Ida B. Wells-Barnett: An Exploratory Study Of An American Black Woman, 1893-1930

Mildred I. Thompson

Ida Bell (16 July 1862—25 March 1931), editor and antilynching activist, was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, the daughter of James Wells and Elizabeth Warrenton, slaves. Son of his master, James Wells was a carpenter's apprentice and opened his own shop after emancipation. The eldest of eight children, Ida attended Rust College in Holly Springs until 1878, when a yellow fever epidemic killed her parents and one of her six siblings (another had died some years before). Trudier Harris (1991), and Mildred Thompson, Ida B. Wells-Barnett: An Exploratory Study of an American Black Woman, 1893-1930 (1990). Some of her private writings are in The Memphis Diary of Ida B. Wells, ed. Miriam DeCosta-Willis (1995). Series IX: Ida B. Wells Woman's Club. Series X: Racial Conflict, Secondary Material. Series XI: Ida B. Wells, Secondary Biographical Materials. These materials are presented as historical resources in support of study and research. Inclusion of such materials does not constitute an endorsement of their content by the University of Chicago. The University of Chicago Library appreciates hearing from anyone who may have information about any of the images in this collection.