“Eat Anywhere”: Mary Church Terrell’s Quest to End Segregation in the Nation’s Capital

Jane Williams
Junior Division
Historical Paper
Paper Length: 2498 words
“A white woman only has one handicap to overcome— that of sex. I have two— both sex and race. I belong to the only group in this country that has two such huge obstacles to surmount.”

- Mary Church Terrell

Introduction and Thesis Statement

Discrimination and segregation was part of life for most African-Americans during the nineteenth century, including Mary Church Terrell, an African-American activist for women's and civil rights. Washington D.C., the nation’s capital, where Ms. Terrell spent most of her life, was a city of inequality. At the time, Washington D.C. was considered “just another southern town”, as it was prone to many instances of segregation.

On January 7, 1950, Mary Church Terrell faced racial discrimination when she was refused service at Thompson’s Restaurant in Washington D.C. Tragically, at the time, racial segregation and the refusal of service at restaurants was commonplace. Ms. Terrell immediately went to the local courthouse to object to the restaurant’s actions. She attempted to receive service at Thompson’s restaurant once more and was refused service a second time. She took her case to court and fought a three-year-long legal battle known as the Thompson Restaurant Case.

Triumphantly, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in her favor and segregated eating facilities were ruled unconstitutional on June 8, 1953. Ms. Terrell’s efforts changed the course of African-Americans’ fight for equality, leading the way into the United States Civil Rights Movement, and forever bringing justice to African Americans all across the United States.

---

1 Terrell, 29.
**Historical Context**

Throughout most of history, segregation—or division among humans, existed. Born in 1863, the year of the Emancipation Proclamation\(^3\), Ms. Terrell was victim to discrimination at an early age\(^4\). Her family members were slaves, and their harsh experiences impacted her\(^5\). To illustrate, Ms. Terrell described her perspective of slavery. “It nearly killed me to think that my dear grandmother, whom I loved so devotedly, had once been a slave.”

Though the Emancipation Proclamation\(^7\) made slavery illegal, racial prejudice and unfair, demeaning societal practices still existed\(^8\). This was unfair and unjust for Ms. Terrell, her family, and all African Americans.

Bright and full of ambition, Ms. Terrell rejected what was considered proper for a woman in her time. She graduated from college\(^9\), which was rare for not only an African-American, but for a woman (see Appendix A). Ms. Terrell later moved to Washington D.C. and taught at an African American high school. The rules for female teachers were extremely strict (see Appendix B) and when Ms. Terrell married Robert Terrell, an African-American teacher and lawyer, she was forced to give up teaching. As a married woman no longer allowed to teach, Ms.

---

3 “The Emancipation Proclamation.” *National Archives and Records Administration*, National Archives and Records Administration.

4 Joan Quigley. Email interview by Jane Williams. 15 Nov. 2018.


6 Terrell, 47.

7 “The Emancipation Proclamation.” *National Archives and Records Administration*, National Archives and Records Administration.


Terrell pursued education in other ways by becoming the first African American woman on the District of Columbia Board of Education. This sparked Ms. Terrell’s involvement in civil rights. Ms. Terrell championed women’s and African American rights, giving speeches, organizing protests, and standing up for her race. Her words inspired others, sparking hints of hope and change in a world that was segregated and unjust.

Unfortunately, the nation’s capital, Washington D.C., was not an African American’s paradise of equality and freedom. Segregation and prejudice was rampant. Washington D.C. was plagued with colored-only buildings and facilities and places that would not serve African Americans. Contrary to popular belief, Ms. Terrell believed that all people should be entitled to the same rights. “As a colored woman I may walk from the Capitol to the White House, ravenously hungry and abundantly supplied with money with which to purchase a meal, without finding a single restaurant in which I would be permitted to take a morsel of food, if it was patronized by white people, unless I were willing to sit behind a screen.”

Though unsuccessful, the government had attempted to integrate the United States in relations to its restaurant and service policies/laws. Two laws, called “the lost laws” were brought to light in the Library of Congress by Tomlinson Todd, a friend of Ms. Terrell. The first law, from the 1894 D.C.’s compiled laws, states:

“Any restaurant keeper or proprietor, any hotel keeper or proprietor . . . refusing to sell or wait upon any respectful, well-behaved person, without regard to race, color, or previous condition of

servitude . . . shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction in a court having
jurisdiction, shall be fined one hundred dollars, and shall forfeit his or her license . . . .”¹³

The second law was similar to the first, stating that all races have the right to eat at a
public eating facility, granted they were respectable and well-behaved. The 1872 and 1873 “lost
laws” were passed by a short-lived legislative assembly which held power from 1871 to 1874.
These laws were printed in D.C. Code (the subject organization of the laws) until the early 1900s
when they were removed. However, they were never specifically repealed so in the 1950s, these
laws were used in actions designed to challenge segregation in the District of Columbia.

Ms. Terrell championed civil rights her entire life¹⁴, but her most notable contribution
came in 1950, when one fateful afternoon forever put the issue of racial segregation back on the

**Triumph and Tragedy**

On January 27, 1950, Ms. Terrell invited three friends to have lunch at Thompson’s
Restaurant. An otherwise very popular lunch spot, Thompson’s Restaurant had one drawback: its
refusal to serve African Americans¹⁵. Ms. Terrell and her companions—two other African
Americans, Reverend William Jernagin, a Baptist minister, and Mrs. Geneva Brown, the
secretary-treasurer of the United Cafeteria and Restaurant Workers Association; and one
caucasian, David Scull, a member of the Quaker Church—walked through the door of
Thompson’s Restaurant and joined the food line.¹⁶

---

¹³ William Stone; Lovejoy, Benjamin G., Compilers Abert. Compiled Statutes in Force in the
District of Columbia, including the Acts of the Second Session of the Fiftieth Congress, 1887-'89 (1894).
¹⁶ Fradin and Bloom, 1.
Nearing the front of the line, a white man introduced himself as the restaurant’s manager and informed them that they must leave, explaining that serving “colored people” is against the District of Columbia’s laws and public policy. Beginning with Mrs. Brown, each spoke up arguing there was no such law, but eventually left the restaurant without eating.

The next day, Ms. Terrell, Mr. Jernagin, Mrs. Brown, and Mr. Scull visited a notary public to notarize their incident statements. Two days later, Mrs. Margaret Haywood, an attorney, escorted Ms. Terrell’s group of four to meet with Washington D.C.’s lawyers at the city’s corporation counsels. As evidence, they used their notarized statements to file a complaint that accused Thompson’s Restaurant of breaking the law by not serving them.

Eventually city officials contacted Ms. Terrell to inform her that Thompson’s Restaurant had indeed broken the law when they refused to serve African Americans. However, they would need to revisit Thompson’s Restaurant to gather more evidence if they wanted to bring the case to court. Warned ahead of time, the superintendent of Thompson’s Restaurant blocked their pathway. The four were informed that only Mr. Scull, the lone caucasian, would be permitted to eat and the others must leave. This time they did not argue but simply left the premises. Once more, Ms. Terrell and her group visited the corporation counsel and claimed that Thompson’s Restaurant had broken the law.

The Thompson Restaurant Case, a legal case that lasted three years, was first heard on March 31, 1950 by the Municipal Court of the District of Columbia. At stake was whether African Americans in the nation’s capital would be allowed to eat in a public eating facility. During the period of time the Thompson Restaurant Case was in the courts, President Dwight D.

---

17 Fradin and Bloom, 2-3.
Eisenhower was elected President of the United States. In his inaugural address, he vowed to end segregation in the United States. Ms. Terrell was a supporter of this, and often organized rallies and protests (see Appendix C) to hold President Eisenhower to his promise.\(^{18}\)

Before the Municipal Court Decision, Ms. Terrell performed a survey. African Americans were sent to restaurants to see who would serve African Americans. Sixty percent of the groups sent to restaurants were served, and only 38 of the 99 restaurants tested refused to serve them. Ms. Terrell and her committee was overjoyed by the results, and had high hopes for the Municipal Court Decision.

Unfortunately, Judge Frank H. Myers ruled that although the “lost laws” had never been formally repealed, they had been ignored for so long that they had been “repealed by implication.”\(^{19}\) Ms. Terrell was not discouraged. She knew that there were higher courts that might have a different say in the matter. So, another year passed as she and her committee fought to have their case on the Municipal Court of Appeals. This time they were successful, and they were allowed to use the “lost laws” to fight discrimination. However, they then took it to the Municipal Court once more and lost the vote five to four. Although discouraged, Ms. Terrell did not lose hope. The Thompson Restaurant Case had to be taken to the United States Supreme Court. Though their odds were not good, the case was accepted and what they hoped to be their last hearing took place on April 30 and May 1, 1953, at the highest court in the United States.

While working for the case, Ms. Terrell met with her committee regularly to discuss plans and future endeavors. At a mass meeting with the committee and its supporters, Ms. Terrell

---


\(^{19}\) Fradin and Bloom, 137.
gave an inspiring message, saying, “Let us continue to wage a holy war against discrimination and segregation and all the other evils which race prejudice forces us to endure!”

Ms. Terrell also pressured other businesses while waiting for the Thompson Case ruling. She convinced Hecht’s Department store to desegregate its lunch counter, Kresge’s Restaurant began serving all races due to Ms. Terrell’s efforts, and Ms. Terrell integrated Murphy’s Dime.

Ms. Terrell’s determination and fortitude when working on this case earned her acknowledgement and honor. Almost twenty years before the Thompson Restaurant Case, Carrie Chapman Catt remarked on the perseverance Ms. Terrell continued to show, saying, “Mary Church Terrell, class of 1884, by exceptional ability, has brought honor to her college, her sex, and her race.”

Impacts

June 8, 1953 was the day that Ms. Terrell, her lawyers, her friends, and her colleagues had been waiting on for over three years. Though the laws had been forgotten, the United States Supreme Court said that the laws remained “presently enforceable”. The next few days were filled with celebration. During a telephone call to a reporter from the Afro American newspaper, Ms. Terrell said she and her committee had tried to remain “hopeful and patient, praying for a favorable decision.” After three years of trying to remain “hopeful and patient”, Ms. Terrell could finally rest. The next day, newspapers exploded with information on the outcome of the case. The Afro American headline the following day read: “EAT ANYWHERE: High Court

---

20 Fradin and Bloom, 143-144.
21 Quigley, 190.
23 Quigley, 226-227.
24 Quigley, 228.
Opens D.C. Restaurants. 25 Ms. Terrell was flooded with telegrams, congratulating her on her victory.

Following the Thompson Decision, all restaurants in Washington D.C. had four days to officially desegregate their restaurants and open their properties to the entire public. Four days after the ruling, two days after the police began enforcing, Ms. Terrell and the original group that had been refused service met at Thompson’s Restaurant. It was the moment Ms. Terrell had been dreaming about for the past three years. Reporters flocked to the windows, people stared at Ms. Terrell and her group, as at last, Ms. Terrell was finally able to enjoy her bowl of soup 26.

Ms. Terrell decided after her Thompson success, her next endeavor would be to end segregated movie theaters. On her birthday, she and her coordinating committee went to several movie theaters. All of the movie theaters peacefully obliged, not wanting another Thompson-like case on their hands. All of Washington D.C.’s movie theaters were integrated within a few weeks. At her ninetieth birthday luncheon, Ms. Terrell called the campaign for non-segregated movie theaters “the shortest and pleasantest of my career” 27.

A few months after the Thompson decision, the Brown v. Board of Education decision ruled unanimously that segregating children in public schools [was] unconstitutional 28. Ms. Terrell was a huge supporter of integrating schools, and regularly commented “I shall be happiest the day our schools are integrated.” 29 Both cases contributed to ending segregation in Washington D.C., and in the entire United States.

26 Quigley, 229-230.
27 Quigley, 228.
29 Fradin and Bloom, 163.
Legacy

As with many American cities, Washington D.C. was filled to the brim with discrimination, but hints of change started to emerge with beginnings of hope and change for African Americans. Ms. Terrell’s battle to desegregate restaurants was one of many steps on the path to ending segregation in Washington D.C. and other parts of the United States. Once the nation’s capitol made efforts to end segregation, other cities followed suit. Not only did Ms. Terrell’s political efforts and successes help sway the country’s attitudes and opinions, but her demeanor, English-teacher speech, and stylish presence also helped enlighten Americans on the intelligence and capability of the nation’s African Americans.

Nowadays, we are blessed with equal rights amongst all races and genders in the United States; but during Ms. Terrell’s lifetime, all African Americans faced prejudice in many forms. Living well into the start of the civil rights era, Ms. Terrell was a pioneering activist that paved the way for many others after her time. Ms. Terrell’s efforts in the Thompson Restaurant Case helped initiate the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.

Conclusion

Noted for many accomplishments, in 1950, Ms. Terrell’s most remarkable contribution made way for Washington D.C.’s racial desegregation, as well as integration throughout the rest of the United States. Tragically, segregation was prevalent for African Americans at the time.

---

31 Fradin and Bloom, 77.
but the refusal of service at Thompson’s restaurant on January 7, 1950, initiated movement in the right direction, leading towards the end of segregation. It sparked the three year long Thompson Restaurant Case that was triumphantly won on June 8, 1953. After Ms. Terrell’s death in 1954, there was still much work to be done; but as one of the first human rights activists, Ms. Terrell set an example for many other activists to come (see Appendix D). Through peaceful protests, pickets, and events, she exemplified how to stand up for basic human rights and freedom. Ms. Terrell showed the country the importance of equality for all—regardless of their race or gender (see Appendix E).

“I have done this, not because I want to tell the world how smart I am, but because both a sense of justice and a regard for truth prompt me to show what a colored woman can achieve in spite of the difficulties by which race prejudice blocks her path if she fits herself to do a certain thing, works with all her might and main to do it and is given a chance.”

- Mary Church Terrell

35 Terrell, 30.
Appendix A

Image of Mary Church Terrell in 1884, the year that she graduated from Oberlin College. Rather than taking the status quo “ladies course”, Ms. Terrell opted for the harder “gentlemen’s course,” and excelled.


Appendix B

Image of a list of rules that all teachers had to follow in a typical school in the 1800s. Ms. Terrell taught as a teacher for several years, and followed similar rules. The rules that Ms. Terrell had to follow while she was teaching partially got in the way of her having a relationship with her future husband, Robert Heberton Terrell.


Image of a flyer advertising a protest Ms. Terrell arranged. At this particular protest, participants wrote letters to President Eisenhower, asking him to keep the promise he made in his 1953 inaugural address.


https://www.loc.gov/resource/mss42549.mss42549-014_00148_00229/?sp=82&r=-0.638,0.049,2.277,1.401.0
Appendix D

Spanning almost a century of our history, Mary Church Terrell lived from the era of the Emancipation Proclamation to the Brown v. Board of Education landmark decision of the Supreme Court (1863-1954). This period also witnessed the evolution of the emancipation of women from social and political discrimination, as was so poignantly dramatized by the development of the National Club Movement under the able leadership of Mary Church Terrell. Called "Mollie" by her friends, Mary Church Terrell was a pioneer and a first in several fields of endeavor. She was among the first women of African descent to attend Oberlin College in 1884. Earning her Master's degree there also, she later studied in France, Germany and Italy.

The first Afro-American woman ever to serve on a Board of Education in the United States, for eleven years she rendered invaluable service to the public school system in the District of Columbia. The choice of Mrs. Terrell and the appointment itself came only after women suffragists in the District had lobbied unceasingly for six years. Seated in 1888, Mrs. Terrell authored the resolution that established February 14 as Frederick Douglass Day. Adopted by the Board in 1897, Mary Church Terrell noted that this achievement marked "the first time a Board of Education in any city (had) set aside a day . . . to learn about . . . and celebrate the career and service of a distinguished man of color."

Mary Church Terrell was the first woman of her race to represent American women at international conferences. At Berlin, Germany she addressed the International Congress of Women in 1904. Again in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1919 she spoke and was a delegate to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In London, England (1907) she addressed a meeting of the World Fellowship of Faiths.

A lecturer and writer, Mrs. Terrell addressed audiences at colleges and universities, and contributed articles to leading publications in this country and in England. Through these media she effectively used her voice as an advocate for human rights and full equality for all.

Her awards and honors were many, yet a listing of these achievements, while impressive, does not depict the full range of her interests or the content of her life and character. Nor will it tell you about her close friendships with Frederick Douglass, the "Sage of Anacostia," or the man, kindnesses extended to the young friend and poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Confident, poised, and with a keen intellect Mary Church Terrell accepted every challenge as an opportunity for service. Uncompromising and indefatigable in her opposition to racism and sexism, principles were never betrayed by expediency, nor personal gain placed before the needs and interests of her race. Throughout her life, her leadership was unflinching, alert and unceasing in the continuing struggle for civil rights and human dignity.

LOUISE DANIEL HUTCHINSON

Image of an article honoring Ms. Terrell’s life by Louise Daniel Hutchinson that appeared in Ms. Terrell’s dedication program at Oberlin College in 1954. This is one of many ways that Ms. Terrell’s life was commemorated after she passed in 1954.


http://www2.oberlin.edu/library/MCT/MCT_dedication_program_002.png
Appendix E

United States Postal Services commemorative stamp of Mary Church Terrell (left) and Mary White Ovington. This stamp was released in 2009 as part of the Up Civil Rights Pioneer Issue.


http://www.usstampgallery.com/images/stamps/5ddfe8899d707989941292083137eccc3828700f.jpg
Annotated Bibliography

Primary


This is an article from Oberlin College’s Alumni Magazine. It is by Carrie Chapman Catt, who worked closely and was a friend of Mary Church Terrell. This discussed how Terrell was one of the first ever women, let alone African Americans, to attend college. Oberlin College was the first college in the country to let men and women attend, and Terrell often mentioned how she was proud to have graduated from there. I used this source to know how Terrell influenced others, and I also quoted part of this.


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwenOlphvTA

This is the 1953 inaugural address of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In his address, he vowed to end segregation in the United States. Ms. Terrell liked what he said in his speech, and she wanted segregation to end with him as president. Ms. Terrell often organized events where they would protest and write letter to the
president, holding him to his promise. President Eisenhower kept his promise, too, because in June of that year, segregated eating facilities were banned, and a few months later, segregated schools were banned.


http://terrell.oberlincollegelibrary.org/scalar/mct/media/MEC_1879_Graduation_c.png

This is the program for Mary Church Terrell’s high school graduation. It was a big deal for Ms. Terrell to graduate college because she was an African American woman. When I was reading through another source about her education, I came across this image of Ms. Terrell’s graduation program. I was surprised to learn that Ms. Terrell had taken part in her graduation by sharing her essay titled “Troubles and Trials”. I was not able to find the actual essay, but I thought that it was interesting to learn that Ms. Terrell started sharing speeches and writings from a young age. I used this when finding information about Ms. Terrell’s high school and education.

Hutchinson, Louise Daniel. “Mary Church Terrell, an appreciation” Oberlin College.
This dedication by Louise Daniel Hutchinson was from Mary Church Terrell’s dedication program at Oberlin College in 1954. Oberlin college greatly influenced Terrell’s life. She was one of the first African American women to ever attend Oberlin, and you can find many traces of her there today. This speech told me how greatly influential she was, and how she influenced others, and what others thought of her. I used this speech when I was researching and writing about her legacy and impacts. I thought that it was fascinating to see Terrell’s life from the perspective of someone who actually lived at her time.


This is an image of two letters that were sent to Ms. Terrell in July of 1950, a few months after Ms. Terrell was refused service at Thompson's Restaurant. The first letter, on the left, is a letter sent to Ms. Terrell from Ms. Pearl S. Buck, and American writer. In this letter, she attempts to persuade Ms. Terrell into helping her with her cause. She doesn’t specifically mention what charity she is working for, but she describes it as one that will help all Americans. The second letter was from Mrs. Roger L. Putnam, whose letter is sent on behalf of the “Catholic Scholarships for
Negroes, Inc.” In her letter, she pleads for Ms. Terrell’s support in their cause, and mentions that with her aid, they are confident that they will be able to get 50 Catholic African American students to go to college with a full scholarship the next year. I used these letters to learn of Ms. Terrell’s influence on charities. This source helped me see that Ms. Terrell supported all worthy charities.

“This is an image of a letter written to Mrs. Terrell by an unidentified person from the Library of Congress. This letter was written shortly after Tomlinson Todd discovered the “Lost Laws”. The person who wrote this letter listed many questions that he/she had concerning the laws. I can guess that this person was also an activist or supporter for Civil Rights, because they expressed clear joy over the “Lost Laws” being found. I used this source when I was learning about how and when the “Lost Laws” were discovered and how this related to Ms. Terrell.

“This is an image of a letter written to Mrs. Terrell by an unidentified person from the Library of Congress. This letter was written shortly after Tomlinson Todd discovered the “Lost Laws”. The person who wrote this letter listed many questions that he/she had concerning the laws. I can guess that this person was also an activist or supporter for Civil Rights, because they expressed clear joy over the “Lost Laws” being found. I used this source when I was learning about how and when the “Lost Laws” were discovered and how this related to Ms. Terrell.

This is written by Ms. Terrell, and she talks about her strong desire for African American children to have a good education. I realized through this source that Ms. Terrell was very lucky. She received a very good education and even graduated from college. Ms. Terrell talks about how African American children show just as much if not more potential than white children, so they deserve to receive adequate education to help them in their lives. I thought that it was very interesting to see how much Ms. Terrell cared about the work she was doing and how passionate she was for her cause.


This is a letter written by Ms. Terrell that explains how influential Frederick Douglass was. While I was reading this I made the connection that Ms. Terrell did things like this her entire life, for one reason: justice and equality for her race. I also realized how big of a sacrifice some people were willing to make for fairness in our country, and I think that is what Ms. Terrell was trying to let people know when she was writing this.
This is the case file from the Thompson Restaurant Case. I learned a lot about the Thompson Restaurant Case in this article. I learned who the judges and attorneys were, I learned their arguments, and I learned about the final ruling of the Thompson Restaurant Case. I used this source when I was writing about the Thompson Restaurant Case.

www.loc.gov/item/mss425490385/.
This is a speech that Ms. Terrell wrote in memory of her friend, Paul Laurence Dunbar, an African American poet and writer. When I was reading this, I felt that I almost discovered a sentimental and personal side of Ms. Terrell. I learned about Ms. Terrell through this, and she talked about motivation for doing all that we do, and in her case, her motivation for doing all of her civil rights work was the cruel discrimination that she faced.
In this speech, Ms. Terrell is giving an address herself, but also introducing Ida Wells Barnett. When I was doing initial background research on my topic, I read that

Ms. Terrell worked with Ida Wells Barnett, but I never really learned anything about her and Ms. Terrell working together beyond that. This source helped me understand how activists worked together to achieve a common goal of equality towards all.

This is an advertisement for citizens of Washington D.C. to help end segregation by writing to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In his inaugural address, President Eisenhower vowed to end segregation. In this flyer, Terrell urges D.C.’s citizens to hold him to that promise. While it is not dated, I believe that this was written sometime between January 1953 and June 1953, because Eisenhower gave his
inaugural address in January 1953 and Terrell won Thompson v. Terrell in June 1953. I used this image in my appendix.

https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b47842/

This is one of the most well known images of Ms. Terrell. I used it in my appendix. Since photographs did not exist until Ms. Terrell was older, Ms. Terrell had several portraits made of her made in her lifetime. It does not say when this portrait was made but I can assume that it was created a few years after Ms. Terrell was married.


This is an image of a list of rules that teachers had to follow in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Ms. Terrell was a teacher once, and these rules affected her. The rules about romantic relationships particularly affected her because that was where she met her husband. I used this source to learn about the historical context and to learn about what Ms. Terrell’s life was like as a teacher.

This is a handwritten copy of an address given to the Bethel Literary Historical Association in 1891. I had never heard about this address before now, but the speech was quite interesting. In this address, Terrell talks about how we need to learn from our past, and then come together and move with each other in the future. While there are several mentions of African American history, this speech was not directly about equality and racial or gender justice. This address was given during the time that Terrell was on the District of Columbia Board of Education.


This autobiography of Terrell described her experiences as an African American woman. She recalls of some of her earliest encounters with segregation, and she gave me a deeper understanding of how her experiences with discrimination, starting from a very young age, shaped her to be the person she was and drove her to accomplish the things that she did. Also, she tells about the importance of equality. This book gave insight into her personal life and experiences. Since this book was a book about herself, written by herself, I used this book to become familiar with her
and her life. I used this book a lot, but it was mostly used for learning about the tragedy.


This is a journal article written by Mary Church Terrell about segregated schools. Even after Ms. Terrell put an end to segregated eating facilities, she often remarked how she would be happiest the day that schools would be integrated. Ms. Terrell was a great supporter of all movements to integrate schools, and she wrote this journal article to point out the unfairness of segregated schools. I used this source when I was working on the tragedy of the situation.


This is an image from the Library of Congress of a speech that Ms. Terrell gave at a mass meeting that was celebrating the discovery of the “Lost Laws”. This gave me a lot of information about the Lost Laws, and it helped me learn about what Civil Rights meetings were like. I liked that this speech was very uplifting and inspiring to
the people who were at this meeting, and I quoted a phrase from it.


[https://blackpast.org/1897-mary-church-terrell-union-there-strength](https://blackpast.org/1897-mary-church-terrell-union-there-strength)

This speech was given to the National Association of Colored Women, the organization that Terrell helped to create. This speech was Terrell’s first presidential address given to them. Terrell occasionally remarked about how though she frequently attended women’s rights, and was a champion of women’s rights, even white women would not take her seriously because she was African American. This speech is significant because she talked about how all African American women must unite to put an end to the discrimination that all of these women faced. I used this speech to learn more about the ways that Terrell and her colleagues faced segregation and discrimination.


This is an article written by Mary Church Terrell about lynching. Ms. Terrell worked very hard to prevent lynching with her colleagues Frederick Douglass and Ida B.
Wells. This article opened my eyes to how harsh life was during Ms. Terrell’s lifetime for African Americans, and I gained a newfound respect for Ms. Terrell for having the courage to fight back. I used this source when I was learning about the historical context of Ms. Terrell’s life.


This is an image of a portrait painted of Mary Church Terrell when she was in college. I used this image in my appendix. This image was painted around the time that Ms. Terrell chose to become a teacher.


This speech talked the struggles that African American women faced during Terrell’s lifetime. I thought that it was interesting to see that though African American women and white women alike were fighting for gender equality, white women still had a prejudice against African American women, just because of their race. Terrell addressed the contentions between white women and African American women.
However, while Terrell does talk about the issues that there still existed, Terrell mostly focuses on the remarkable progress that colored women have made. I used this speech to learn more about life during Terrell’s lifetime. This speech helped me learn about what was going on with politics and civil rights.

Terrell, Mary Church. “What it Means to be Colored in the Capital of the U.S.”

https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/marychurchterellcolored.htm

This speech that Terrell gave in 1906 gave insight into how Terrell felt about her position as a colored woman. Mary Church Terrell often talked about how she was proud to be an African American woman, and the experiences gained from her positions. Terrell described how her life, living as a colored woman in Washington D.C. differs from the life of a colored woman living in other places. I used this speech to become familiar with Terrell’s mindset and attitude about her race, and to learn about everyday life in Terrell’s era. I used this speech to learn about the many instances of segregation that Terrell sees everyday. In this speech, Terrell also tells about the many obstacles of segregation that she faces everyday, and how others suffer because of discrimination.

This is a report written by Terrell. Terrell describes her role of president of the National Association of Colored Women. Terrell describes how some of the women are still faced with discrimination, but she also tells how she feels that many of the women in this organization, as well as the entire organization, are misunderstood. I used this source to learn about Terrell’s work as president of the National Association of Colored Women, but this source also talked about how many African Americans, particularly African American women take discrimination and segregation personally.


This website article included pictures of all five pages of the Emancipation Proclamation. It also summarized the Emancipation Proclamation and explained what it meant and how it changed what previously existed. This source explained how the Emancipation Proclamation went along with other things that were happening in our country and also talked about some of the positive effects. For example, this source informed me of some of the limitations that the Emancipation Proclamation had.

This is an image of the commemorative stamp that was issued in 2009 to commemorate Mary Church Terrell and Mary White Ovington. I used this image in one of my appendices, and it was interesting to learn about how Ms. Terrell is continuing to be honored and remembered today. I especially liked how Ms. Terrell was chosen to be in a stamp to commemorate civil rights pioneers because Ms. Terrell was very influential in the beginning of the civil rights movement.


https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=BeIT3YV5QzEC&dat=19530609&printsec=frontpage&hl=en

This is the headline article of the newspaper that went out the day after segregated eating facilities were ruled unconstitutional. The article includes details on the three year long legal battle with Terrell v. Thompson, and also offers speculations on how this would change D.C.. This article also shows Thompson’s reaction, and says how they said that they will abide by the law and desegregate their restaurant. I used this source when working on the impacts of the decision to desegregated D.C.’s restaurants, and the headline of this article was inspiration for the title of my project.

This is one of the “lost laws” that Tomlinson Todd found in the Library of Congress. There are many laws on here, but the one that I used was the law that was made by Frederick Douglass to prevent segregation in public eating facilities. When Ms. Terrell brought the Thompson Restaurant case to court, city commissioners decided that the laws were still in effect, but they were constantly being ignored. To get this law, I contacted law specialist librarians at the Library of Congress. They were extremely helpful, and gave me lots of information.

Secondary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkzqLjshEYM&t=22s

This YouTube video is about the trials that Ms. Terrell overcame in order to achieve what she did. The creators of this video made this video as part of a series of videos about legendary African Americans. The videos all highlight the negative things that African Americans had to go through before they were granted civil rights. I used this video to learn about the tragedies that Ms. Terrell went through when she fought for civil rights.

Becky Little “Who Was Jim Crow?” National Geographic, National Geographic Society, 6


This article from National Geographic told me all about Jim Crow. It talked about the origins of Jim Crow, Jim Crow laws, and Jim Crow protests. In her autobiography, Ms. Terrell mentions Jim Crow laws regularly, and I wanted to know more about Jim Crow. I used this source when writing about the historical context. This helped me understand a lot about all of the discrimination that African Americans faced, and it helped me a lot when I was trying to imagine what life was like in Ms. Terrell’s lifetime for African Americans.


Before I read this news article, I never had considered how African American women might be treated differently by other women because they were African American. This article helped me understand how Terrell was treated by white people, and opened my eyes to racial prejudice amongst women, who were not treated as equals themselves. This article talked about some of the incidents that occurred at these
protests, and how big of a risk it was for African American women to protest. While this article mentioned Terrell, this article mainly described the historical context and the ways of Terrell’s era.


This article from Smithsonian Magazine gave me details on what women’s activist efforts were like during the era of Mary Church Terrell. This source also told me that Mary Church struggled with women’s marches often because the white women wouldn’t take her seriously as an African American women. This article helped me learn a lot about the historical context of Ms. Terrell’s life.


This article which featured Mary Church Terrell’s grandson, Raymond Langston. Raymond L. Langston is the last relative of Mary Church Terrell who remembers
her. He is an old man whose memory is starting to fade. He talked about his few memories of his grandmother and told about the racial discrimination he and his family faced when he was younger. I thought that this was very interesting, because in my research I have discovered that while Ms. Terrell was a very private person, she loved her family dearly when in private, and it was interesting to see how her grandson remembered her. This article helped me learn about Ms. Terrell’s legacy.


This is an article that I used to learn about Thompson’s Restaurant. I learned that the Thompson’s Restaurant chain was very large and popular, but it’s one setback was that it did not serve African Americans. I realized that if I was going to understand the Thompson’s Restaurant Case, then I would need to understand Thompson’s Restaurant, so I began to do research on it. This article helped me a lot when I was learning about the historical context of the Thompson’s Restaurant Case.


This is a documentary on Ms. Terrell’s life and her fight for justice. This shed light on how Ms. Terrell basically just wanted to be treated equally, which should be a basic human civil right. This also showed how Terrell’s efforts impacted people then, and how her legacy is still affecting people today. I used this source when I
talked about how it was a tragedy that Ms. Terrell was denied the basic human right to be treated equally, and when I worked on the impacts and legacy of her life.


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDXrHk6ByY0

I used this video to get another perspective on Terrell’s life. The woman speaking in this video gave a fresh outlook on why Terrell did so much work in her later life, rather than doing most of her activism work in her earlier years like other activists. I also learned a bit more about her personal life. Most of my other sources were just focusing on her public life. For example, I learned about her relationship with her husband, who was a slave for eight years, but ended up being one of the first African Americans to graduate from Harvard Law School. This source was very thorough, and it gave tons of information.


This book focused on the triumph of her life. While the book focuses on her work for racial equality, this book carefully examines her entire life and gives lots of details on many of her achievements. For example, this book talks about how she paved the way for many other women to come when she was one of the first African American women to ever attend college. I used this book to learn about her triumph,
and this book was very good for me to read, and I gained lots of information about my topic from this book, because the authors were so thorough.


This article from Oberlin college honored the work of Mary Church Terrell. This article included details about what Terrell did in college, and it gave interesting details on her legacy and the lasting impact she has had on this world. It also gave some information on her relatives and how she affected their lives. I used this article when I was working on Mary Church Terrell’s legacy in my paper.


This is a video from PBS about Jim Crow laws in the Northern and Southern United States. It included many real stories, images, and videos, and it helped me understand how Jim Crow laws affected African Americans so badly. I used this article when I was writing and learning about the historical context of Ms. Terrell’s life.

Joan Quigley. Email interview by Jane Williams. 15 Nov. 2018.

Joan Quigley is the author of the book Just Another Southern Town: Mary Church
When I began researching my topic, the first thing that I did was read her book. The book was a valuable resource for me and it was very thorough, so I thought that I could interview the author to dig deeper. Though I could not physically talk to her, I was able to conduct an interview via email. In the interview, I asked Ms. Quigley about how Terrell’s experiences in discrimination affected her throughout her life, and her answers were extremely helpful, and she was able to refer me to other sources about my topic.


This is an article that describes in detail the “lost laws” and the effect that they had on the Thompson Restaurant Case. This article helped me a lot when I was writing the Triumph and Tragedy section of my paper. I liked this article because it was very thorough, and I learned a lot that I hadn’t noticed or seen before.

This is an article from *The Washington Post* about the Lost Laws, but specifically about what Washington D.C. was like during the era that the Lost Laws were made to the ruling that they were still in effect from the Thompson Restaurant Case. I learned a lot of useful information that I put into my historical context and I think that the author was very thorough in explaining how people ignored these laws. I learned of many excuses that restaurant owners often used so that they would not have to serve African Americans.


*www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/civil-war-era/reconstruction/a/life-after-slavery*.

After the Emancipation Proclamation took effect, most people assume that life was great for African Americans, when in reality, although they were not slaves, they still did not have full rights and were deeply discriminated against. This source told me all about life after the Emancipation Proclamation. Because Ms. Terrell’s parents, grandmother, and husband were all slaves, and Ms. Terrell was born the year of the Emancipation Proclamation, Ms. Terrell went through all of this. This was helpful to
me because it helped me learn about what Ms. Terrell and all African Americans went through.


[naewc.org](http://naewc.org/).

This is the website of the National Association of Colored Women. Ms. Terrell was the founding president of NACW, and she worked for many years with others, such as Ida B. Wells to fight for the rights of African American women. I thought that it was really cool to see firsthand how Ms. Terrell’s efforts paid off and are still influencing other people’s lives today. I used this source when learning about Ms. Terrell’s legacy.


This is a video from C-SPAN. In this video, Joan Quigley talks about her book, *Just Another Southern Town*, and talks about Ms. Terrell life. She talks about the discrimination that Ms. Terrell and other African Americans faced and she gave details about Ms. Terrell’s involvement in the Thompson Case. Ms. Quigley also talked about her opinion that Ms. Terrell’s work and efforts have been since partially forgotten and that we should do more to honor her.

[terrell.oberlincollegelibrary.org/scalar/mct/index.](terrell.oberlincollegelibrary.org/scalar/mct/index)

This is a project from the Oberlin College Library Archives. Terrell was one of the very first African American women to attend Oberlin College, and this project was created to honor and remember her work and legacy. This project has multiple pages, including written works on her legacy, labor, suffragist work, etc. I liked this because it was very thorough work, I was able to gain access to many primary newspapers and images through it, and this project was by a Oberlin college student, which I thought was interesting. I used this source to learn about her legacy, and to learn about how her time at Oberlin was influential for other future female African American alumni.


This is an article from Smithsonian Magazine about the battle for women’s suffrage. I liked this article because it talked about the beginning of the women’s suffrage movement and how it got started, which was how Ms. Terrell contributed to the women’s suffrage movement. This article gave details on how many women who
are

now almost forgotten helped in women’s fight for equality, and gave details on how Ms. Terrell contributed.


This is an article that is all about the history of Jim Crow medical facilities. The reason that I wanted to learn more about Jim Crow facilities was that when I was researching about Ms. Terrell and her husband’s first year of marriage, I found out that they had three babies, but they all died shortly after birth. Ms. Terrell always thought that the babies might have survived had they not been born in inferior Jim Crow facilities. I wanted to know what a Jim Crow medical facility was, and I wanted to learn about another way that African Americans were not treated equally. I used this source when I was working on historical context.


http://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/faculty_scholarship/1226.
This is a paper written by a student that attends the University of Pennsylvania Law School. This paper briefly mentions the Thompson’s Restaurant Case, but I mostly used this paper to learn about how the Civil Rights Movement was beginning to stir in 1950, which was when the Thompson’s Restaurant Case started.


time.com/4196840/mary-church-terrell/

This is an article on Mary Church Terrell and the Thompson Restaurant Case. It is by Joan Quigley, who is the author of a book on Ms. Terrell’s battle for racial justice. I liked this article because I found this to be very detailed. For example, I was finally able to learn the name of the manager at Thompson’s Restaurant who told Ms. Terrell and her group that they could not eat there. This article also gave me lots of well informed conclusions that Ms. Quigley was able to make about Ms. Terrell. I used this article to learn about the tragedy of Ms. Terrell’s life. This article also told me about some of the laws that Washington had against segregation.


https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-forgotten-fight-to-end-segregation-in-D.C./2016/01/15/1b7cae2a-bafe-11e5-829e-26ff874a18d_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4c0fd7aa07c5
This source gives details on the major events that occurred in the 1950s that Mary Church Terrell was involved in. Though Mary Church Terrell was politically active during almost her entire life, one might argue that she accomplished the most when she was in her 80s, when she assisted in helping Washington D.C. become a non-segregated place, particularly when it came to eating facilities. This source told me what she had to do to get Congress to rule segregated eating facilities unconstitutional.


This book narrated Terrell’s efforts in stopping segregated eating facilities, starting from the moment when she was refused service at Thompson’s restaurant in Washington D.C. I like that this book talked about everything surrounding that day and segregation. I thought that it was interesting that the author often talked about how Washington D.C. was “just another southern town”. I used this source when I was working on the tragedy because the author often details how Terrell faced discrimination every day, but I also used this book when working on the triumph because the author also talks a lot about how Terrell’s anti-segregation efforts positively affected others and how triumphant that was. This book was one of my
most valuable resources. The author, Joan Quigley, also was kind enough to do an email interview with me and was extremely knowledgeable.

Quigley, Joan. “Mary Church Terrell: The Great-Great Grandmother of Black Lives Matter”
This article from the American Historical Association was written by Joan Quigley, an expert on Mary Church Terrell. Quigley explains the historical significance of Terrell’s actions and life. The author also in depthly explains how Terrell’s work done in regards to segregation in Washington D.C. This article highlighted the triumph of Terrell’s life, and it helped me when I was working on the Triumph as well as her legacy.

This is an article about how the camera was a tool for African Americans as they fought for equality. This article gives a unique perspective on some of the images or portraits of Ms. Terrell. I learned from this article that African Americans used the
camera as a way for them to be able to control their own image. I learned that Ms. Terrell knew the importance of owning and creating your own image.

Robin Hamilton. Email interview by Jane Williams. 27 Nov. 2018.

Robin Hamilton is a news anchor of Great Day Washington. She has done several documentaries on historic African American women, and she recently wrote, produced, and directed a documentary on Mary Church Terrell called Dignity and Defiance: A Portrait of Mary Church Terrell. I contacted her online after I watched her documentary. I asked Ms. Hamilton questions about how Terrell impacted others and the legacy of her activism efforts. Ms. Hamilton responded by giving me loads of good information. She gave a fresh perspective on things, and also pointed out a few key details that I missed in previous research. She recommended other things to look into pertaining to my project, and even referred me to other sources that I used in conducting research.


This news article talks about Terrell’s legacy. This article talks about the history of
Terrell’s house in Washington D.C., which is now a historical monument. This article includes an interview and quotes from Raymond Langston, Terrell’s last living relative that remembers her. This house actually has a fascinating history, since it was left to Terrell’s daughter Phyllis, and then left to Howard University. Terrell had hoped that the university would use the place to house students who could not afford tuition, but instead the condition of the house was left to deteriorate. Another interesting thing is that the entire neighborhood came together to try to save the house in 2002, when the house was almost torn down.

www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-emancipation-proclamation-takes-effect.
Mary Church Terrell was born the year of the emancipation proclamation. Though African Americans were no longer slaves, many white people still saw them as inferior and did not treat them equally. This plays a large part in Terrell’s experiences with segregation and why the discrimination she faced, especially the discrimination she dealt with at a young age helped shape her to be the person that she was. This article talked about the aftermath of the Emancipation Proclamation and discussed how African Americans still were not treated equally.

Weta. “Eat Anywhere! Mary Church Terrell, the Lost Laws, and the End of Segregation in D.C. Restaurants.” Boundary Stones: WETA’s Washington D.C. History Blog,
This is an article about Ms. Terrell and the Thompson Restaurant Case. This article went into detail when it was talking about the “Lost Laws”, and I learned from this article that Ms. Terrell was actually looking for a restaurant to refuse her service so that she could take it to court and prove that the “Lost Laws” were still in effect. I used this article when I was learning about how the “Lost Laws” played a role in the Thompson Restaurant Case.


www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm.

This is an article from Ferris State University. This article helped me understand what Jim Crow was all about. It made me understand how big Jim Crow was during the time that the Thompson Restaurant Case took place and it helped me understand the historical context of the case. This article listed many examples of Jim Crow laws and rules, and the consequences that you would face if you disobeyed the laws.


This is a TED Talk by James A. White. The speaker addresses racial discrimination issues. Having grown up in the 50s and 60s, the same era that Terrell died in, he faced many examples of segregation. I did not use this source to learn about Mary Church Terrell, as James A. White does not mention her or any other historical figures. I wanted to know firsthand about some of the ways that African Americans were treated unequally back then. This source helped me understand how life was back then.

“You Can't Keep Her Out’: Mary Church Terrell's Fight for Equality in America.”

*Digitizing American Feminisms*, Accessed 5 March 2019


This article described the many ways that Terrell fought for equality. This article made me realize just how much work Terrell did for equality among race and gender, and it talked about how persistent she was in her activism efforts. She had to be persistent, because no one took her seriously since she was an African American woman. I used this source to learn about all of the many ways that she was an activist for equality among the country. For example, she met with politicians regularly and tried to contact government officials whenever she had the opportunity. As can be seen, I used this source to get an idea of how persistent Terrell was to champion
women’s rights, African American rights, and equality among our nation.