

Ida B. Wells-Barnett

by: Emili Wall

“As for myself I don’t care. I’d rather go down in history as one lone Negro who dared to tell the government that it has done a dastardly things than to save my skin by taking back what I have said. I would consider it an honor to spend whatever years are necessary in prison as the one member of the race who protested.” Ida B. Wells

Birth: July 16, 1862

Hometown: Holy Spring, Mississippi

Family: Husband-Ferdinand Barnett (Chicago Lawyer)

Four Children-Charles, Herman, Ida, Alfreda

Death: March 25, 1931

Place of Death: Chicago, Illinois

Parents: James and Elizabeth Wells

Six siblings

Accomplishments:

- Editor and writer for numerous newspapers
- Orator that traveled around the U.S. and Europe
- Anti-Lynching Movement
- Author of several pamphlets concerning the injustices of the day
- Mother of four children
- Helped found the National Association of Colored Women
- Helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; served as the first financial secretary
- Involved in the National Afro-American Council
- Organized and ran the Negro Fellowship League Reading Room and Social Center in Chicago
- Involved in the Women’s Suffrage movement
- Started the Alpha Suffrage Club for African-American women
- Ran for Illinois State Senate

Ida’s name has gone down in history as a crusader for equality. Her life was a whirlwind of activity against the evils of discrimination. She refused to let the world be blind to discrimination. Her writing and other activities brought public awareness to discrimination against African-Americans and women.