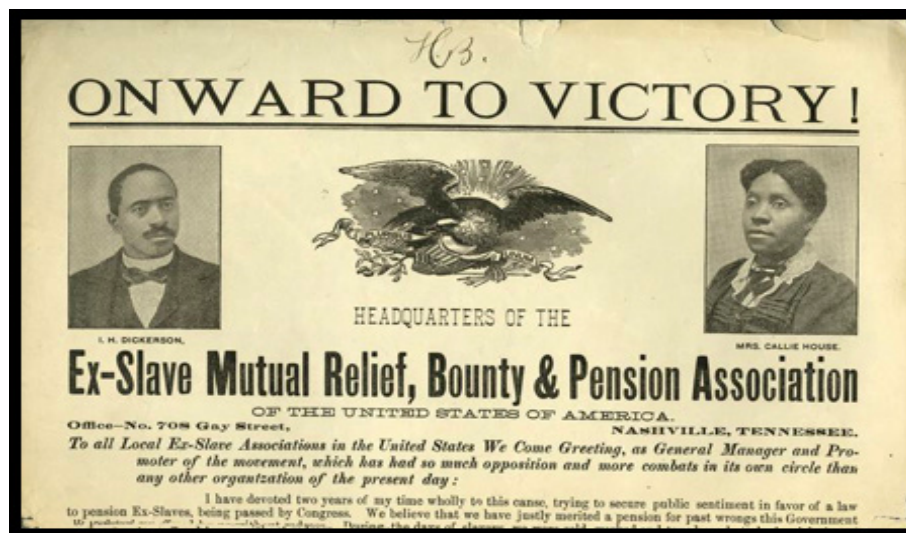


REP Education Sheet: Callie House: A Pioneer of Reparations



- The start of the reparations movement for Black people in the United States can be associated with the 1896 organizational launch of the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association (MRB&PA).
- Challenging constructs of race, gender, and class, Callie House, a powerful formerly enslaved Black woman from Tennessee, founded MRB&PA with the belief that compensation from the federal government for the centuries of stolen labor would empower the Black community
- Callie House, along with Rev. Isaiah Dickerson, organized in Black churches, collecting names of formerly enslaved persons and their former enslavers to send to Congress, and set up organizational chapters to support collective work and economics through the unification of newly freed Blacks across the South



- As MRB&PA gained popularity in Black communities and grew into a mass movement comprised of Black people seeking to pass reparations legislation, federal agencies began a strategic attack against the organizers with the sole goal to destabilize the movement. The Bureau of Pensions, the Department of Justice, and the Post Office Department obstructed MRB&PA from succeeding in its mission by labeling it a fraudulent organization, leading to the unjust conviction of House for mail fraud by an all-white male jury, although there was no substantial evidence found by the Department of Justice.