

May Martin (Stafford) (1868-1908)
Professor and Early Graduate of Gallaudet

Quote: "...I would say this to every deaf girl and woman: learn whatever you have a chance to learn; keep your eyes open, your mind attentive, your hands active; try to find out what talents you have.."



[Photo from *The Silent Worker* (1908)]

Born: April 28, 1868

New York City

Died: October 22 1908

Buried in Rock Creek Cemetery

Washington, DC

Family of origin:

Became Deaf at age 7

Father: David W. Martin from Pennsylvania (physician)

Mother: Ann Martin from New York

Schooling:

NY School for the Deaf/Fanwood Institute (1878-1891)

-organized a 'literary and social club'

-received "Holbrook Gold Medal" for highest excellence in her senior class

National Deaf Mute College (Bachelor's Degree 1894—1891-1894)

Co-founder of OWLS, the Jollity Club, and Buff and Blue

assistant editor of Buff and Blue/valedictorian

National Deaf Mute College (Masters Degree. 1900)

Professional Experiences:

As a college student assisted Dr. Fay in compiling Statistics about Deaf people
Instructor at Kendall School and the
English Instructor at the National Deaf Mute College
and also instructor at Kendall School (1895-1900)

Personal information:

1900 Married Henry Lothrop Stafford (Deaf) (US Railways clerk and US
Steel/Mining Company worker)
One daughter, Faith

Contributions/Relationship to the Deaf Community

First Deaf Woman to receive a Master's Degree at National Deaf Mute College
First Deaf Woman faculty member of National Deaf Mute College

Quote:

"...I would say this to every deaf girl and woman: learn whatever you have a chance
to learn; keep your eyes open, your mind attentive, your hands active; try to find out
what talents you have, and bring them into play until they yield you your daily
bread; first, last, and evermore, do not be discouraged:---after each rebuff, try anew;
you will win at last."
(1899, pg. 81)

List of original documents/links:

Martin, May (1900). Employments Open to Deaf Women. Proceedings of the Sixth
Convention of the National Association of the Deaf, St. Paul MN, 1899, July, 11-14.
Pgs. 76-81. Paola, KS: JT Trickett, Printer.

Martin, May (1902). Deafness and Cheerfulness. (book review). *American Annals of
the Deaf*, 47, 3, pgs. 285-291.

Publications:

Martin, May (1898). Kindergarten work in the New Jersey School. *Silent Worker* 10,
(6), pg. 81-2.

Martin, May. (1899). At Dr. Peet's Funeral (poem) *American Annals of the Deaf*.

Martin, May (1899) Deaf Artists in the Salon of 1899. *Silent Worker* 12 (2) pg. 18-19.

Martin, May (1900). Samuel Porter. *Silent worker* 12, (9) pg 129.

Martin, May. (1913) To the Hudson. (poem) *Silent worker* 25 (7), pg. 13.

References:

Hotchkiss, John B. (1908.) May Martin Stafford. *Silent Worker*, 21 (3), pg. 48.

Holcomb, Marjoriebell S. and Wood, Sharon K. (1989). Deaf Women: A Parade
Through the Decades. San Diego, CA: DawnSign Press.

Lang, Harry G. (1994). Silence of the Spheres. Westport, CT: Bergin and Garvey Publishing .

Other documents/photos/information:

Martin, May. The Chambered Nautilus. Presentation Day oratory. From the 1895 Annual report from the Columbia Institution.

"She was considered at the college to have an unusually gifted mind." (1908) Silent Worker 21, (2) pg. 28. "Death of Mrs. H.L. Stafford.

[Photo below from Holcomb and Wood, 1989)



(Scans below from Federal Census 1880)

Enumeration Dist. No. 2551

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Carmansville New York in the County of New York, State of New York
 enumerated by me on the 2nd day of June, 1880.

at G. Inst. for Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb E. R. Murgatroyd Enumerator

1	Martin May	Female	at school	Measles	1	1	New York	Deaf and Dumb
1	May W. T. 2	Female	at school	Measles	1	1	New York	Deaf and Dumb
1	Martin May	Female	at school	Measles	1	1	New York	Deaf and Dumb
1	May W. T. 2	Female	at school	Measles	1	1	New York	Deaf and Dumb

(Scans below from Federal Census 1900)

Enumeration District No. 2551

Township or other division of county District of Columbia Name of Institution, Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Washington City Ward of city, X
 Enumerated by me on the fourteenth day of June, 1900, Abville Ballard Enumerator

