

Kentuckians and Civic Action



Kentucky School for the Deaf, Kentucky Historical Society

Sophia Alcorn

Sophia Alcorn dedicated her life to the education of individuals with disabilities. Her most significant contribution to the field of education is the creation of the Tadoma method of communication utilized by people who are deaf and blind.

The youngest of seven siblings, Alcorn was born in **Stanford** in 1883. After graduating with her M.A. from Wayne University in Michigan, Alcorn returned to work at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville. Alcorn taught there for eleven years. There, she developed the Tadoma method of communication.

Alcorn later taught at schools for the deaf and blind in South Dakota, Massachusetts, Ohio, and New Jersey. She then worked for the American Foundation for the Blind, where she was employed until her passing in 1967.