



# Join Us in Celebrating: Black History Month




Dr. Julia Pearl Hughes




Dr. Hughes was born in Melville Township, Alamance County, North Carolina in 1873. She graduated in 1893 from Scotia Seminary (now Barber-Scotia College) in Concord, NC.



Dr. Hughes enrolled in the Pharmaceutical College (now the College of Pharmacy at Howard University) and graduated with her Pharmaceutical degree in 1897. She did post graduate work at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and obtained a job at the now Mercy Douglass Hospital where she ran the pharmacy.



In May of 1918, Dr. Hughes was forced to give up her first class seat to another passenger due to her race. She sued the railroad company and won. She became a political activist and worked with the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, and the National Medical Association to advance the lives of African American people.



In 1899, Dr. Hughes opened the first ever Black owned drugstore in South Philadelphia, called Hughes Pharmacy. She moved with her family and opened another pharmacy in Newport News, VA. Dr. Hughes was an avid entrepreneur and started a hair care company, called Hair Care-Vim Chemical Company.