

ELBERT FRANK COX

DECEMBER 1895 - NOVEMBER 1969



HOW HE WAS OVERLOOKED

- DUE TO ELBERT'S RACE HE HAD TO SEND HIS THESIS INTERNATIONALLY
- HIS THESIS WAS UNRECOGNIZED IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY BEFORE TOHOKU IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY FINALLY RECOGNIZED IT
- ELBERT HAD A PERFECT "A" GPA 4.0 BUT STILL GOT REJECTED BY SOME UNIVERSITIES DUE TO HIS RACE
- ELBERT WAS FORCED TO GO TO AN ALL BLACK SCHOOL WITH UNDERFUNDING AND OVERCROWDING

EARLY LIFE

- ELBERT WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 5 1895, IN BAPTISTOWN · EVANSVILLE IN
- ELBERT GREW UP WITH TWO BROTHERS HIS PARENTS AND HIS GRANDMOTHER
- ELBERT ASPIRED TO BE A FIREFIGHTER OR ACROBAT BEFORE HE DECIDED TO BE A MATHEMATICIAN

EDUCATION

- ELBERT'S EARLY EDUCATION WAS IN SEGREGATED SCHOOLS
- IN 1913 HE MADE IT INTO INDIANA UNIVERSITY TO STUDY MATHMEMATICS AND PHYSICS
- HE WAS THE CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS FROM 1957 TO 1961
- WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON WILLIAMS WATCHED AND MENTORED HIM IN HIS STUDY

CONTRIBUTIONS

- ELBERT'S WORK IN ABSTRACT MATHEMATICS INCLUDED POLYNOMIAL SOLUTIONS FOR DIFFERENT PROBLEMS
- HE POLISHED THE WORK OF NIELS NÖRLUND TO REFINE THE BOOLE SUMMATION FORMULA
- FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO EARN A PHD IN MATHEMATICS

FUN FACTS

- HE WORKED AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGS AND UNIVERSITIES FOR 40 YEARS AFTER HE GRADUATED
- ELBERT ALMOST WENT TO MUSIC SCHOOL

https://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Cox_Elbert/
<https://blogs.libraries.indiana.edu/iubarchives/2017/02/09/efcox/>
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/cornellians/cox-math-phd/>
https://kids.kiddle.co/Elbert_Frank_Cox