

2019 VIRGINIA WOMEN ^{IN} HISTORY

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Women have played an integral part in Virginia from its beginnings, yet their contributions as educators, nurses, lay leaders and missionaries, farmers, artists, writers, reformers, pioneers, business leaders, laborers, civic activists, and community builders have often been overlooked in the history books. As part of National Women's History Month, the Library of Virginia presents the 2019 Virginia Women in History to honor eight women who have made important contributions to Virginia, the nation, and the world.

Determined that Virginia's women deserved recognition for their achievements, Em Bowles Locker Alsop, a public relations innovator, proposed erecting a monument on Capitol Square in Richmond. In 2010 the General Assembly established the Women's Monument Commission to recommend an appropriate monument to commemorate the contributions of Virginia's women. The commission chose a design in 2013 and in 2014 named twelve women to honor with bronze statues. The monument's groundbreaking was held in 2017. The Virginia Women's Monument, the first of its kind in the nation, will be dedicated in October 2019.

In addition to the statues, the monument includes a glass Wall of Honor engraved with more than two hundred names "In Honor and Appreciation of the Women of Virginia for Their Contributions and Achievements." These women, and more whose names will be added in the future, represent the countless women who have been a part of Virginia's history for more than 400 years. We encourage you to learn more about these eight extraordinary Virginia Women in History, whose names will also appear on the Wall of Honor and whose accomplishments continue to affect our lives today.

www.lva.virginia.gov/vawomen

Ann

FL. 1706–1712
KING WILLIAM COUNTY
Pamunkey Chief

When famed Pamunkey leader Cockacoeske died in 1686, her successor as chief was a niece who might have been known as "Mrs. Betty, the Queen," according to a petition filed with the General Court in 1701. Pamunkey leaders sometimes changed their names in accordance with important contemporary events, so it is possible that Mrs. Betty became known as Ann following the ascension of Queen Anne to the English throne in 1702. Much about her life is not known, but Ann did send a son to the Indian school at the College of William and Mary to be educated and also to serve as an English captive to guarantee the tribe's good behavior.

As a Pamunkey *weroansqua*, or female chief, Ann worked to uphold Indian rights in the face of increasing pressure from the English colonists. Her name appears on several documents between 1706 and 1712 petitioning Virginia's colonial government to confirm Pamunkey ownership of tribal lands and pushing leaders to prohibit white settlers from encroaching on these lands in violation of established treaties. Ann sought to reduce the annual Indian tribute to the English, which had become more difficult as settlers' incursions reduced Pamunkey access to fish and game. She also requested that Indian youth employed beyond tribal lands be returned to their people and that colonists refrain from selling liquor in Pamunkey towns, a practice that had caused indebtedness among some Indians. Ann does not appear by name in any extant documents after 1712 and is thought to have died about 1723.

Ona Judge

CA. 1773–1848 | FAIRFAX COUNTY
Self-Emancipator

The daughter of an enslaved seamstress and a white indentured servant, Ona Maria Judge (ca. 1773–February 25, 1848) was a trusted personal maid to Martha Washington. She grew up at Mount Vernon, likely living in the communal slave quarters known as the House for Families with her mother and siblings. Like most enslaved women and men, she was not taught how to read or write, although she was trained as a seamstress. She began working as part of the labor force in the mansion as a child and became a favorite of Martha Washington, who selected Judge as one of the few slaves to accompany her to New York and then to Philadelphia during George Washington's presidential terms.

While living in Philadelphia, Judge (who was referred to by the Washingtons as Oney) was regularly sent home to Mount Vernon to avoid establishing legal residency in Pennsylvania, which would result in her freedom. Inspired by abolitionist sentiment in Philadelphia and angry that she was to be given to the Washingtons' granddaughter,

Judge turned to the city's free black community to help her escape. While the family ate dinner on May 21, 1796, Judge fled on a ship that took her to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She found work as a domestic servant and married an African American sailor, with whom she had three children. She avoided being returned to slavery despite George Washington's multiple attempts to regain his wife's property. For more than fifty years, Ona Judge Staines succeeded in living as a free woman.

India Hamilton

CA. 1879–1950 | KING WILLIAM COUNTY
Educator

Born in rural King and Queen County, India Hamilton (ca. 1879–April 18, 1950) displayed an unwavering passion for teaching and learning throughout her life. She studied at Howard University, in Washington, D.C., and in 1913 began teaching at a two-room segregated school in King William County. For almost 20 years she was also the county's Jeanes supervisor and received support from the Jeanes Fund, which was set up in 1907 by Philadelphia philanthropist Anna Jeanes to improve education for African American youth in rural schools. Fulfilling the informal motto of Jeanes supervisors of "doing the next needed thing," Hamilton helped her community raise money for school improvements and new buildings, including the King William Training School, which provided manual training in addition to academics. She advocated longer school terms and implemented an annual Exhibit Day to showcase the work of the county's African American students.

Hamilton's work extended beyond King William as chair of the Better Schools Program of the Negro Organization Society of Virginia, a grassroots community advocacy association at Hampton Institute. She promoted collaborations between local teachers and nearby colleges for workshops and improvement projects and served on the executive committee of the Virginia State Teachers Association.

In 1952 King William County formally recognized Hamilton, who was known as "the children's friend," when it named Hamilton-Holmes High School in honor of her and Samuel B. Holmes, a fellow education pioneer. The Negro Organization Society also named its India Hamilton Camp on the York River in her honor.

Lucy Randolph Mason

1882–1959 | RICHMOND
Labor Organizer and Social Reformer

The descendant of prominent Virginia families, Lucy Randolph Mason (July 26, 1882–May 6, 1959) used her social status to advocate for the rights of working people. She considered becoming a missionary as a teenager, but decided to serve her own community. Believing that women were vital to social reform efforts, she joined the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia to advocate voting rights for women. She

served as president of the Richmond ESL chapter and later of the Richmond League of Women Voters. Through her work for the Richmond YWCA, Mason developed programs to aid white and African American women and became involved in labor issues, advocating legislation to improve working conditions for women and children. As general secretary of the National Consumers' League during the Great Depression, she also fought for a minimum wage and maximum working hours.

In 1937 Mason joined the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a public relations representative. She traveled across the South, meeting with often-hostile community leaders, clergy, journalists, politicians, and others to promote organized labor and the role unions could play in improving the region's economy. She helped organize textile workers and miners, and during strikes negotiated on behalf of workers and brought national attention to civil rights violations. Mason fought racial discrimination throughout her career and believed that unions were the best way to promote interracial cooperation. She also campaigned against the poll tax and organized voter registration drives. In 1952 the National Religion and Labor Foundation honored Mason with its Social Justice Award.

Kate Peters Sturgill

1907–1975 | WISE COUNTY
Musician and Folk Song Collector

Wise County native Katherine O'Neill Peters Sturgill (March 3, 1907–June 19, 1975) began playing the parlor organ and singing Irish tunes for her father as a child. Known as Kate, she had a lifelong interest in mountain tunes. After her marriage to Sidney Peters, she formed the Lonesome Pine Trailers in 1927. The band performed a mixture of sacred songs, folk tunes, and instrumental dance tunes. She later began writing original compositions.

During the Great Depression, Peters put her skills to work through the Works Progress Administration, which funded the construction of a cabin near the town of Norton to serve as a community recreational facility. There, she and her sister taught handicrafts, music, and dance, and put on plays. The sisters also provided lunch for undernourished students at the nearby school. During this time she met a WPA folk song collector who recorded her in 1939. She also collected folk songs, sometimes assisting her mother's relation A.P. Carter, of the legendary Carter Family musical group. As part of the Cumberland Valley Girls in the 1940s, Peters performed on the WNVA radio station in Norton and recorded with Folk-Star Records in Tennessee. In her later years, after her first husband died and she married former coal miner Archie Sturgill, she became well known as a local funeral singer.

Kate Sturgill's rich legacy lives on through her recordings at the Library of Congress's American Folklife Center, as well as the Country Cabin II, a venue on the Crooked Road music trail that traces its ancestry to the WPA cabin, and the annual Dock Boggs and Kate Peters Sturgill Festival.

Georgeanna Seegar Jones

1912–2005 | NORFOLK
Endocrinologist

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Georgeanna Seegar Jones (July 6, 1912–March 26, 2005) received her medical degree in 1936 from Johns Hopkins University, where her work researching pregnancy hormones advanced the understanding of reproductive medicine and was later used in developing home pregnancy tests. In 1938 she became the first full-time reproductive endocrinologist at a medical school. For the next four decades, she also served as the chief physician at the Gynecological Endocrine Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital and director of the facility's Laboratory of Reproductive Physiology. In 1939 Jones established a Division of Reproductive Endocrinology at John Hopkins, which made great advances in the burgeoning field.

In 1978 Jones and her husband, the physician and surgeon Howard Jones, retired to Norfolk and began teaching at Eastern Virginia Medical School. About that time they assisted a British team in developing the world's first in vitro fertilization process. Seeking to duplicate the IVF process in the United States, Jones and her husband established a clinic at EVMS, which led to the 1981 birth of the first baby in the United States conceived through in vitro fertilization. Expanding the clinic, in 1983 they established what today is known as the Howard and Georgeanna Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine.

Ever the teacher and scientist, she authored textbooks and articles that served as the foundation for students, physicians, and scientists around the globe. The recipient of many honors during her long career, Georgeanna Seegar Jones mentored numerous female physicians and is credited with inspiring generations of women in the medical profession.

Claudia L. Dodson

1941–2007 | CHARLOTTESVILLE
Women's Sports Advocate

Growing up, Claudia Lane Dodson (August 31, 1941–August 18, 2007) loved to play sports, and she lettered in basketball, field hockey, and lacrosse while earning her degree in physical education at Westhampton College of the University of Richmond in 1963. After completing her master's degree at the University of Tennessee, she chaired the girls' physical education department at a Chesterfield County high school. In 1971 she became programs supervisor for girls' athletics for the Virginia High School League, which then sponsored only one statewide competition for girls.

Dedicated to developing opportunities for girls' athletics, Dodson fought the perception that providing opportunities for girls meant

decreasing those available for boys. She pushed for every high school to offer two sports for girls during each of three athletic seasons and to offer regional and state finals in all of them. The number of girls playing high school sports in Virginia increased from about 8,100 in 1972 to more than 30,000 in 1982. At the time of her retirement in 2002, the VHSL offered 31 state championships for girls. Dodson was one of the first two women appointed to the National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada. In 1996 she helped found WinS (Women in Sports) to support and recognize female athletes in the Charlottesville area.

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association honored her contributions to high school sports with its Distinguished Service Award in 1996. The VHSL renamed its Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award in Dodson's honor in 2007.

Sharifa Alkhateeb

1946–2004 | FAIRFAX COUNTY
Community Activist

Sharifa Alkhateeb (June 6, 1946–October 21, 2004) was born into the only Muslim family in her neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When confronted with different ways of thinking or living, she saw an opportunity to learn and grow. At the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a degree in English literature, Alkhateeb joined the Muslim Student Association and began wearing a headscarf. Surrounded by the burgeoning feminist movement of the 1960s, she cultivated her own voice as an activist and leader on behalf of Muslim women. She later earned a master's degree in comparative religion from Norwich University in Vermont.

After moving to Fairfax County in 1988 she continued her work to create a better understanding of Islamic life and became known as a spokesperson on Muslim women in the United States. She founded the North American Council for Muslim Women and served as president of the Muslim Education Council. Working with Fairfax County Public Schools, she led a successful effort to offer Arabic as a foreign language in some high schools, served as a diversity trainer, and helped produce a monthly television program, *Middle Eastern Parenting*. In 2000 Alkhateeb started the Peaceful Families Project, a nationwide effort to research and raise awareness of domestic violence in Muslim communities. She participated in the Community Resilience Project of Northern Virginia to provide crisis counseling following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Shortly before her death from cancer, the Islamic Society of North America honored Alkhateeb with its Community Service Recognition Award.



Unveiling of the Wall of Honor at the Virginia Women's Monument in October 2018.

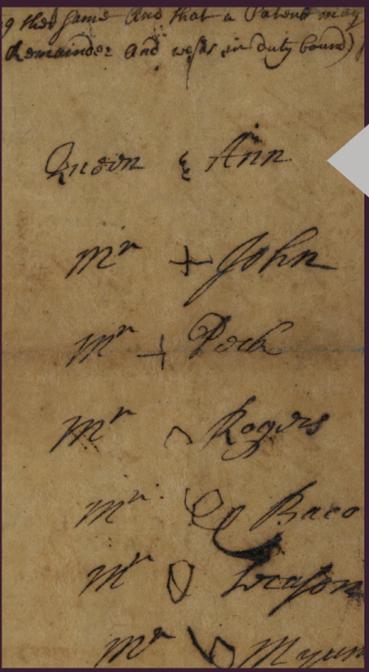
Learn more about Virginia women in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Library of Virginia, 1998–2006), *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries* (Library of Virginia, 2013), and on the Library of Virginia's websites, www.lva.virginia.gov and www.virginiamemory.com.

Learn more about the Virginia Women's Monument on the Commission's website, womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov.



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Ann

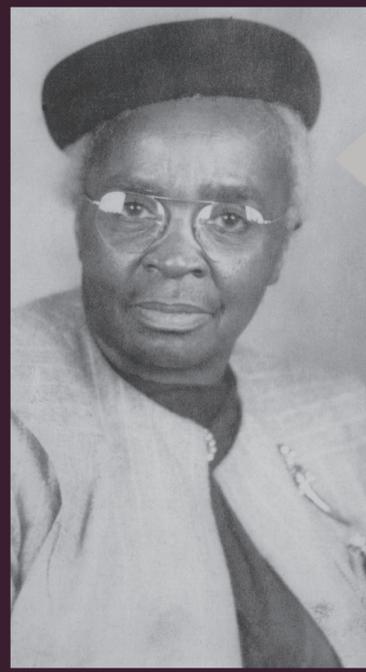
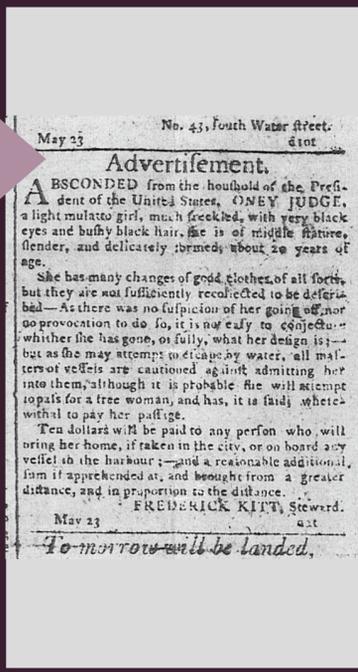
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Pamunkey Chief

As chief of the Pamunkey Indians, Ann fought to preserve the rights of her people when they were threatened by English colonists.

Ona Judge

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FAIRFAX COUNTY
Self-Emancipator

Determined that her freedom was worth any hardship, Ona Judge escaped slavery and defied George Washington's attempts to retrieve her.



India Hamilton

CA. 1879–1950
KING WILLIAM COUNTY
Educator

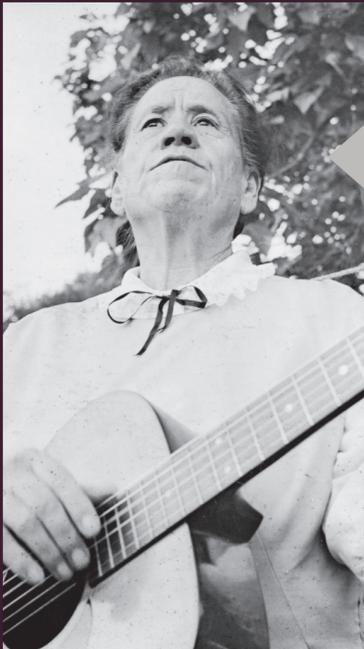
As a teacher, India Hamilton continuously pushed for the expansion, implementation, and improvement of educational opportunities for African American students.

Lucy Randolph Mason

1882–1959
RICHMOND

Labor Organizer and Social Reformer

Throughout her career, Lucy Randolph Mason championed social reforms and legislation to help Southern workers.



Kate Peters Sturgill

1907–1975
WISE COUNTY

Musician and Folk Song Collector

Ballad singer and songwriter Kate Peters Sturgill preserved the music of her Appalachian region through her recordings and collection of folk songs.

Georgeanna Seegar Jones

1912–2005
NORFOLK

Endocrinologist

A pioneer in the field of reproductive endocrinology, Georgeanna Seegar Jones helped lead pathbreaking research into fertility treatments for women.



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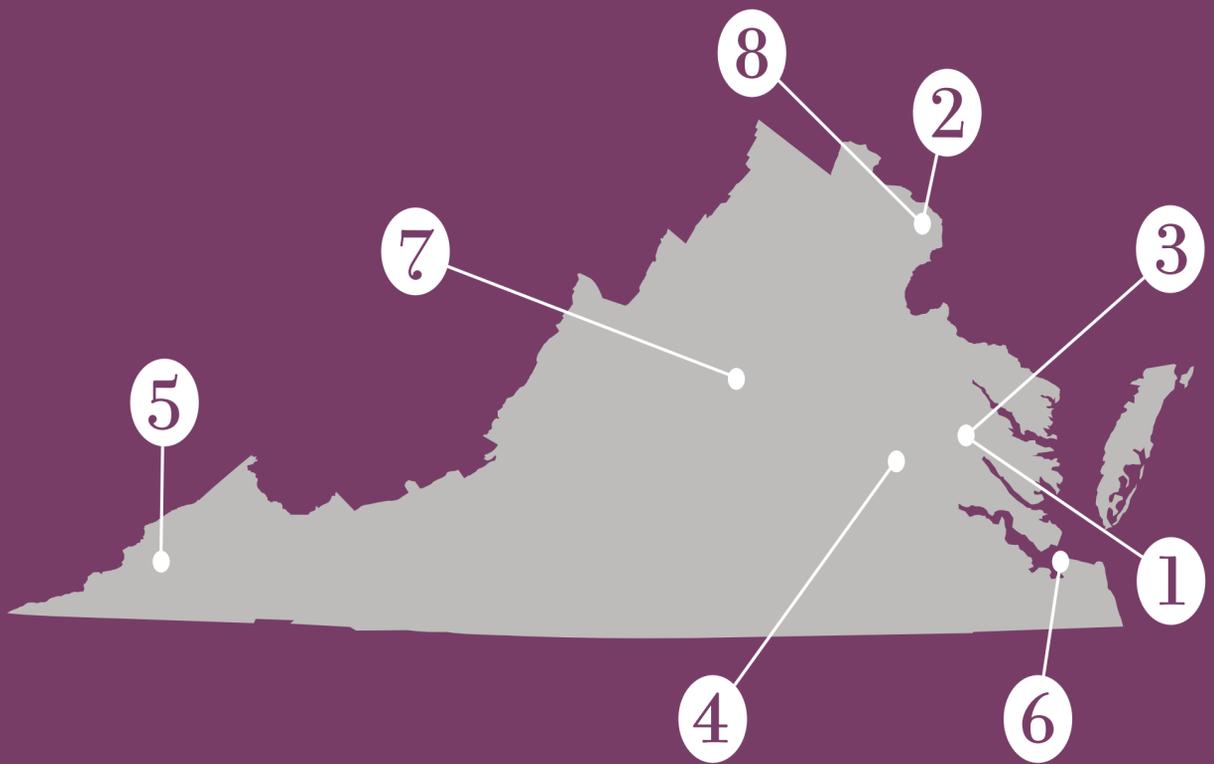
As a programs supervisor for the Virginia High School League, Claudia L. Dodson was dedicated to developing opportunities for girls' athletics across the state.

Sharifa Alkhateeb

1946–2004
FAIRFAX COUNTY

Community Activist

As an activist, leader, scholar, writer, and educator, Sharifa Alkhateeb worked tirelessly to strengthen communities and bridge Islamic and American cultures.



1. Ann
2. Ona Judge
3. India Hamilton
4. Lucy Randolph Mason

5. Kate Peters Sturgill
6. Georgeanna Seegar Jones
7. Claudia L. Dodson
8. Sharifa Alkhateeb

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