

Dr. Susan McKinney-Steward Place

Whereas: Susan Marie Smith was born in Weeksville, Brooklyn, New York on March 18, 1847 to Sylvanus and Anne Smith. She had a unique mixed heritage; African-American, European, and Shinnecock Indian. At a young age she studied organ and later became the organist for the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Brooklyn.

Whereas: In 1867 at 20 years of age, Susan Marie Smith entered the New York Medical College and Hospital for Women in New York City. *After three years in medical school on March 23, 1870, she graduated Valedictorian. Dr. Smith was the first African-American woman to formally enter the medical profession in New York and the third in the United States.*

Whereas: After her graduation from Medical School Dr. Susan McKinney set up her first practice in her home in Brooklyn, New York. She was hard working, modest and compassionate. As the word of her talents spread, Dr. McKinney's practice drew interracial clientele across the social barriers. She was extremely successful as a pediatrician; treating all kinds of childhood diseases. She then opened her second clinic in Manhattan. *While in New York she founded the Women's Royal Union of New York, she was also actively involved in the Kings County Homeopathic Society.*

Whereas: In 1881 Dr. Susan McKinney co-founded the *Women's Hospital & Dispensary in Brooklyn*, which later became the *Memorial Hospital for Women and Children*. She also served on the staff of her alumna New York Medical College and managed the *Home for Aged Colored People*.

Whereas: In 1896 Mrs. Steward moved with her new Chaplain husband to Nebraska, Montana and Texas *treating many African American Buffalo Soldiers as Doctor for the Regiment*. Their next stop was AME's *Wilberforce University in Ohio* where Dr. McKinney-Steward was the College Physician.

Whereas: Dr. McKinney lived in the time where there were calls for social reform. She gave public lectures about medicine health and nutrition; she was also involved campaigns calling for female suffrage and temperance. She was active in missionary work around the city and was a prolific writer of both secular and sacred writings. She read a paper on "*Women in Medicine*" in 1914, before the *National Association of Colored Women*.

Whereas: Dr. Susan Marie McKinney-Steward passed away in 1918 at Wilberforce University at the age of 71. She was laid to rest in her birth town of Brooklyn in the Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. Eulogized by W.E.B. DuBois, her memory continues to be honored; In 1974 The Susan Smith McKinney Junior High school was named for her; The Susan Smith McKinney-Steward Medical Society was founded in her honor in 1974.

Resolved: *She was a Role Model who made this world a better place, altering and intensifying our understanding of Healing and our Society, though all to many of us have never known the incredible importance of her Legacy and Contributions, which are what makes it truly past time for our Community, to recognize, and suitably honor our former Neighbor and a Great Brooklynite -*

Dr. Susan Marie McKinney-Steward
by CoNaming Prospect Place from New York Avenue to the Nostrand Avenue -
Dr. Susan McKinney-Steward Place