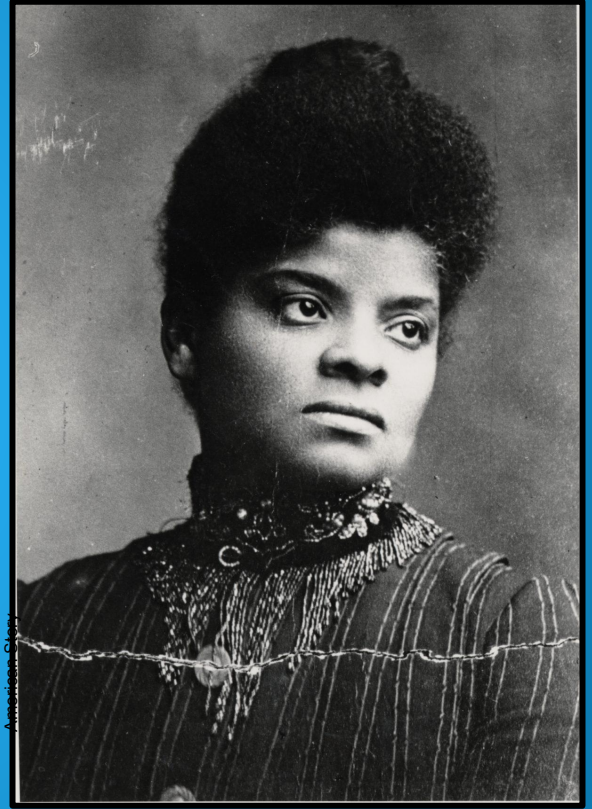


Ida B. Wells-Barnett

The One Who Started It All

By: Keeli, Jillian, and Sophie

"Life Story: Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931)," ca. 1893-1894, Women and the American Story



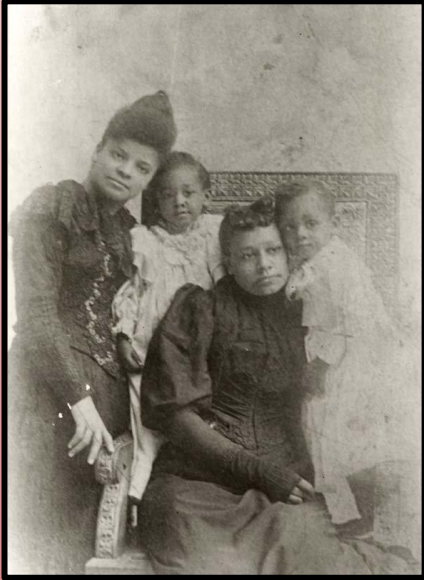
Thesis Statement

Ida B. Wells utilizes her bold communication skills through journalism and activism to fight for gender equality, racial equality, anti-lynching, and equal education. Despite the risks involved, Ida continually communicated the underlying racist truths to the events that were commonly occurring during this time period. Her efforts stand as a timeless reminder of her strength and endurance as she moved toward her goals.

Background

“The South is brutalized to a degree not realized by its own inhabitants, and the very foundation of government, law and order, and imperilled”

-Ida B. Wells



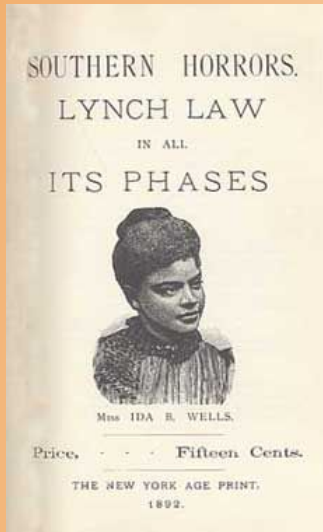
"Ida B. Wells and family", 1892, University of Chicago Library

- Ida B. Wells was born into slavery in 1862
- Six months later she was freed with the Emancipation Proclamation
- Growing up, her parents became activists of the Republican party
 - Her father helped co-found Shaw University
 - Ida later attended Shaw until she had to drop out to care for her siblings after yellow fever killed her parents and brother
- In 1882, Ida moved her family to Memphis, Tennessee to enroll in Fisk University

Build Up

“Virtue knows no color line, and the chivalry which depends upon complexion of skin and texture of hair can command no honest respect.”

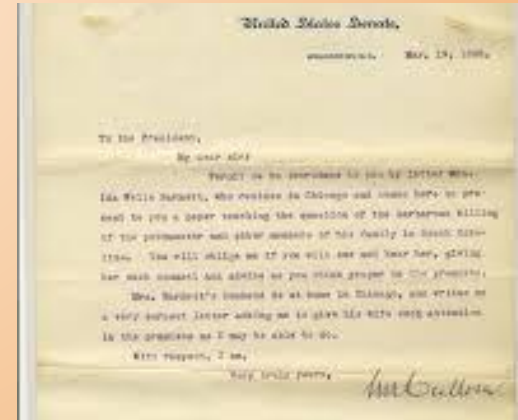
Ida B. Wells-Barnett, The Red Record, 1895



"Southern Horrors: Lynch Law In All Its Phases", 1892, scholar.usc.edu

- In 1883, Ida B. Wells was on the first class ladies train cart but was forcefully removed due to her skin color
- 1892, 3 African American men, who were friends of Ida, were beat and shot to death by a white mob after they protected The People's Grocery in Memphis from an angry mob
 - Ida wrote Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases to spread word of the lynchings down South by spreading thousands of copies. She had to leave town due to all the threats she was receiving

- Ida was fired from her job as a teacher for speaking up about the unequal school funding for blacks (letter shown to the right)



1898. Rediscovering Black History

Heart Of The Story

“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them”

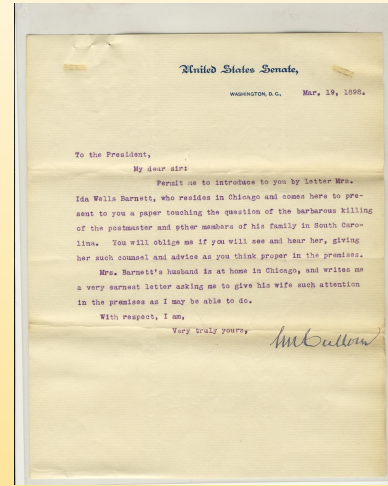
-Ida B. Wells-Barnett

- Lynching issues brought to President McKinley in 1898 by Ida undercover as Republican senator Shelby Moore Cullom
 - Wrote a letter to the president saying he should hear what Ida B. Wells has to say on lynching
 - No response has been found regarding her letter



Watch this video about
Ida's journalism journey

"Letter to president from senator", 1898, rediscovering black history



- Her writings were a way to communicate and help solve the many lynchings happening down South
- Marched in the front of a Womens Suffrage parade in Washington even after others wouldn't allow it

Short Term Impact

“I am not taking this stand because I personally wish for recognition. I am doing it for the future benefit of my whole race.”

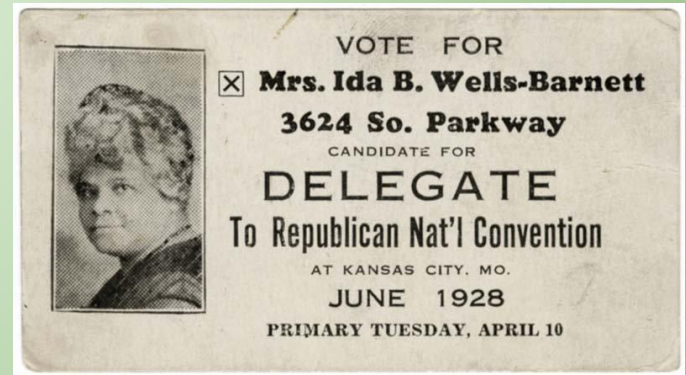
-Ida B. Wells, March 1913



"Chicago History Museum/Getty Images," 1920, Ida B. Wells

- Co-founded the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago in 1913
 - Club taught women to be politically active and promote black candidates for office
- Established the first black kindergarten in Chicago
 - Used creative ways to help black children get proper education by opening the school first in a church accepting both black and white students

- Ida ran for the Illinois State Senator chair in 1930
- Died in 1931



June, 1928, National Trust For Historic Preservation

Long Term Impact

“One had better die fighting against injustice than to
die like a dog or a rat in a trap”
— Ida B. Wells



- Awarded posthumous Pulitzer Prize to recognize her "outstanding and courageous" reporting about lynching
- Honored with Ida B. Wells Commemorative Stamp, 1990
- Wrote newspaper articles spreading the ongoing issues in America
- Ida is remembered for dedicating her life to communicating to people that blacks and women deserve the same equality as anyone else

- In 2018, Chicago named a street after her
 - Activists raised \$300,000 to erect a monument to Ida B. Wells-Barnett



“I think Ida B. Wells should be remembered as an African-American woman who battled both racism and sexism at a time when it was extremely dangerous to speak out... She used her gift of writing, speaking and organizing to help shed light on injustice. She was extremely brave and held steadfast to her convictions despite being criticized, ostracized and marginalized by her contemporaries.”

-Michelle Duster, great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells
