The New York and Brooklyn Freedmen's Employment Bureau provided employment for freed people and white Union refugees. The bureau helped those newly arrived in Brooklyn to find work as domestic servants in exchange for board, clothing, and education.
Businesswoman Elizabeth Gloucester led fundraising efforts for black soldiers and freedmen through the Brooklyn-based American Freedmen's Friend Society. Elizabeth and her husband, James Gloucester, a former pastor at Siloam Presbyterian Church, were friends with John Brown prior to the Harpers Ferry Raid.
Mary Wilson was a successful businesswoman who fundraised for Siloam Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn and the Colored Orphan Asylum in Manhattan. She was the wife of William J. Wilson, a prolific writer and Brooklyn's longest-serving educator at Colored School #1 during the antebellum years.