Martha May Eliot: Life and Legacy 1891-1978

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- Mary Jackson May and Christopher Rhodes Eliot
- William G. Eliot
- T.S. Eliot
First Wave Feminism: Suffrage and Systems
- **1848**: Declaration of Sentiments, Seneca Falls
- **1869**: National Woman Suffrage Association and American Woman Suffrage Association formed; Wyoming grants women the right to vote
- **1890**: National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) formed
- **1896**: National Association of Colored Women is formed
- **1903**: National Woman Trade Union League (WTUL) is formed
1913: Congressional Union is formed
1919: Federal Women’s Suffrage Amendment is passed by Congress and Senate
1920: 19th Amendment to the Constitution is signed into law
1935: National Council of Negro Women formed
1955: Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) formed
1961: Kennedy establishes the Commission on the Status of Women
1963: Equal Pay Act passed
Maternal and Child Health: Pushing Forward
- **1847**: American Medical Association (AMA) established
- **1855**: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia established
- **1872**: American Public Health Association (APHA) established
- **1874**: Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children established
- **1881**: Abolition of Child Labor becomes top priority for AFL
- **1888**: American Pediatric Society Established
- **1889**: Hull House Settlement Established
- **1893**: First State CSHCN Program
- **1904**: First National Child Labor Committee
- **1907**: First Bureau of Child Hygiene
- **1909**: White House Conference on Dependent Children; American Association for Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality organized
- **1910**: Pasteurization of milk identified as best way to ensure delivery
- **1912**: Children's Bureau established
- **1915**: National Birth Registry
- **1916**: Keating-Owen Act; Margaret Sanger opens first U.S. birth control clinic
- **1918**: Establishment of Schools of Public Health
- **1919**: White House Conference on Standards of Child Welfare
- **1920**: Cities of 100,000+ Provide MCH
- **1921**: APHA Section: Child Hygiene; Sanger forms the American Birth Control League (PP)
- **1921-1929**: Maternity and Infancy Care Act/Sheppard Towner Act
- **1929**: Maternity and Infancy Care Act/Sheppard Towner Act Repealed
- **1935**: Title V of the Social Security Act
An Education: Women, Privilege, and Oppression
Undergraduate Education

- Radcliffe
  - Classical Literature
  - Premedical Studies

- Bryn Mawr
  - Year of Study
  - Ethel Collins Dunham

- Graduated in 1913

- Application submitted to Harvard Medical School
John's Hopkins School of Medicine: 1914-1918
"You see, even if I am studying here, and if I should practice, I want to keep attached to the social end of it; in other words, to be some kind of a social doctor, though what kind I don't know."

--Martha May Eliot

1915
Internship Year

- Both Dunham and Eliot planned to take internships at John’s Hopkins.
- Dunham awarded Internship in Pediatrics.
- Chair of Pediatrics--John Howland--refused admitting more than one woman.
- Peter Brigham Hospital, Boston.
Residency

- St. Louis Children’s Hospital
  - One of the first three women interns
- 1921: Edwards A. Park’s new Department of Pediatrics at Yale Medical School
  - Chief Resident at Yale
Leadership
Research and Rickets

- **1925**: 3-year study of the prevention of rickets
  - Recommendations:
    - Vitamin D
    - Cod-liver oil
    - Sunlight
  - Puerto Rico

- **1930**: Published essay on Rickets in Joseph Brenneman’s *Practice of Pediatrics*
Research and World War II

- 1941-1945: Ran Emergency Maternity and Infant Care Program in the US
  - 1.5 million servicemen’s families
  - Congress gave program $130 million
  - 1948: Lasker Award

- 1942: Studied the Impact of wartime evacuation on young children in England
  - Published report *Civil Defense Measures for the Protection of Children*
Maternal and Child Health

- **1924**: Named Director of the Children Bureau’s Division of Child and Maternal Health
- **1934**: Appointed Assistant Chief of Children’s Bureau
- **1935**: Title V of the Social Security Act to establish special projects to *extend and improve* health care of mothers and children.
American Public Health Association

- **1947**: First woman to be elected president
- **1958**: First woman to receive the Sedgwick Memorial Award
- **1964**: Martha May Eliot Award Established
Harvard School of Public Health

- **1957-1960**: Department Chair: Child and Maternal Health
- **1958-1959**: Dr. Naomi Morris
  - Mass State Health Department
  - Inspiring: opportunity to see the world through her eyes
- **1999**: Dr. Morris Receives Martha May Eliot Award
Global Health

- League of Nations
- United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
World Health Organization

- Served on the US delegation to the first-ever World Health Assembly
- Only woman to sign the founding document of the WHO
- 1949: Served as the assistant director general of the WHO
  - “spinster in steel specs, adviser on maternity”
Questions?
Sources