

PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

CARRIE A. TUGGLE

educator, philanthropist, social activist, abolitionist
“Carrie A. Tuggle: a scholar, educator and servant of mankind.”



PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGE

Background Information

Born: May 28, 1858; Died: November 5, 1924

Tuggle was born in Eufaula, Alabama into bondage. Her childhood was shaped predominantly by the Reconstruction era's end and the beginning of the Jim Crow era. Due to her academic success in private school, she was later able to receive private instruction. Tuggle was also involved in the local African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, where she was able to learn to how to lead. In fact, she was among the first black women to hold a leadership position within the AME church, when she was ordained as a deacon. She later helped erect a church in Georgetown, Georgia, where it is likely that she met her husband John Tuggle.¹

Tuggle's Resistance

Around 1883, the Tuggle's moved to Birmingham, Alabama. This city was founded after the Civil War, but the people there sought their own economic gain from racial economic inequality. Rather than leave, however, Tuggle responded with a fierce determination to improve the conditions for working class African Americans.

Tuggle began her civil work as a welfare officer who advocated for children in the court system, as many Black children were prosecuted as adults. She sought to improve conditions for homeless youth by creating housing options. She initially brought Black youth into her home, but eventually raised funds to create the Tuggle Institute. The Tuggle Institute was instrumental in housing and educating Black youth and protecting them from the court system.

She later founded the Daughters and Sons of Protection, which was an organization that raised money and collected food and clothing for adolescents at the Tuggle Institute. This organization grew to have members in six different states. She became involved in many civic affiliations and used each of her leadership positions to leverage support for causes she cared about.¹

Achievements

The Tuggle Institute became part of the Birmingham City Public Schools and was renamed the Enon Ridge School. This school has a memorial plaque hanging today inscribed with the following words: “Carrie A. Tuggle, a scholar, educator and servant of mankind.”²

