

Helen Adams Keller

Helen Adams Keller was born in Alabama, June twenty seventh, 1880. When about two years old she was deprived of both sight and hearing by a severe attack of scarlet fever. This in most cases would mean just existing, but to a woman of the powers of Helen Keller it was just another handicap to overcome. The parents of Helen upon finding their daughter deprived of two of her senses appealed to Alexander Graham Bell. The results of their plea was that Mrs. John A. Macy, of the Perkins Institute of the Blind went to her home to take care of her. In two months she had imparted to her apt pupil the art of language. Of course this education did not start till Helen was seven years of age. Helen Keller learned the deaf and dumb language by touch, learned the braille system which enabled her to read, and to write, using her own special typewriter.

In 1890 she also learned to speak under the direction and instruction of Miss Sarah Fuller. When twelve years old she went to Boston where she resided for several years. In the year 1896 she entered the Cambridge School for Young Ladies for the purpose of preparing for college work. Miss Sullivan went with her to all classes and repeated the lectures and discussions to her by the means of touch.

In 1900 she entered Radcliffe and graduated with high honors in 1904. The work of her college course was done with aid of Miss Sullivan as in preparatory school. All of her textbooks were necessarily printed in Braille, and she wrote her examinations on her special typewriter. Instead of entering in the class discussions which would have been impossible for her, she had special sessions with her instructor in which she could show her know-