



# Anna H. Jones

(b.1855-d.1932)

Anna Holland Jones was born on September 2, 1855, in Chatham, Ontario, Canada to James Monroe Jones and Emily Francis Jones. Anna H. Jones attended university in Michigan, and graduated from Oberlin College in 1875 with an English degree. Devoted to teaching, Anna held a number of academic positions, including one at Wilberforce University in Ohio between 1885 and 1892 where she taught elocution. Jones moved to Kansas City, Missouri in 1892 to accept a teaching position at Lincoln High School. She became the first African American woman to serve as a school principal in the Kansas City, Missouri School District, assuming leadership of Douglass School, located at Twenty-Seventh Street and Jarboe in 1911. She returned to teaching at Lincoln High School in 1916 and retired from teaching in 1919.

Anna H. Jones was actively involved in the Black Women's Club movement. She, along with Josephine Silone Yates, was a co-founder of the Kansas City Colored Women's League in 1893. She served as president of the Missouri Association of Colored Women's clubs from 1903-1906. Inspired by the reading of W.E.B. DuBois' *The Souls of Black Folk*, Jones founded the Book Lovers club, along with Daisy Cook and Callie Edward 1904. She later led the fundraising efforts for the Young Women's Christian Association facility at nineteenth Street and The Paseo. Jones' activism, led her to travel to London in 1900 for the first Pan-African Conference, in the company of other activist of the era including Anna Julia Cooper, Fannie Barrier Williams, and Ella D. Barrier. Jones and Cooper were the only two African-American women to address the Conference. Jones presented a paper titled, "The Preservation of Race Individuality. She is noted to have corresponded with W.E.B. DuBois and in 1905, her two-part essay, "A Century's Progress for the American Colored Woman", appeared in consecutive issues of the *Voice of the Negro* magazine. In her continued advocacy for women, her short essay, "Women Suffrage and Social Reform", appeared in a 1915 issue of *The Crisis*, a publication of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In her article she asked, "Why should a woman not have the legal means-the ballot-to widen and deepen her work?" She expressed that if women had the ballot, society as a whole would be improved noting the states where women had already acquired the right to vote and the improvements that come with women's suffrage.

Anna H. Jones moved to Monrovia, California following retirement where she died on March 7, 1932. In her memory, The Anna H. Jones Colored Women's Club was organized in Monrovia in 1932.

#### Sources:

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