

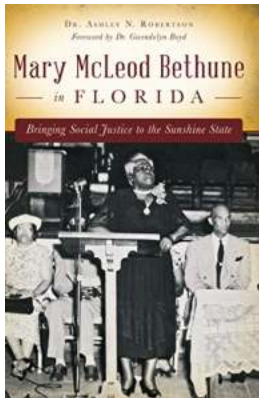
# Mary McLeod Bethune: A Remarkable Journey in Florida

A Legacy of Education and Empowerment



Florida, also known as the Sunshine State, has been home to many influential individuals who have made a significant impact on society. When it comes to

women's rights, civil rights, and education, few names carry the same weight as Mary McLeod Bethune. From her humble beginnings to her remarkable achievements, Mary McLeod Bethune's journey in Florida is a testament to the power of determination, perseverance, and the pursuit of knowledge. Join us as we explore the life and legacy of this remarkable woman.



## Mary McLeod Bethune in Florida: Bringing Social Justice to the Sunshine State

by Ashley N. Robertson (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2774 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 147 pages  
Lending : Enabled



### Early Life and Education

Mary McLeod Bethune was born on July 10, 1875, in South Carolina to parents who had been enslaved. Her parents instilled in her a love for education and a desire to make a difference. Against all odds, Bethune pursued higher education and became one of the first African American women to attend and graduate from Scotia Seminary (now Barber-Scotia College) in North Carolina.

### Founding of the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School

In 1904, Mary McLeod Bethune moved to Daytona Beach, Florida, with just \$1.50 to her name. With a steadfast commitment to improving the lives of African

American students, she founded the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls. This school, which started in a small rented cottage, would later grow into the influential Bethune-Cookman University.

## **Influence on African American Education**

Bethune's dedication to education went beyond the establishment of her own school. She actively fought for equal educational opportunities for African American students in Florida and beyond. Her efforts resulted in the creation of the Florida State Association of Colored Women's Clubs, where she served as president.

## **The National Council of Negro Women**

In 1935, Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), an organization that aimed to address the needs and concerns of African American women. Through the NCNW, Bethune advocated for gender and racial equality, economic empowerment, and educational opportunities. Her tireless work earned her recognition as one of the most influential women of her time.

## **An Advisor to Presidents**

Throughout her career, Bethune's influence extended to the political realm. She became an advisor to multiple U.S. Presidents, including Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Her role as an advisor allowed her to advocate for policies that would benefit African Americans and women, making her a trailblazer for future generations.

## **The Legacy Continues**

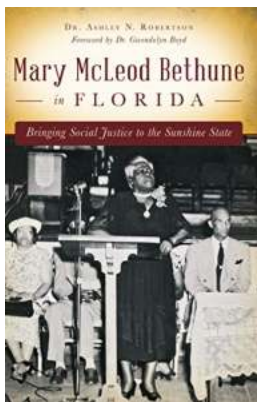
Mary McLeod Bethune passed away on May 18, 1955, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire. Her contributions to education and civil rights have

impacted countless lives and helped shape the landscape of equality in America. Today, Bethune-Cookman University stands as a testament to her vision and dedication.

## Celebrating Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune's remarkable journey in Florida serves as a reminder that individual actions can create lasting change. Her commitment to education, women's rights, and civil rights has left an indelible mark on history. As we celebrate and honor her legacy, let us remember the power of education and the importance of fighting for equality for all.

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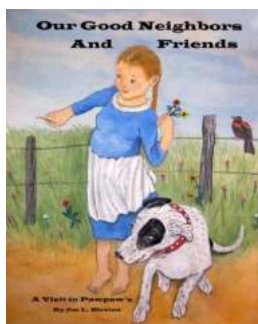
A vibrant biography of the woman who shaped the political climate of Daytona Beach with her civil rights, women's rights, and education activism.

Mary McLeod Bethune was often called the “First Lady of Negro America,” but she made significant contributions to the political climate of Florida as well. From the founding of the Daytona Literary and Industrial School for Training Negro Girls in 1904, Bethune galvanized African American women for change. She created an environment in Daytona Beach that, despite racial tension throughout the state, allowed Jackie Robinson to begin his journey to integrating Major League Baseball less than two miles away from her school. Today, her legacy lives through a number of institutions, including Bethune-Cookman University and the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation National Historic Landmark. Historian Ashley Robertson explores the life, leadership and amazing contributions of this dynamic activist.



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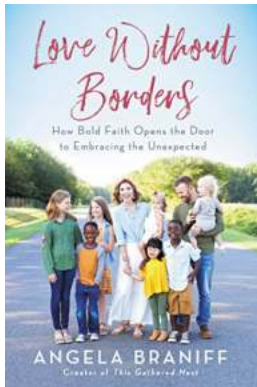
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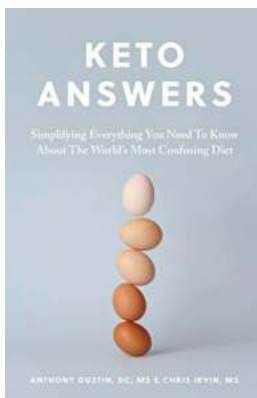
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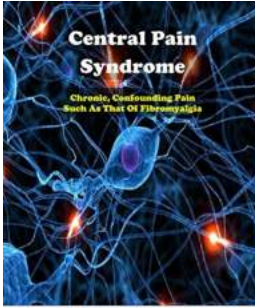
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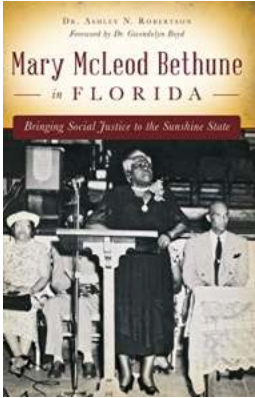
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*Anura Guruge*

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