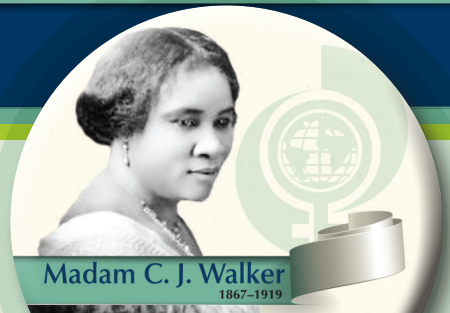


Madam C. J. Walker

Entrepreneur, Civil Rights Activist, and Philanthropist

Madam C.J. Walker, born Sarah Breedlove, created specialized hair products for African-American hair and was one of the first American women to become a self-made millionaire. Around 1900, necessity became the mother of invention as she began to go bald. Stress, poor diet, and hygiene-related scalp disease—in an era when most Americans lacked indoor plumbing and electricity in their homes—contributed to her hair loss. She consulted her barber brothers, experimented with home remedies, and briefly sold hair care products made by Annie Turnbo Malone, who would become her fiercest competitor. Through trial and error—and with the aid of a Denver pharmacist—she developed her own curative shampoo and ointment and founded the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Co. in 1906. By the time she died on May 25, 1919, she had become a millionaire, trained thousands of women in the Walker System of Hair Culture, involved herself in the political debates of her day, and bequeathed tens of thousands of dollars to charitable organizations, educational institutions, and political causes.



Madam C. J. Walker
1867–1919

Middle Tennessee State University
National Women's History Month
2017

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I AM *true* **BLUE**