

COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



1 Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell (1749-1825)

SALTVILLE
METHODIST LAY LEADER

Setting a charitable example, Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell fostered the fledgling Methodist Church in southwestern Virginia as a devoted adherent and through material and compassionate support of the church.

2 Emily White Fleming (1855-1941)

FREDERICKSBURG
PRESERVATIONIST

Emily White Fleming preserved numerous Fredericksburg landmarks for future generations.

NOMINATED BY:
MELISSA SMITH FITZGERALD

COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



3 Lucy Addison (1861-1937)

ROANOKE
EDUCATOR

A pioneering educator, Lucy Addison developed the first accredited high school for Roanoke's African American community.

NOMINATED BY: JENNY WOODALL-GAINEY'S SIXTH-GRADE CLASS (2009-2010), LUCY ADDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROANOKE

COURTESY OF THE ROANOKE TIMES



4 Bessie Niemeyer Marshall (1884-1960)

PETERSBURG
BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATOR

Bessie Niemeyer Marshall created detailed watercolors of plants as part of a federally funded project that rescued a Petersburg park.

NOMINATED BY: VIRGINIA ROSE CHERRY, RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

COURTESY OF PETERSBURG GARDEN CLUB



COPYRIGHT UNKNOWN, COURTESY OF HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY



5 Eleanor Bontecou (1891-1976)

ARLINGTON COUNTY
ATTORNEY

Eleanor Bontecou overcame debilitating illness to combat discrimination against Japanese Americans during World War II, study the treatment of conscientious objectors, and counsel federal government employees accused of subversive activities during the McCarthy era.

6 Felicia Warburg Rogan

ALBEMARLE COUNTY
VINTNER

Felicia Warburg Rogan's efforts to promote Virginia's wine industry have earned her the title "the First Lady of Virginia Wine."

COURTESY OF FELICIA ROGAN



7 Lillian Lincoln Lambert

MECHANICSVILLE
ENTREPRENEUR AND AUTHOR

Overcoming racial and gender prejudices, Lillian Lincoln Lambert became the first African American woman to earn an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



8 Pearl Fu

ROANOKE
CIVIC LEADER

By directing the annual Local Colors festival, Pearl Fu celebrates the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Roanoke area.

COURTESY OF PEARL FU



Women have played an integral part in Virginia from its beginnings, yet their contributions have often been overlooked in the history books. Until well into the twentieth century, written histories tended to focus on the historically male-dominated fields of government and politics, the military, and large-scale property ownership to the virtual exclusion of all other venues of leadership or achievement. They ignored women's critical roles as wives, mothers, educators, nurses, lay leaders and missionaries, farmers, artists, writers, reformers, pioneers, business leaders, laborers, civic activists, and community builders.

Today, we recognize and celebrate women's accomplishments in all walks of life, particularly in March, which Congress has designated as National Women's History Month. The Library of Virginia presents the 2011 Virginia Women in History project to honor eight women, past and present, who have made important contributions to Virginia, the nation, and the world. We encourage you to learn more about these fascinating women who saw things differently from their contemporaries, developed new approaches to old problems, served their communities, strove for excellence based on the courage of their convictions, and initiated changes in Virginia and the United States that continue to affect our lives today.

VIRGINIA WOMEN IN HISTORY 2011

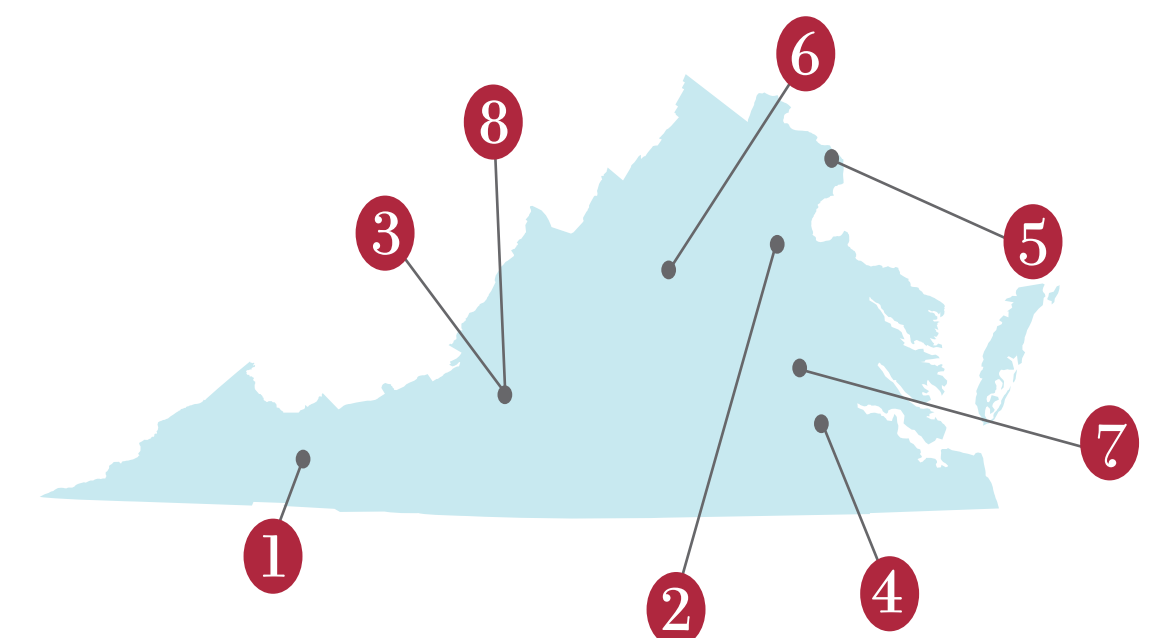
Presented by:



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



Dominion



www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2011

MEDIA SPONSOR

Richmond Times-Dispatch
TimesDispatch.com

Women have played an integral part in Virginia from its beginnings, yet their contributions have often been overlooked in the history books. Until well into the twentieth century, written histories tended to focus on the historically male-dominated fields of government and politics, the military, and large-scale property ownership to the virtual exclusion of all other venues of leadership or achievement. They ignored women's critical roles as wives, mothers, educators, nurses, lay leaders and missionaries, farmers, artists, writers, reformers, pioneers, business leaders, laborers, civic activists, and community builders.

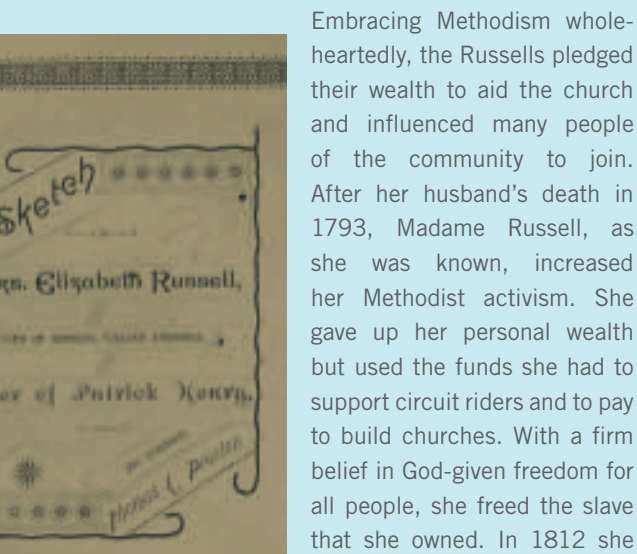
Today, we recognize and celebrate women's accomplishments in all walks of life, particularly in March, which Congress has designated as National Women's History Month. The Library of Virginia presents the 2011 Virginia Women in History project to honor eight women, past and present, who have made important contributions to Virginia, the nation, and the world. We encourage you to learn more about these fascinating women who saw things differently from their contemporaries, developed new approaches to old problems, served their communities, strove for excellence based on the courage of their convictions, and initiated changes in Virginia and the United States that continue to affect our lives today.



COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell
SALTVILLE
METHODIST LAY LEADER

Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell (1749–1825) was compared favorably to her famous brother Patrick Henry, in part because she shared his unwavering drive and impressive oratorical skills. Born in Hanover County, she joined her first husband on the frontier of Southwest Virginia soon after their marriage in 1776. She kept busy, administering to sick and needy people. Soon after her husband's death, she remarried in 1781. In 1788 her family, which included her own children and stepchildren, moved to the present site of Saltville. That same year, Russell underwent a dramatic conversion to Methodism after attending a series of Methodist sermons.



COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

settled into a log cabin with a large room for holding religious meetings. Until her death, she hosted itinerant preachers and alerted community members whenever an impromptu service was to be held. When poor evangelists visited her, she bolstered them with food and clothing, as well as moral support and intellectual stimulation. The Madame Russell Methodist Church in Saltville is named in her honor.



KENMORE, DINING ROOM, CA. 1939. BUILT IN 1775, KENMORE WAS THE HOME OF FIELDING LEWIS AND HIS WIFE, BETTY WASHINGTON LEWIS, SISTER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON. THE HOUSE IS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS ELABORATE PLASTERWORK CEILINGS. COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Emily White Fleming
FREDERICKSBURG
PRESERVATIONIST

Emily White Fleming (April 9, 1855–October 12, 1941) helped preserve numerous Fredericksburg landmarks for future generations.

Born in Athens, Georgia, Emily White married Vivian Minor Fleming, a Virginia native, in 1876. They settled in Fredericksburg, where she became fascinated with the history of her new home. She joined efforts to erect a monument to Mary Ball Washington, the mother of George Washington, and early in the 1890s served as president of the local Mary Washington Monument Association. When historic buildings in Fredericksburg were at risk of destruction, Fleming joined with the city's branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities to purchase and save some of them, including the Rising Sun Tavern and the home of Mary Ball Washington.

Fleming took on her most significant challenge in 1922, when she and other members of the Daughters of the American Revolution established the Kenmore Association to acquire the Fredericksburg estate of Betty Washington Lewis, George Washington's sister. The owner of Kenmore (built in 1775) threatened to tear it down and build new houses on the site. Writing hundreds of letters to citizens across the United States, Fleming and her daughter helped raise \$12,000 within five months, enabling the group to purchase the property. She continued to raise funds to restore the house and its grounds while serving as president of the Kenmore Association until 1940.

NOMINATED BY MELISSA SMITH FITZGERALD



LUCY ADDISON HIGH SCHOOL, ROANOKE, 1929. BUILT IN 1928 AS THE SECOND HIGH SCHOOL FOR ROANOKE'S AFRICAN AMERICANS, LUCY ADDISON HIGH SCHOOL HONORED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LUCY ADDISON. COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Lucy Addison
ROANOKE
EDUCATOR

Lucy Addison (December 8, 1861–November 13, 1937) was born at Upperville, in Fauquier County, and grew up on a farm purchased by her father after the Civil War. She received some schooling before enrolling in the Institute for Colored Youth, a private school in Philadelphia that boasted a black faculty. After graduating with a teacher's diploma in 1882, she taught in Loudoun County before moving to Roanoke in 1886 to teach at the First Ward Colored School. In January 1887 Addison was named an interim principal. When a larger school building became available in 1888, she was appointed an assistant principal and also resumed teaching. During the ensuing thirty years she was an unerring source of instruction and guidance to generations of African American students.

In 1918 Addison became principal of the new Harrison School, which offered classes only through the eighth grade. High school diplomas were unavailable to Roanoke's black students, and by gradually introducing new coursework, Addison eventually created a full high-school curriculum. The State Board of Education recognized her efforts in 1924 by accrediting the Harrison School as a secondary school. Addison retired at the end of the 1926–1927 school year. In January 1928 the city school board announced that a new high school for African Americans would be named in her honor. On April 19, 1929, she attended the formal opening of Lucy Addison High School, Roanoke's first public building named for one of its own citizens.

NOMINATED BY JENNY WOODALL-GAINEY'S SIXTH-GRADE CLASS (2009–2010), LUCY ADDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROANOKE

Bessie Niemeyer Marshall
PETERSBURG
BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATOR

In 1935 the City of Petersburg used funds from the Works Projects Administration to create a wildflower sanctuary in Lee Memorial Park. Under the direction of Mary Donald Claiborne Holden, women, black and white, cleared paths; transplanted flowers, shrubs, and trees; and gathered specimens of plants in the park. In 1937 Holden asked her neighbor Bessie Niemeyer Marshall (December 25, 1884–February 14, 1960) to paint watercolors of the herbarium.

Sarah Elizabeth Niemeyer was born in Portsmouth. She married Myron Barraud Marshall, an Episcopal priest, on July 2, 1907. With nine children, Marshall had little time to pursue her interest in art, although she occasionally painted watercolors of plants and decorated household furniture and china. After serving parishes in the Philippines and in Virginia, the family settled in Petersburg in 1937.

Although she had no formal training in painting, Marshall used her powers of observation and her knowledge of plants (she was an avid gardener) to create detailed renderings. Her 238 watercolors demonstrate her skill in depicting the delicacy of a plant's structure and the vibrancy of its colors. The commission brought much-needed money into the Marshall home. Her husband was disabled, and his pension was insufficient to support the large family. After the project ended, Marshall tried but had little success finding other commissions. After the deaths of her husband and grandson early in 1946, she returned to Portsmouth. Bessie Niemeyer Marshall died of a stroke in 1960.

The Petersburg Garden Club won the 1948 Garden Club of Virginia Massie Prize for the Lee Park Herbarium. Lee Memorial Park is now on the National Register of Historic Places and undergoing restoration.

NOMINATED BY VIRGINIA ROSE CHERRY, RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

Eleanor Bontecou
ARLINGTON COUNTY
ATTORNEY

A New Jersey native, Eleanor Bontecou (February 14, 1891–March 19, 1976) studied law at Harvard University under Felix Frankfurter and received a Ph.D. in 1928 from the Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government (later the Brookings Institution). A promising start as a law professor at the University of Chicago was cut short when she contracted encephalitis lethargica (sleeping sickness). Bontecou spent most of the 1930s bedridden and disabled. She never fully recovered her health and exhibited impaired balance and a slight tremor in her hands for the rest of her life.

Bontecou provided legal advice to the Southern Conference for Human Welfare in its campaign to abolish the poll tax and also worked with Ralph Bunche on a survey of southern suffrage for the New School for Social Research and the Carnegie Foundation Study of the Negro in America.

In 1943 Bontecou became one of the first seven attorneys in the new Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division at the United States Department of Justice, where she earned a reputation as the most able attorney on issues of race and in cases of discrimination against Japanese Americans. She completed a study of the way the United States and the allied nations

had treated conscientious objectors during World War I and recommended solutions to conscientious objector problems in World War II. Transferred to the War Department in 1946, she helped prepare for the prosecution of major war criminals in the Pacific theater and the following year went to Nürnberg to inspect and report on war crimes activities in Germany. In retirement in the 1950s, Bontecou devoted her legal expertise and energy to victims of McCarthy-era hysteria by counseling, and in some cases raising money for, federal government employees charged with subversion.

A law professorship at Seton Hall University bears her name.

Felicia Warburg Rogan
ALBEMARLE COUNTY
VINTNER

Soon after moving to Virginia in 1977, the writer Felicia Warburg Rogan spent a day picking grapes with friends at Lucie Morton's vineyard in King George County. Morton convinced Rogan to press the grapes, put the juice in a glass container, and let it ferment into wine. Though she judged the final product "terrible stuff," Rogan enjoyed the project and put in vines on her own farm. The homegrown wines won awards, so she planted more grapes, and in 1983 with her winemaker Deborah Welsh she established Oakencroft Vineyards. The company's early wines won more honors, and the enterprise expanded even further.

When the New York–born Rogan arrived in the state, Virginians drank little wine, and instead preferred hard liquor. She worked hard to promote and improve the quality of local viticulture and sought links with Thomas Jefferson, who had felt that people should drink wine rather than stronger alcohol. Rogan started the Jeffersonian Wine Grape Growers Society to help develop local wine and pushed for the region around Charlottesville to become known as the Monticello Appellation. She served as the first chairman of the Virginia Wine Growers Advisory Board and promoted the industry around the world. She became known as "The First Lady of Virginia Wine."

When Rogan first developed her interest in a vineyard, Virginia featured six wineries, with only one remotely near Charlottesville. Today, the state boasts more than 150 wineries and 23 near Monticello. She closed Oakencroft in 2008 and continues as an ambassador for state wine today.



LILLIAN LAMBERT AND HER HUSBAND, JOHN LAMBERT. COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Lillian Lincoln Lambert
MECHANICSVILLE
ENTREPRENEUR AND AUTHOR

Lillian Lincoln Lambert grew up on a Powhatan County farm. As a child she worked in the fields but had a thirst for knowledge and in her free time read any book available. She received a scholarship to Howard University, where she received a B.A. in 1966. The following year she entered the Harvard Business School, where her class included only about three dozen other women and eight African American men. Lambert helped establish the African American Student Union and assisted in recruiting other black students. In 1969 she graduated as the first African American woman to earn an MBA from Harvard.

Lambert established her own janitorial services company in 1976 with an investment of several thousand dollars. She ran Centennial One, Inc., as chief executive officer and president until she sold it in 2001. By that time the company had grown to more than 1,200 employees and \$20 million in sales.

Lambert received the Harvard Business School's Alumni Achievement Award in 2003, and in 2010 *Enterprise Women Magazine* inducted her into its Entering Women Hall of Fame. She serves on the board of visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University and on the board of directors for the Harvard Business School African American Alumni Association.

Lambert travels the country telling her inspirational story and lecturing on entrepreneurship, women's issues, race, self-improvement, and education. Her autobiography, *The Road to Someplace Better*, appeared in 2010. She lives in Mechanicsville and Sarasota, Florida.



COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Pearl Fu
ROANOKE
CIVIC LEADER

Pearl Fu lived what she calls a "cloistered" childhood in Yunnan Province, a remote, mountainous region of southwestern China that is home to more than a third of China's ethnic minorities, including the Yi. She grew up in a prominent political family that moved to Hong Kong. Her mother nurtured the traditions of the Yi and taught her children to cook their native cuisine.

Fu fell in love with all things American. In 1959 she immigrated to the United States and enrolled in college. She graduated from Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory in 1963 and had a brief singing career before marrying C. C. Fu, an engineer. They lived in New Jersey before moving with their three daughters to Roanoke in 1986.

In 1991 Fu found a forum to express her pride in her Yi heritage. Working without a salary for the first ten years, she transformed Roanoke's fledgling Local Colors from a tiny street-corner festival into an annual celebration that draws as many as 30,000 people to Roanoke on the third Saturday of May.

Passionate about recruiting local participants, Fu built the program immigrant by immigrant. Promoting diversity (and Local Colors) every chance she gets, Fu is a common sight at ethnic celebrations, often dressing in the costume of the featured ethnicity. Says Fu, "You can acclimate to this country, contribute to it, become a citizen, but also keep your heritage alive at the same time."



PEARL FU AND HER EXTENDED FAMILY. COURTESY OF PEARL FU

800 East Broad Street • Richmond, VA 23219-8000
www.lva.virginia.gov

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



Learn more about Virginia women in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Richmond: The Library of Virginia, 1998–) and on the Library's Virginia Memory Web site at www.virginiamemory.com. Instructional materials and nomination forms for the 2012 project are available at www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2011.



VIRGINIA WOMEN IN HISTORY 2011

Presented by:
LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2011

MEDIA SPONSOR
Richmond Times-Dispatch
TimesDispatch.com