

Riverside-Salem

Invites you to attend a talk by Professor Lillian Williams
at the G.I. Welcome Center on Sunday, March 26, 2023, 4:00 pm

Everyone Welcome

(call 716-417-7890 for further information)

A 40-year quest to retrace the extraordinary life of activist Mary Talbert



Lillian S. Williams, associate professor in the UB Department of Transnational Studies, has done extensive research on Mary Burnett Talbert. Credit: Douglas Levere / University at Buffalo

Historian Lillian S. Williams' research on Talbert — an early 20th century civil rights reformer, suffragist and human rights advocate — has spanned over four decades and two continents

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Lillian S. Williams is writing a biography of Mary Burnett Talbert.

A century separates the lives of these two women, but they share much in common: Both are educators and community activists. Both are deeply committed to the fight for social justice. Both are tireless in their work.

Talbert, born in 1866, was an early 20th century reformer, described by the [National Women's Hall of Fame](#) as a “civil rights and anti-lynching activist, suffragist, preservationist, international human rights proponent, and educator.” She served as president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC); rose to become a vice president of the NAACP; helped found multiple NAACP chapters; and spoke nationally and internationally to advance an array of causes. She was the first woman to receive the [NAACP's Springarn Medal](#), the organization's highest honor. She died in 1923.

Williams, PhD, is an associate professor in the Department of Transnational Studies in the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences. An expert on U.S. social and urban history, much of her scholarship has sought to preserve the history of women and African Americans.



Mary B. Talbert oval portrait. Credit: The Buffalo History Museum. [This image may not be downloaded from UB's website.](#) It is available through [The Buffalo History Museum](#).

For over 40 years, retracing and celebrating Talbert's remarkable life has been part of that work.