

Hi, I'm
Harriet.



TALKING HISTORY

with

Harriet and Roxanne™

Early Black Women Doctors

And I'm
Roxanne.
Join us for...



Today, we are going to learn about 19th Century doctors.

This is what a doctor's office looked like then.

This looks different from my doctor's office!






It sure does, Roxanne!

Let's go over to a modern doctor's office, and I will tell you stories about early black women doctors.

Awesome!





Does this look more like your doctor's office?

Yes, it does.

Now, I can't wait to hear about these early Black women doctors!

Do you know when the first Black female graduated from medical school?

I'm not sure

It was **1864!** Just at the end of the Civil War when Rebecca Lee Crumpler graduated.

Tell me more!

A BOOK
OF
MEDICAL DISCOURSES

IN TWO PARTS.

PART FIRST:

TREATING OF THE CAUSE, PREVENTION, AND CURE OF INFANTILE BOWEL COMPLAINTS, FROM BIRTH TO THE CLOSE OF THE TEETHING PERIOD, OR TILL AFTER THE FIFTH YEAR.

PART SECOND:

CONTAINING MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LIFE AND GROWTH OF BEINGS; THE BEGINNING OF WOMANHOOD; ALSO, THE CAUSE, PREVENTION, AND CURE OF MANY OF THE MOST DISTRESSING COMPLAINTS OF WOMEN, AND ~~YOUTH~~ OF BOTH SEXES.

✓ BY
REBECCA CRUMPLER, M. D.




BOSTON:
CASHMAN, KEATING & CO., PRINTERS,
FAYETTE COURT, 601 WASHINGTON ST.
1883.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler (1831-1895) battled deep-seated prejudice against women and Blacks in medicine.

She collaborated with the Freedmen's Bureau and helped the newly freed slaves.

In 1883, she published her book, *Medical Discourses*, a guide for maternal and child health. She encouraged more Blacks to become doctors.





Harriet, that was amazing! Do you have anymore Black women doctors to tell us about?

Yes, our next doctor is Susan Smith McKinney (1847-1918).

She was the third Black woman to receive her medical degree in the United States.

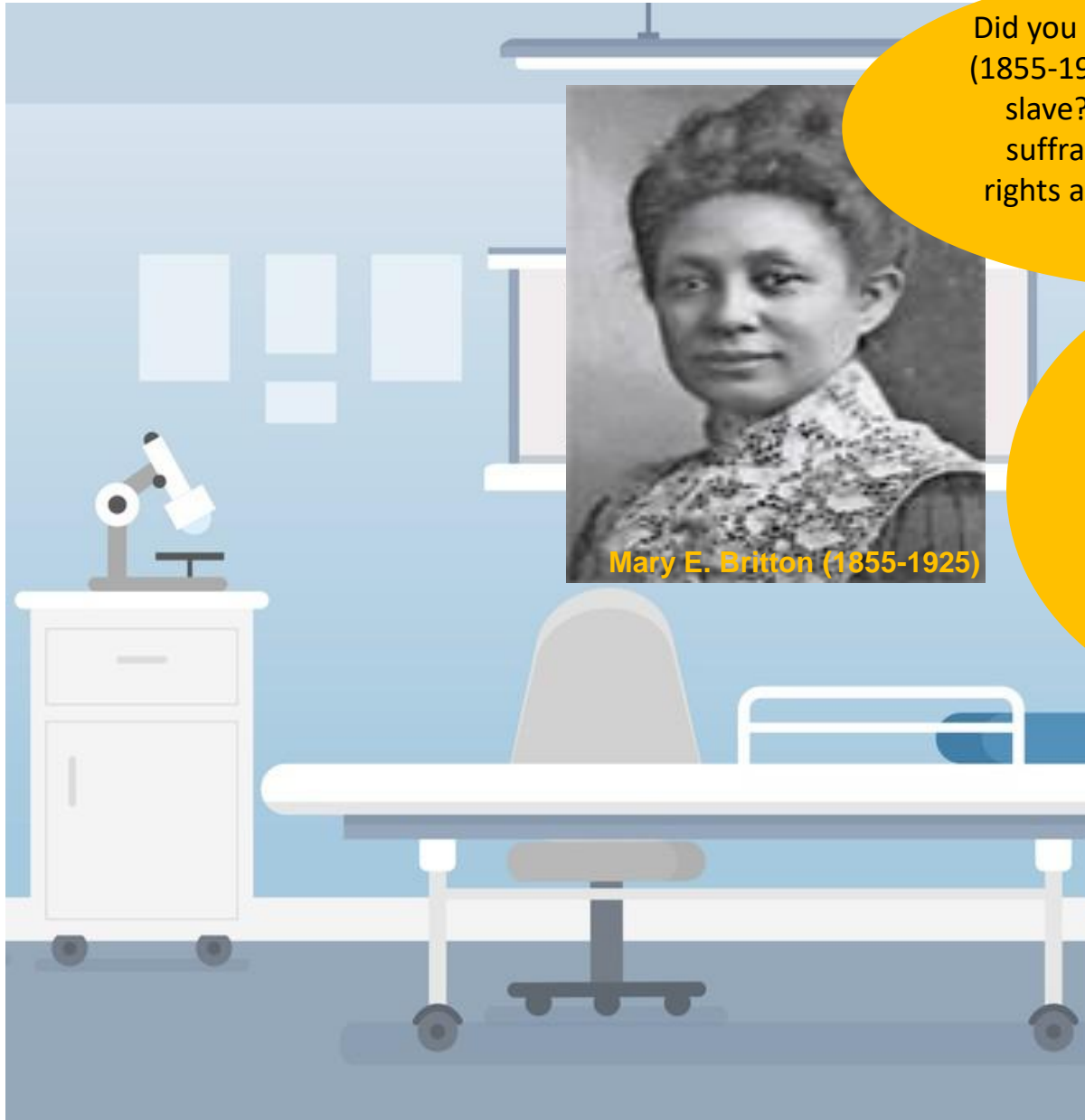
Dr. McKinney graduated from New York Medical College for Women as valedictorian in 1870 and started a private practice in Brooklyn, New York.



I am so impressed!



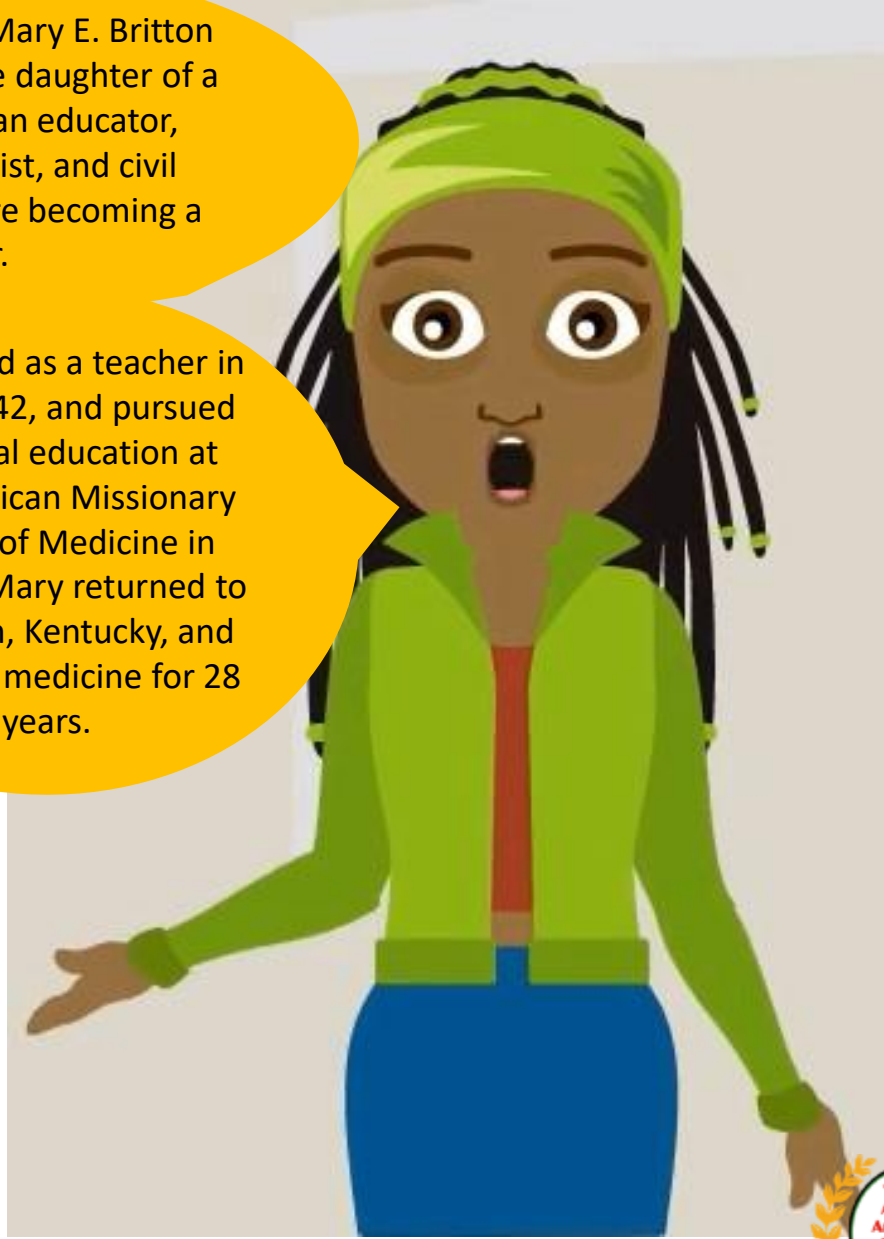
Dr. McKinney specialized in prenatal care and childhood diseases. She co-founded Brooklyn Women's Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary and practiced medicine for 48 years. Later, Dr. McKinney joined Wilberforce University as the resident physician and faculty member to teach health and nutrition. Dr. McKinney was one of the most successful doctors of her time.



Mary E. Britton (1855-1925)

Did you know that Mary E. Britton (1855-1925) was the daughter of a slave? Mary was an educator, suffragist, journalist, and civil rights activist before becoming a doctor.

She retired as a teacher in 1897, at 42, and pursued a medical education at the American Missionary College of Medicine in Chicago. Mary returned to Lexington, Kentucky, and practiced medicine for 28 years.





Who is this?

The photo is of Georgia Lee Patton (1864-1900).


She was born into slavery, and after the Civil War, her mother, who worked as a laundress, moved the family to Tennessee.

Georgia finished high school, and her siblings helped send her to Central Tennessee College in Nashville, Tennessee, and she graduated in 1890.



That is amazing!

Wonderful.



Later, Georgia went to Meharry Medical Department of Central Tennessee College and graduated in 1893. She opened her practice in Memphis and was the first Black woman licensed as a doctor and surgeon in Memphis, Tennessee.



Roxanne, this is Ida Grey (1867-1953) from Cincinnati, Ohio.


She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1890 as the first Black dentist in America.

She had an equal number of Blacks and Whites in her thriving practice.




It must have been hard to be the first Black dentist.



A woman with long black braids, wearing a green headband, a green jacket over a red top, and a blue skirt, stands in a classroom. She is smiling and looking towards the right. In the background, there is a desk with a computer monitor, a potted plant, and a chalkboard.

All these women were born between 1831 to 1867. Slavery, segregation, and prejudice could not stop them from achieving their goals and getting an education.

These women were influential leaders and blazed a trail for others to follow.

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a blue shirt, black overalls, and brown boots, stands in a classroom. She has her hands on her hips and is smiling. In the background, there are blue chairs and a window with a sign.

I am so proud of all of them, and it encourages me to achieve my very best.

I can't wait for our next lesson. Please come back soon for more **Talking History with Harriet & Roxanne.**



Help us keep educating America about black history. To keep this information coming, consider supporting us by donating at

<https://www.yocumblackhistory.org/donate/>

