

Madam C. J. Walker
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Back in fourth grade, I learned a lot about Indiana history and all the great people who called Indiana their home. We talked about many amazing people, but the one I really remember most was Madam C. J. Walker. She was an inventor and an accomplished businesswoman who never forgot the women she set out to help.

Sarah Breedlove (Madam C.J. Walker) was not always the wealthy entrepreneur she is known as today. She grew up on a plantation in the south with both of her parents dying when she was only eight years old. Her older sister stepped in and took care of her through the hard times. After many years, she finally got the chance to go to school. However, she faced yet another big obstacle; one that all african-american women faced at the time. Lack of a healthy diet caused her hair to fall out. After trying several products unsuccessfully, she decided to experiment herself to find a hair care product that worked. Sarah's mission was to help all african-american women feel beautiful and self-confident by improving the appearance of their hair.

In 1906, Sarah married Charles J. Walker and got her new name. Soon after, Madam Walker started to advertise her products. She opened a beauty school in Pittsburg, to train sales beauticians so the women could earn money. In 1910, business operations were transferred to Indianapolis, Indiana, where the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company became hugely successful, with profits that were the modern day equivalent of several million dollars. Madam Walker was able to help many people because she was wealthy. She donated the largest amount of money by an african-american toward the construction of an Indianapolis Y.M.C.A. and provided countless jobs for african-american women.

The dictionary's definition of a heroine is a person of great courage and spirit, especially one who has undergone considerable difficulty. This truly is an appropriate description of Madam C. J. Walker. Her perseverance helped her push through many obstacles. Even though she was an african-american, a woman, and had a rough childhood, she didn't let these challenges keep her from her goal. She was determined to make a difference in the lives of young women. Her journey is inspirational. She was an honorable woman who wanted to share her success with others. She reminds me that no matter what place a person may be in his or her life and no matter how busy one may be, you should always take time to give back to others. Madam C. J. Walker was a wonderful philanthropist and role model for all women. I am proud to call her my Hoosier Heroine.

"Madam C.J. Walker." Bio. A&E Television Networks, 2015. Web. 16 Feb. 2015.