

[Episode 19 - Euphemia Haynes Transcript]

(Christina) Good evening. My name is Christina Che. I'll be talking about Euphemia Lofton Haynes. Lofton was born on September 11th, 1890, in Washington D.C. She was a fourth generation Washingtonian and was born into a socially prominent African American family. Both parents were active in their community. Lofton graduated from Mariner Normal School in Washington, D.C. in 1909. After high school, she attended Smith College in Massachusetts, earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in psychology in 1914. In 1917, Lofton married Harold Haynes. These two became a powerhouse and became influential leaders in Washington's African American school system. Euphemia taught in the public school system. Her husband later became a principle and deputy superintendent in charge of Washington's colored schools. While teaching in the public school system, Euphemia went on to earn her master's degree in education from the University of Chicago in 1930. Euphemia was also a professor of mathematics at Mariner Teacher's College and taught at the District of Columbia's Teacher's College. During her time there, she established the mathematics department. At the District of Columbia's Teacher's College she served as the Chair of the Division of Mathematics and Business Education. In 1943, she earned her PhD in mathematics from the Catholic University of America, making her the first African American to earn a PhD in mathematics from the university. After retiring from the public school system in 1959, Euphemia devoted herself to many causes and organizations. She was definitely involved in her community and had a passion to serve the people in her community. The Catholic University awarded Euphemia a papal medal. After retiring, Haynes joined the District's Board of Education. In 1966, she became the Board's president. Euphemia was the first African American woman to hold this position. During her presidency she worked to set up collective bargaining rights for teachers in D.C., allowing teachers the right to regulate their working conditions along with their employers and continue to fight racial segregation. Euphemia died on July 25, 1980, at the age of 89. She gave the Catholic University \$700,000 from her estate from which endowed a chair and established a student loan fund. Euphemia's legacy will live on. Thank you for listening.