



Four American Moslem Ladies

Right to left: Mrs. Thomas (Sister Khairat), Mrs. Watts (Sister Zeineb), Mrs. Robinson (Sister Ahmadia), Mrs. Clark (Sister Ayesha)

“The Ahmadiis were particularly successful among African Americans, and Ahmadi women in full Islamic dress were among the most visible in the fledging American Muslim community.” –

Muslim Women in America: the challenge of Islamic identity today



Sister Aliyya Ali

In 1921, was visiting relatives in Chicago from Kenner, LA. She received a flyer on Islam that was distributed by Mufti Muhammad Sadiq. She went to the Mosque and is considered among the earliest African-Americans.



Sister Ayesha (Mrs. Augusta Atkinson)

A zealous Ahmadi Moslem lady (of Hermosa Beach, California), who embraced Islam about a year and a half ago. My Allah bless her here and hereafter. (Sadiq, Moslem Sunrise, 1922, vol1.)



Sister Noor (Mrs. Ophelia Aphant)

An enthusiastic Moslem Lady from St. Louis, Missouri (Moslem Sunrise, 1921 vol 2)

Before the early 1930s, women worked synchronously with the men in developing, teaching and preaching Islam. Among the first to accept and promote Ahmadiyya in America, they worked at the helm of this new spiritual movement. These sisters were the epitome of liberation in a western society where women’s rights socially, politically and economically were still being defined. The pioneering spirit of these women were instrumental in the formation of Muslim communities across the country.

“In Pittsburgh, the women’s auxiliary, Lajna Imaillah (Maid servants of God) was

established. It began with women members coming together in what they called “Sewing Circles”. In 1933, Dr. Yusef Khan appointed Sister Aliyyah Muhammad as the women’s “Sewing Circle” first president. Many sisters were professional cooks and seamstresses. Their talents inspired beautiful handicrafts and sumptuous meals for fundraising. Meetings were held in sisters’ homes where they reviewed lessons on Islam, developed fundraising schemes and socialized. When the name, “Lajna Imaillah,” was introduced in the United States in 1936, Sister Aliyyah Muhammad became Lajna’s first elected local president in America.” – Nycemah Yaqub

AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNEY TO ISLAM

... and they prayed too.

