

LEGACY OF MADAM C.J WALKER

Biography rewritten by: Kelly Eugene

In 1910 this woman became the first self-made female millionaire in the United States. Born near Delta, Louisiana (December 23, 1867) to former slaves. She was Madam C.J Walker

Her parents, Owen and Minerva were Louisiana sharecroppers that had been born into slavery. Sarah (Walker) was their fifth child and was the first one of the Breedlove family to be born free after the Emancipation Proclamation. Walker was orphaned at the age of seven. She married to Moses McWilliams at 14, she stated, to escape the abuse of a "cruel" brother in law. Eventually became a widow at the age of 20 with a young daughter named A'Leia, in 1885. She later moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where her elder brothers were barbers. Walker was poorly paid working as a washerwoman, at one point joined St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. She sang and was mentored by teachers and members of the National Association of Colored Women. It was in St. Louis that Walker first met Charles J. Walker, which at one point would become her second husband.

After experiencing a scalp disorder losing much of her hair, Walker started experimenting with her own formula to cure scalp infections that causes baldness. Walker was inspired to create haircare products for Black women. She was a sells woman for two years before she took a cook job for a pharmacist, which whom Walker learned basic chemistry that allowed her to perfect an ointment that healed dandruff. Walker came up with a treatment that would completely change the Black hair care industry. The "Walker system" was based on scalp preparation, lotions and iron combs. Walker's custom pomade was a wild success, other products for Black hair (largely manufactured by white businesses) were also on the market. Walker differentiated hers by mostly emphasizing its attention to marketing the health of thee women who would use it. Walker later mover to Denver, Colorado, in 1905 with \$1.05 to her name. By marketing and producing more products, Walker got many loyal followers. A year later, in 1906, Charles and Walker got married. Madam C.J walker became one of the best-known African Americans for the success of her business, and because "The first Black women millionaire in America." Madam C.J walker died at the age of 51 may25 1919



Madam C.J Walker. Born in December 23, 1867- Died at the age of 51 in May 25, 1919

Short inspirational Quotes from Madam CJ Walker:

"I got my start by giving myself a start."
"I am not ashamed of my past. I am not ashamed of my humble beginning."
"I am not satisfied in making money for myself. I endeavor to provide employment to hundreds of women of my race."

Walker's reputation as an entrepreneur was matched only by her reputation for philanthropy. She established clubs for her employees, encouraging them to give back to their communities and rewarding them with bonuses when they did. At a time when jobs for Black women were limited, she promoted female talent, even stipulating in her company's charter that only a woman could serve as president. She donated generously to educational causes and Black charities, funding scholarships for women at Tuskegee Institute and donating to the NAACP, the Black YMCA, and dozens of other organizations that helped make **Black history**.

<https://www.history.com>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Madam-C-J-Walker>

<https://frugalentrepreneur.com>