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Mrs. Ben L. Hooks
1860 S. Parkway E.
Memphis, Tn. 38114

Black Women in America

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Black women have been doubly victimized by scholarly neglect and racist assumptions. *We belong* as they do to ~~two~~ ^{two} groups traditionally treated as inferiors by American society...^{1st} Black and women...^{we} they have been doubly invisible. ^{our} Their records lie buried, unread, infrequently noticed and even more seldom interpreted. ^{our} Their names and their achievements are known only to a few ~~specialists~~.

Today's Black Women (Gerda Lerner)

No longer content to be "doubly invisible," the black woman of today is fighting to obtain her rightful place in American society. Suffering from discrimination and prejudice, ^{we} she has been restricted by racism and sexism. Very little is generally known of early attempts to achieve political, social and economic equality. The women's suffrage movement, which predated the Emancipation Proclamation (1863), lost some of its momentum and supporters as national attention was given to achieving civil and human rights for all blacks. While black women, along with their white sisters, were not to gain voting rights for many years, they effectively used their voices and their pens to press for their demands and keep the issues of women's rights alive.

With the passage of the 19th Amendment (1920) to the Constitution 60 years later, the right to vote was granted to women, and with it came new hope. Equipped with the vote, women of all races fought to improve their status in a hostile society. This resulted

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in a gradual elimination of barriers. Today whether spiritually free or in chains, the black woman is continuing to achieve despite the odds. We can no longer ignore the struggle, nor can we deny the equality ^{we} she has striven to achieve.

Louise D. Hutchinson, Lary Rosenblatt