

VIRGINIA

women in history

Presented by:

THE VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN



MAGGIE WALKER
Richmond, Businesswoman and Banker

She founded the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank which later became the Consolidated Bank & Trust Company. Over the years, Walker became very active in many community and civic organizations. Notably, she served on the National Board of Trustees of the Association of Colored Women's Clubs and the Executive Board of the National Association of Colored People.



DOLLEY MADISON
Orange County, First Lady

Dolley Madison's most notable exploit was to act as the savior of the famous Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington just prior to the British burning of the Capitol and the White House during the War of 1812. One of the last to flee the city, she also hauled several wagonloads of important government papers with her as she fled across the Potomac into Virginia.



MARY JULIA BALDWIN
Staunton, College Founder

In 1863, one of the trustees of the Augusta Female Seminary approached Miss Baldwin to take over as principal of the school as it was in danger of closing. Over the years Baldwin excelled in administration and leadership. The seminary grew in size, student body and reputation. By 1895, the trustees asked the General Assembly permission to rename the school Mary Baldwin Seminary. In 1922, it became Mary Baldwin College.

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LILA MEADE VALENTINE
Richmond, Social Activist

In 1909, Valentine organized the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia and served as its president for eleven years. She worked tirelessly for passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, the fruits of which, due to her poor health, she was not able to enjoy. She spearheaded a three-day conference at the University of Virginia in 1920, to educate women about politics and urge the inclusion of civics into the public school curriculum.



POCAHONTAS
Jamestown Native

Her legend lies at the core of the founding myth of Virginia and the United States. She should be extolled for her formidable accomplishments of adapting to a foreign culture and winning acceptance in English society while maintaining her position as the original American princess.



ELLEN GLASGOW
Richmond, Fiction Writer

Her immersion in the works of liberal political economists and social reformers led her to reject being a debutante at seventeen and pushed her into writing about the less privileged. As she aged, her many novels received the full attention of literary critics. She secured her place as a noted Southern writer with election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1938 and the Pulitzer Prize in 1942 for her last novel *In This Our Life*.



SARAH LEE FAIN
Norfolk, Legislator

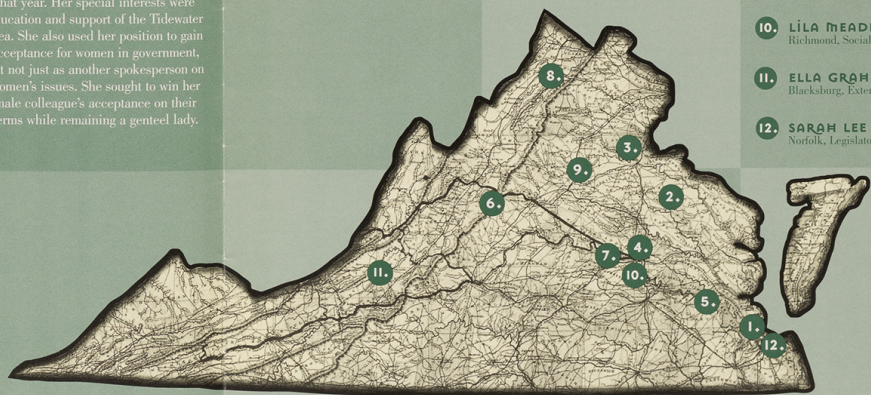
When Fain entered the General Assembly in 1923, she was one of the first two women to achieve election that year. Her special interests were education and support of the Tidewater area. She also used her position to gain acceptance for women in government, but not just as another spokesperson on women's issues. She sought to win her male colleague's acceptance on their terms while remaining a genteel lady.



WILLA CATHER
Gore, Journalist and Author

In 1922, she produced *One of Ours* about a Nebraska boy killed in World War I, for which she received the Pulitzer Prize, the first Virginia-born woman to do so. As the years progressed, so did her production of novels, including *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927) a modern classic which she considered her best work. The only book related to her Virginia heritage, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*, was published in 1940, seven years before her death.

1. **POCAHONTAS**
Jamestown Native
2. **MARGARET BRENT**
Aquia, Landowner
3. **JENNIE DEAN**
Manassas, Vocational School Founder
4. **MAGGIE WALKER**
Richmond, Businesswoman, Banker
5. **CLEMENTINE RIND**
Williamsburg, Editor
6. **MARY JULIA BALDWIN**
Staunton, College Founder
7. **ELLEN GLASGOW**
Richmond, Fiction Writer
8. **WILLA CATHER**
Gore, Journalist and Author
9. **DOLLEY MADISON**
Orange County, First Lady
10. **LILA MEADE VALENTINE**
Richmond, Social Activist
11. **ELLA GRÄHAM AGNEW**
Blacksburg, Extension Service Trailblazer
12. **SARAH LEE FAIN**
Norfolk, Legislator



Women have always been an integral part of Virginia history since the earliest days as native Americans, wives, mothers and frontier settlers. For centuries, history was defined by heroic deeds, great warriors and famous statesmen. If women were included, they were considered the supporting cast. Women by definition did not make it into the history books. The Virginia Foundation for Women and The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International honor these twelve Virginia women in celebration of Women's History Month. Frequently, these women did what they had to do based upon the circumstances with which they were faced. They saw things differently from their neighbors. They developed unusual attitudes or new ideas about old problems. They had the courage to speak, act and finalize events that exhibited their strong convictions. Their actions resulted in changes in Virginia and America that continue to impact our lives today.