

Young Mary Ann listened wide-eyed to her father. Abraham Shadd had just come from a meeting. There, black people like himself had talked and made plans.

Mary Ann and her family were free. But their state, Delaware, had many slaves. So did other states in the South. People like Mary Ann's father were working for freedom. "Some day," Abraham Shadd declared, "there will be no more slavery." Mary Ann believed in his goal with all her heart.

In the 1830s few black children could go to school. But Mary Ann did. Then she herself became a teacher. She taught black children how to read and write.

During these years, some daring slaves tried to escape from their masters. They ran away to the North. It was dangerous. Many were caught. But some got all the way to Canada, where there was no slavery.

It was hard for black people in Canada. They were far from home. Most of them could not read or write. Many were poor and lonely. In 1851 Mary Ann Shadd went to Canada to help.

The young woman set up a school for for-

mer slaves. She also started a newspaper. The *Provincial Freeman* helped black Americans in their new country. Mary Ann Shadd had become the first black woman to run a weekly newspaper.

In Canada Mary Ann married a barber, Thomas Cary. She went on with her work. People said that she ran one of the best papers in Canada — "even if she did wear a skirt."

One Sunday Mary Ann looked out of her window and saw a frightened young black boy stumbling past. Right behind him ran two "slave-catchers." These men had come from the United States to take the boy back to the South.

This can't happen! thought Mary Ann. She ran out and swept the boy along with her. Together they sped to the courthouse. Mary Ann grabbed the rope and rang the town bell. People came pouring out of their houses. Angrily they shouted at the slave-catchers and forced the men to leave. The boy was safe.

When the Civil War came, Mary Ann Cary went back to the United States. She helped sign up black soldiers to fight for the North. And she spent the rest of her life teaching children — free children of all races.

CHECK YOUR READING

- 1. Abraham Shadd was Mary Ann's**
 - A teacher
 - B father**
 - C friend

- 2. Mary Ann's father was working to put an end to**
 - A freedom
 - B taxes**
 - C slavery

- 3. In the 1830s few black children could**
 - A find jobs
 - B go to school**
 - C go to church

- 4. To help blacks, Mary Ann became a**
 - A doctor
 - B teacher**
 - C social worker

- 5. Upon leaving her home, Mary Ann began working in**
 - A Canada
 - B Delaware**
 - C Boston

- 6. Mary Ann became the first black woman to run a**
 - A day-care center
 - B school**
 - C weekly newspaper

- 7. Mary Ann's husband was a**
 - A politician
 - B barber**
 - C reporter

- 8. One Sunday Mary Ann looked out of her window and saw**
 - A a fire
 - B an angry mob**
 - C a frightened black boy

- 9. The men were**
 - A slave catchers
 - B police**
 - C relatives

- 10. When the Civil War began, Mary Ann**
 - A started another newspaper
 - B traveled throughout the world**
 - C returned to the United States