

Do You Know

Madison



Orange



Rappa



Rappahannock

Voter Suppression

First Culpeper Black

Women Voting Registrants

Culpeper

Information



Welcome Table



Introductory Quotes

Culpeper

Culpeper

Culpeper

Introduction to Exhibit



The Carver Center
9432 James Madison Highway
Suite 102
Rapidan, VA * 22733

For more information or to schedule an in-person visit to the museum,
contact: Charlotte B. Carpenter, History Committee, GWCRHSAA, Inc.
(540)

Groups of up to 10 people are welcome

The exhibit is on the web at <http://www.carver4cm.org>

FIRSTS AS CITIZENS

Our new exhibit is comprised of two parts: the first African American men in Culpeper, Orange, Madison, and Rappahannock counties to register to vote after the Civil War (including passage of the “Reconstruction Amendments” to the U. S. Constitution); and the first women of color to register to vote in Culpeper after the ratification of the 19th Amendment more than 50 years later in 1920.

I. Introductory Quotes and Narratives

PART A: Voter Registrations for African American Men are on the Museum’s Perimeter

- II. Culpeper was separated into six voting districts. Windows 2 through 4 have the names of **900** men.
- III. On the rear table are explanations of why the 15th Amendment was ineffective resulting ultimately in the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- IV. Test your knowledge in the rear right corner with “Do You Know” facts.
- V. Madison County had four voting districts and the names of **557** men are shown. Also on display is a hand-made, wooden voting box from the late 1890s.
- VI. Orange County is comprised of five voting districts and listed are **929** men. Included in this section are narratives of several registrants — some of whom were Civil War **veterans** either fighting for the Union or enslaved to a Confederate owner who took the registrant to war as some kind of servant. On display also is an early 1900s metal voting can.
- VII. Above the Orange County displays are two quotes from educator, activist and Orange County native, Nannie Helen Burroughs. Quoted here are excerpts from an article she published in the August, 1915 edition of **The Crisis** magazine, a publication of the NAACP. A printout of the magazine, dedicated to “Votes For Women,” is on the center display table.
- VIII. Rappahannock, known for its apple orchards, frames our listing of **443** registrants, with an emphasis on seven **veterans** of the Civil War who were among the first to register — as Frederick Douglass said, to become citizens.

PART B: Voter Registrations for African American Women are on the Center Table

Sixteen (16) African American women were the first to register to vote in Culpeper for the first election after the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Ranging in ages from 24-59, they were teachers, homemakers, housekeepers, merchants and a post master. Their vast experiences show a mother who suffered through the pain of her son being lynched at age 18, to two women who were caretakers for their respective elderly fathers until their deaths. We even showcase the literacy tests given to two women. Moreover, many were relatives of **veterans**, including being wives and mothers.

The women are grouped according to 12 policy issues that correspond to their lives—strikingly similar to today’s concerns: childcare * women’s healthcare * chronic diseases * quality education * desire for better job opportunities * poverty * single parenthood * small business * caring for elderly parents * aging & social security * home ownership * racial injustice.

WELCOME TO OUR EXHIBIT