of white and black graduation ceremonies. She taught elementary school and she studied accounting at night.



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Achievements (cont.)

1884-1899: She moved through the ranks of the Independent Order of St. Luke's, attaining its highest rank, Right Worthy Grand Secretary.

1902-1903: She established a newspaper, *St. Luke Herald* and chartered St. Luke Penny Savings Bank.

Fun Facts

She was the first African-American woman bank president in the United States.

Her bank merged with two other banks in the past. In 2005 it was acquired by Abigail Adams National Bancorp, Inc.

Her house at 110¹/₂ East Leigh St. in Richmond was designated a National Historic site in 1978, and is open for tours.

Quotes

"We need a savings bank, chartered, offered, and run by the men and women of this Order...Let us have a bank that will take nickels and turn them into dollars."

"If our women want to avoid the traps and snares of life, they must band themselves together, organize, acknowledge leadership...and work in business for themselves."

Web Resources

www.richmondfed.org/publications/educator_resources/index.cfm

www.nps.gov/mawa

www.nps.gov/malw/home.htm

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