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### CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: NANCY GREEN, AUNT JEMIMA



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promote an American product.

Green's first appearance as Aunt Jemima occurred at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. There, donning a red bandana and apron, she made pancakes with the pre-mixed flour. Because of her affable character and cooking skills, Green received a medal from the exposition and a lifetime contract offer with the Davis Milling Co. Green continued to portray Aunt Jemima until her death in 1923.

Although Aunt Jemima was a character based on racist minstrel shows, Green used her stature as a spokeswoman to work on antipoverty initiatives and equal rights activism in Chicago.

MT. STERLING — Nancy Green was born a slave in 1834, in Mount Sterling, Ky. In 1890, the R.T. Davis Milling Co. hired Green to be the real-life spokeswoman for its newly acquired ready-mixed, self-rising pancake flour, Aunt Jemima.

Green was hired to portray the minstrel show image of the African American "mammy," an African American woman who worked for white families, raising their children. She was one of the first African American models hired to

*The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at [khscatalog.kyvl.org](http://khscatalog.kyvl.org)*

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