Mary E. Merritt
(1881 - 1953)

Merritt was the first black nurse to be licensed in Kentucky and a recipient of the Mary Mahoney Medal for distinguished service in nursing from the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. Born in Berea, Kentucky. Attended Berea College until 1903 when the Day Law forced segregation of the college. Completed nurses training at Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C. She was Superintendent of nursing at Red Cross Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky (1914 – 1945). Awarded a certificate of merit by President Wilson for Red Cross camp work during World War I. The Merritt Building at Central State Hospital is named in her honor.

EDUCATION PAYS

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