

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

Mary Eliza Mahoney



The First African American Nurse

(May 7, 1845 – January 4, 1926)

By
DonnaMarie Woodson

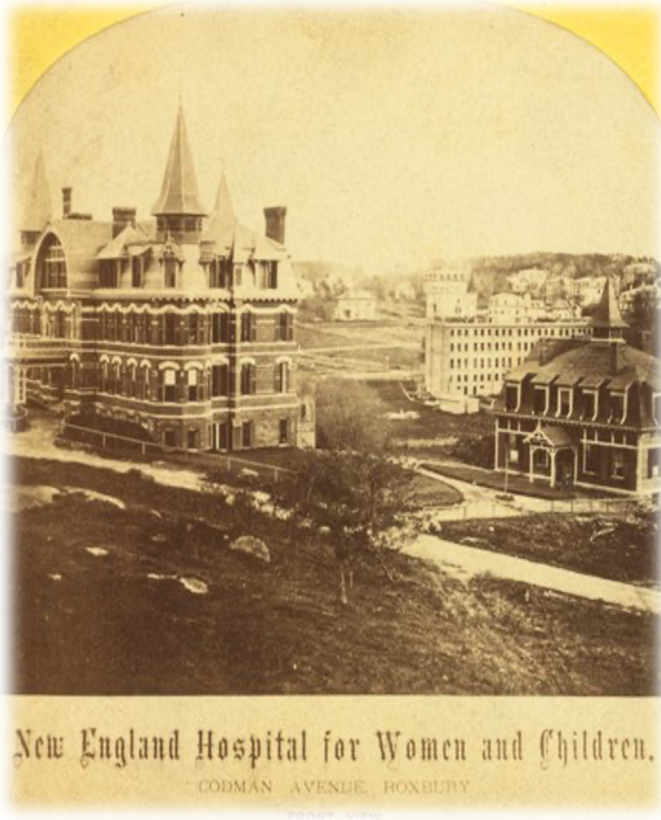


The Phillips School

Mary Eliza Mahoney was born in 1845 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Mahoney's parents were freed slaves, originally from North Carolina, who moved north before the American Civil War in pursuit of a life with less racial discrimination.

Ms. Mahoney was the elder of two children; with one sibling dying early on as a child. She was admitted into the Phillips School at age 10, one of the first integrated schools in Boston, and stayed from first to fourth grade. Phillips School was known for teaching its students the value of morality and humanity, alongside general subjects such as English, History, Arithmetic, etc. It is said this instruction influenced Mahoney's early interest in nursing.

Mary knew early on that she wanted to become a nurse; possibly due to seeing the emergence of nurses during the American Civil War. Black women in the 19th century often had a difficult time becoming trained and licensed nurses. Nursing schools in the South rejected applications from African American women, whereas in the North, though the opportunity was still severely limited, African Americans had a greater chance at acceptance into training and graduate programs.



The New England Hospital for Women and Children, founded by Marie Zakrzewska on July 1, 1862, became the first institution to offer a program allowing women to work towards entering the healthcare industry, which was predominantly led by men.

Mary was admitted into a 16-month program at the New England Hospital for Women and Children (now the Dimock Community

Health Center) and In 1879, at the age of 33, Ms. Mahoney was among the three graduates out of the 40 students who began the program. Mary received her nursing certification, making her the first African American in history to earn a professional nursing license.

It is presumed that the administration accepted Mary, despite not meeting the age criteria (between the ages of 21 and 31), because of her connection to the hospital through prior work as a cook, maid, and washerwoman there when she was 18 years old. Ms. Mahoney worked nearly 16 hours daily for the 15 years that she worked as a laborer.

Mary's training required her to spend at least one year in the hospital's various wards to gain universal nursing knowledge. The work within the program was intensive and consisted of long days with a 5:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. shift, requiring Ms. Mahoney to attend

lectures and lessons to educate herself through the instruction of doctors in the ward. These 12 hour lectures classes consisted of nursing in families, physiological subjects, food for the sick, surgical nursing, child-bed nursing, disinfectants, and general nursing

Mary Mahoney worked as a nurse for the next four decades. During her 40-year career she attracted a number of private clients who were



Howard Orphan Asylum

among the most prominent Boston families. The diminutive five-foot tall, ninety-pound Mahoney devoted herself to private nursing due to the rampant discrimination against black women in public nursing at the time.

Her reputation was impeccable as she worked all across the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. In addition, Mary served as director of the [Howard Orphan Asylum](#) for Black children in Long Island, New York.

Ms. Mahoney was an original member of (NAAUSC), the predominately White Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada – known later as [the American Nurses Association \(ANA\)](#). In the early 1900s, the NAAUSC did not welcome African-American nurses into their association. In response, Mahoney co-founded a new, more welcoming nurse's association, with the help of [Martha Minerva Franklin](#) and [Adah B. Thoms](#). In 1908, she became co-founder of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN). This association did not discriminate against anyone and aimed to support and congratulate the accomplishments of all outstanding nurses, and to eliminate racial discrimination in the nursing community.

In 1909, Mahoney spoke at the the National Association of Colored



Mary Mahoney (bottom row, center) activist/advocate for African Americans in the nursing profession.

Graduate Nurses first annual convention, which became the first time that Martha Minerva Franklin and Adah Belle Samuels Thoms met Mary Mahoney in person.

The NACGN struggled in their

early stages with only 26 female nurses in attendance of their first national convention. In her speech, Mary recognized the inequalities in her nursing education, and in nursing education of the day. The NACGN members gave Mahoney a lifetime membership in the association and a position as the organization's chaplain. In 1951, the NACGN merged with the ANA.

After over 40 years of nursing service, Mary retired and turned her focus to women's equality. The progression was natural given her fight for minority rights during her professional career. In 1920, she was among the first women to register to vote in Boston, Massachusetts.



Mary Mahoney died on January 4, 1926, at the age of 80, after a three-year battle with breast cancer. She was laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett, Massachusetts.

Ten years after her death, the NACGN established the Mary Mahoney award, which is given to women who contributed to racial integration in nursing. After the NACGN was dissolved in 1951, the ANA continued presenting the award. In recognition of significant contributions in advancing equal opportunities in nursing for members of minority groups, the award is still given out today.



The national African American sorority, Chi Eta Phi, erected a monument of Mahoney after restoring her gravesite in 1973. Nurses from across the country came to remember Mary Mahoney. Three years later, Mary Eliza Mahoney was inducted into the Nursing Hall of Fame. She was

inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.

Mary Mahoney was not just an inspiration to African American women, but to the entire nursing profession. Her drive and passion for nursing helped shape the standards at which the profession has come to expect and continues to develop.

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Editorial

“Tax the Rich”

By

Tarik Kiley

October 25, 2021

As most of us are aware, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (A.O.C) made headlines when she wore a dress to the Met Gala



saying, “Tax the Rich.” It is clear that A.O.C was attempting to deliver a message. What does tax the rich mean? She is alluding to the idea of progressive taxation. The idea of progressive taxation is that the rich pay more money in taxes than the middle class or the poor. In other words, the rich pay more money, but it is in proportion to what they are worth monetarily.

In other words, 30% of \$1,000,000 is significantly more

than 30% of \$1,000. But, proportionately speaking a person with a million dollars will still have significant amount more in earnings, after being taxed at that rate, then a person with only \$1,000 in earnings. 30% of a million dollars is \$300,000. 30% of 1 thousand dollars is \$300. But, if you take \$300,000 from my 1 million dollars, I still have

\$700,000 left to my name. If you take \$300 from my \$1,000, then I only have \$700 left to my name. Do you understand the logic here? The idea is for the rich to pay their fair share in taxes.

Now, people in higher tax brackets may feel that they are being fleeced because they are paying more in taxes than those in lower tax brackets. But the idea here is that only those who can afford to pay more should be made to pay more.

According to corporatefinanceinstitute.com, examples of progressive taxation include:

- **Investment income taxes:** These are taxes on investment income-generating activities. They tend to impact those with excess money that save and engage in investment.
- **Tax on interest earned:** Interest is earned from savings or investments and is considered passive income.
- **Rental earnings:** Although there is a chance to deduct all the costs associated with building operations, once they are done, this is a very progressive kind of tax since it targets those who invest in rental property.
- **Estate tax:** This is a form of tax levied against the assets of those who have deceased. It typically applies where the value of the estate of the deceased is above a certain amount as set by the government.
- **Tax credits:** These are benefits and perks awarded to less fortunate citizens by the government to save them some cash. They are many and might include earned income tax credit, elderly and disabled tax credit, child tax credit, or retirement savings contribution credit.

It seems that the opposition to progressive taxation comes from a certain amount of greed. American rugged individualism puts into the forefront, the idea of the “self-made man” “*pull yourself up by your bootstraps,*” and work your way into success.

This doesn't consider the "*birth lottery*" where some people are born into wealth, or advantages that come with race and class. Also, just because you pay a part of the tax burden that you are quite capable of paying, doesn't mean that there is not a significant amount of your money that you should be able to keep. People who earn more should be able to keep a great share of the money that they earn. The rich shouldn't be taxed into poverty, or be given a disincentive to work, but at the same time, if they own a lion's share, then they should be able to pay a proportion that is indicative of that. It just makes sense that everyone in society should be willing to chip in and share the burden.

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Announcements



N. Meck Democrats Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 4th at 7:00 PM

ZOOM

N. Mecklenburg Progressives Dinner

Monday, Nov 8th at 6:00 PM

RSVP Michelle Blumenthal

n.meck.progressives@gmail.com

ZOOM

Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum

Monday, Nov 8th – 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Fundraiser and discussion: “rural voter research and strategy to amplify rural voices

Zoom, Register [here](#).

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

November Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 10th 7:00 PM

RSVP via Facebook Page

ZOOM

Announcements



Senior Democrats of Mecklenburg County

November Membership Meeting
Friday, November 12th at 11:30am
RSVP via Facebook Page
Zoom

Bippity Boppity Bingo

Event by RAIN, Inc.
Saturday, November 13th - 5 PM – 10 PM
Charlotte Convention Center
Tickets: <https://www.gaybingoctl.org/tickets>
(BINGO IS A VACCINATED ONLY EVENT)



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by
the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery!



The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Rev Glencie Rhedrick

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

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