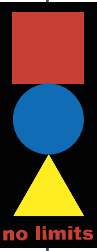


## Biography of

# Thomas Alva Edison



Contrary to popular belief, Thomas Edison's **childhood** was not one of poverty. Actually he was **born** on the **11<sup>th</sup> February, 1847** – to **middleclass** parents in the bustling port of **Milan, Ohio**. In **1854**, his family moved to the vibrant city of **Port Huron, Michigan**, which ultimately surpassed the commercial pre-eminence of both Milan and Odessa.

Thomas **schooling** was not without **problems**. At age 7, after spending only 12 weeks in a **noisy one-room schoolhouse** with **38 other students**, Thomas' **overworked** and **short tempered** teacher finally **lost his patience** with the child's **persistent questioning** and seemingly **self-centred** behaviour. The teacher made no secret that he thought the child's **brains** were **"addled"** or **scrambled**. His thoughts were based on behavioural patterns as well as the fact that Thomas' head and **forehead** was **considerably larger** than the average. Thomas' **mum** became aware of the situation and **promptly withdrew him from the school** and began to **home teach him**. She was convinced that her son's slightly unusual appearance was merely an outward sign of his **remarkable intelligence**.

From then on, Thomas' **parents** played a big part in his education. A descendant of the distinguished **Elliott family** of New England, **New York born Nancy Edison** was the **devout and attractive** daughter of a highly respected **Presbyterian** Minister and an **accomplished educator** in her own right. After the above incident she commenced teaching her son the **"Three Rs"** and the **Bible**. Meanwhile, his rather **"worldly"** and **roguish** father, **Samuel**, encouraged him to **read the great classics**.

It wasn't long thereafter that the serious minded youngster developed deep **interests** in **world history** and **English literature**. Thomas especially enjoyed **reading** and **reciting poetry**. His lifelong **favourite** was **Gray's Elegy in a Country Churchyard**. He also considered becoming an **actor**, but his **high-pitched voice** and extreme **shyness** meant that he had to give up the idea.

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