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**proudly presents**

# FIRSTS AS CITIZENS

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**THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN FROM CULPEPER, MADISON, ORANGE AND RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTIES IN VIRGINIA TO REGISTER TO VOTE AFTER THE CIVIL WAR**

**THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN CULPEPER AFTER THE RATIFICATION OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT**

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXHIBIT

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- After the introduction pages, there are four parts to the exhibit:

- I. African American male voter registrants (years 1867-1869) from four counties (you will be able to “click” each county for detailed information)
- II. Do You Know? (click each image for more information)

III. The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Voter Suppression: The Road to the Voting Rights Act of 1965

IV. African American women from Culpeper who were the first to register in 1920

Our “Guide to the Exhibit” may be downloaded either from our website or here.



Adobe Acrobat  
Document



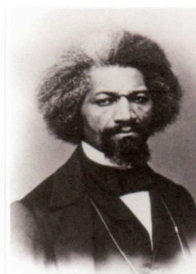


proudly presents

## FIRSTS AS CITIZENS

*"We were always men - now we are  
citizens and men among men."*

*(Frederick Douglass, April 11, 1870)*



The foundation of the United States Constitution (*ratified in 1788*) is equality under the law. Legally, for black men, that day came with the passage of the **15th Amendment in 1870**. For women, it was 50 years later

in **1920** after ratification of the **19th Amendment**.

Shown here together are **two firsts**:  
(1) the names of more than 1,000 black men from Culpeper, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock; and (2) 16 women of color from Culpeper - all of whom were **first** to register to vote and demonstrate their citizenship.



Included in this exhibit are references to key national men, women, clubs, and civic organizations that, beginning in the early 1800s, were on the front lines of advocating in favor of the universal right to vote.

After women's suffrage was omitted in the 15th Amendment, separate organizations formed to pressure legislators. Black women, largely excluded from white suffragists groups, gave voice to the double discrimination they faced, and the NAACP stepped up to support their rights and those of all women.



W. E. B. DuBois  
Editor, *The Crisis*  
August, 1915

"To say that men protect women with their votes is to overlook the flat testimony of the facts. In the first place there are millions of women who have no natural men protectors: the unmarried, the widowed, the deserted and those who have married failures. To put this whole army incontinently out of court and leave them unprotected and without voice in political life is more than unjust, it is a crime."



# THE "RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS" TO THE U. S. CONSTITUTION

## XIII Amendment

- Formally **abolished slavery** in the United States
- Passed the Senate on April 8, 1864
- Passed the House on January 31, 1865
- Passed via Joint Resolution of Congress on January 31, 1865
- President Abraham Lincoln approved the Joint Resolution on February 1, 1865
- Necessary number of states ratified it by December 6, 1865

### Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.



### Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## XIV Amendment

There are five sections of the XIV Amendment. The first and major provision granted **citizenship to all former slaves**.

- Passed the Senate on April 8, 1864
- Passed the house on January 31, 1865
- Passed via Joint Resolution of Congress on January 31, 1865
- President Andrew Johnson approved the Joint Resolution on June 13, 1866
- Necessary number of states ratified it by July 9, 1868

### Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

## XV Amendment

- **No voter discrimination** based on race on prior servitude
- Passed by Congress February 26, 1869
- Ratified February 3, 1870

### Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude —

### Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

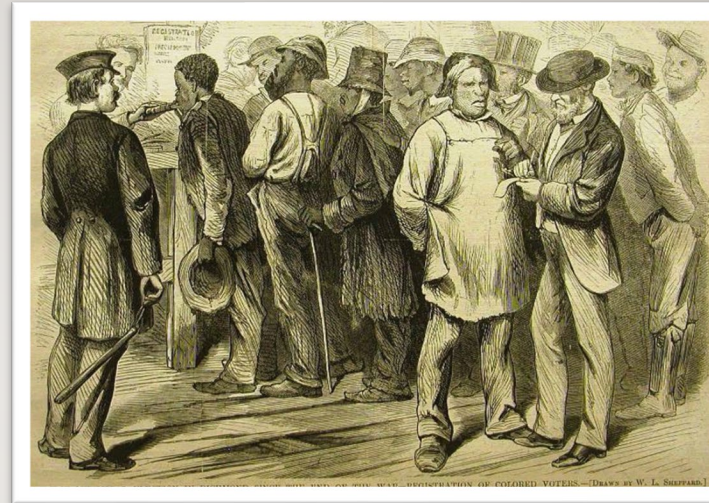
### NOTE:

When the Fifteenth Amendment became law, groups that had worked together to ensure passage of all three "Reconstruction Amendments" believed their work was done. "[It] confers upon the African race the care of its own destiny," said James Garfield, the 20th president of the United States. "It places their fortunes in their own hands."



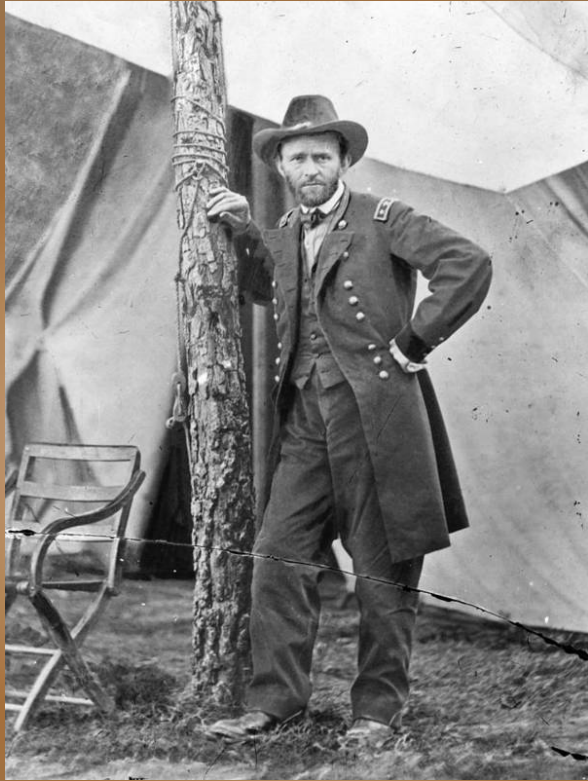
## WHY WAS VIRGINIA UNDER MILITARY RULE?

Virginia, along with other southern states, was under military rule because it would not ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment the Constitution. In other words, Virginia's leaders did not believe and would not enforce the new law that African Americans would be citizens. Thus, to help the leadership transition and become a full-fledged state within the United States (reconstructed), it was necessary to place Virginia under military leadership where a convention could be held to draft a new state constitution.



As directed, the Commander of the Military District in Virginia registered all male citizens 21 years of age or older and supervised an election held October, 1867 (*those records have not yet been located for Orange and Culpeper*). On display here are the records from 1869 when citizens voted for a Virginia government. Virginia officially rejoined the United States of America in 1870 along with Georgia, Texas and Mississippi.



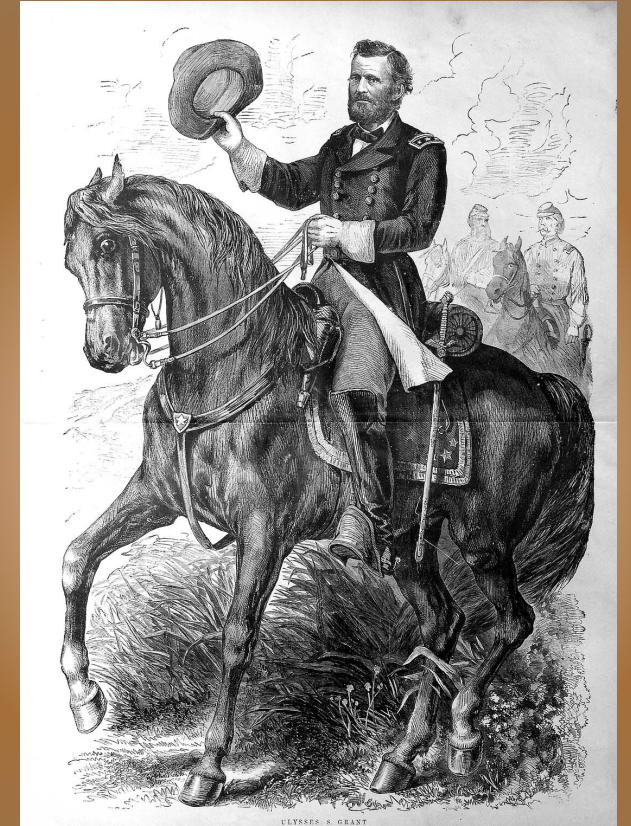


Those with heart strings about the Civil War are accustomed to viewing **Ulysses S. Grant** simply as the Lincoln-appointed general-in-chief who fought Robert E. Lee throughout this region on the way to victory in 1865. Four years later, at 46 years old, he was elected the 18th president of the United States and served two terms (1869-77).



1822—1885

The man who literally fought against the Confederacy to break the bonds of slavery that led to black citizenship became the political leader of the United States.

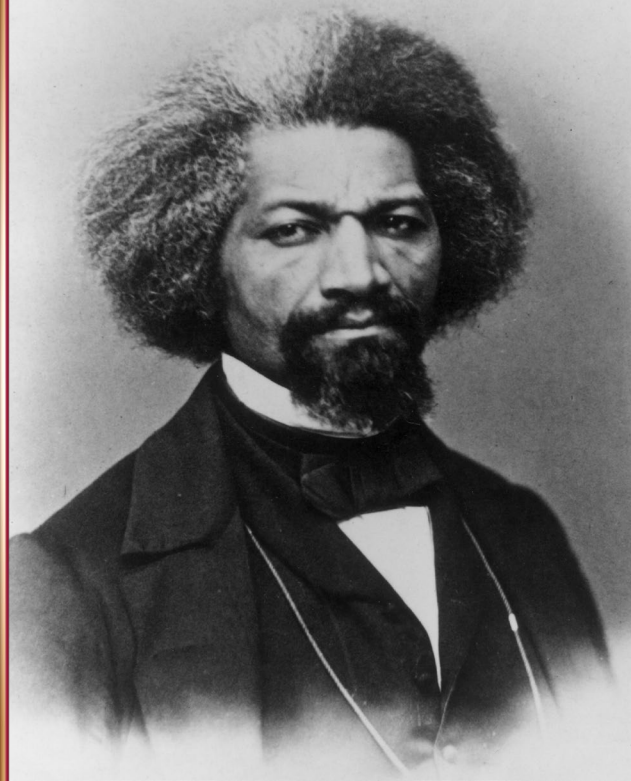




# FREDERICK DOUGLASS

## APRIL, 1870 LETTER EXCERPT

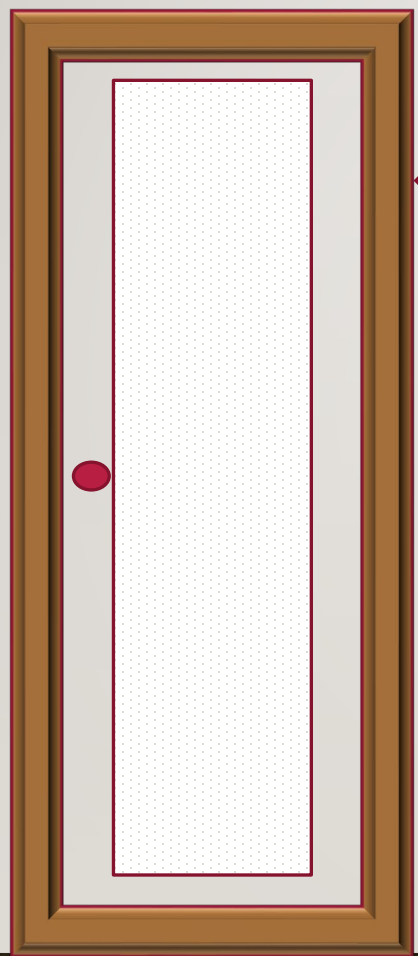
### UPON HEARING OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT



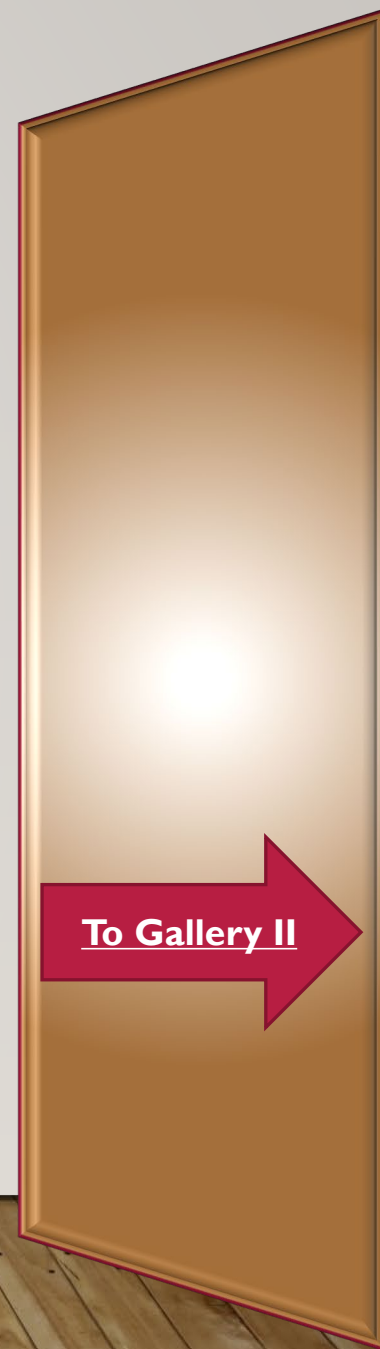
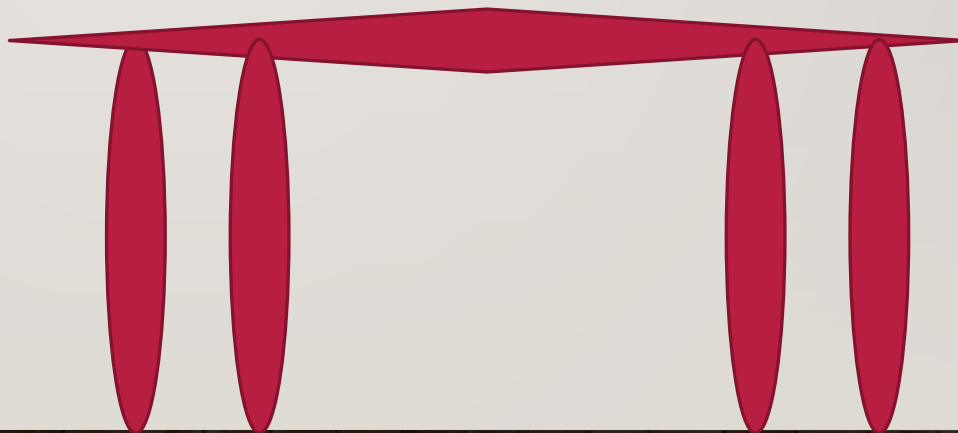
“Henceforth we live in a new world, breathe a new atmosphere, have a new earth beneath and a new sky above us. Our new condition brings with it that which should make us thoughtful as well as joyful. It sweeps the future of our ancient shortcomings, and flings us as a race upon our own responsibility. Equal before the Lord, equal at the ballot-box and in the jury-box. The glory or shame of our future condition is to fall upon ourselves.”



**To Gallery I**




**To Gallery III  
and Gallery IV**



**To Gallery II**





**2,829 BLACK MEN FROM  
CULPEPER, MADISON,  
ORANGE AND  
RAPPAHANNOCK  
REGISTERED TO VOTE –  
FIRST FOR THE VIRGINIA  
STATE LEGISLATURE AND  
THEN FOR THE PRESIDENCY  
OF THE UNITED STATES – THE  
FIRST NATIONAL ELECTION  
AFTER THE CIVIL WAR. ALL  
COUNTIES HAVE CIVIL WAR  
VETERANS ON BOTH  
CONFEDERATE AND UNION  
SIDES WHO REGISTERED TO  
VOTE.**

# **GALLERY I. FIRST BLACK MALE VOTER REGISTRANTS**

# GALLERY I

## Culpeper



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

## Madison



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

## Orange



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

## Rappahannock



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

**At left, click on the PDF icon underneath the county name for detailed information.**

- **Culpeper: Six voting districts with a total of 900 names**
- **Madison: Four voting districts with a total of 557 names**
- **Orange: Five voting districts with a total of 929 names**
- **Rappahannock: Five voting districts with a total of 443 names**



**Always  
men  
\*\*\*  
Then  
citizens**

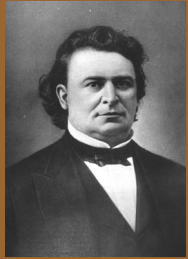


# GALLERY II.

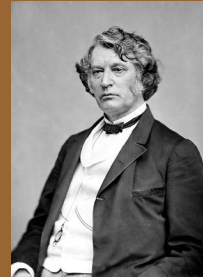
## DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

*Click on the middle of any square*

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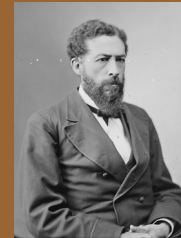


1864



Black  
Code

1867



1924

## Do you know that . . .



- . Twice in the United States Congress, a bill for black manhood suffrage was proposed. It failed both times (*in December, 1863 and December 1864*).
- . Republican Congressman James M. Ashley of Ohio sponsored the legislation.

## Do you know that . . .

- . Mississippi became the first of the former Confederate states to enact a "Black Code," which severely limited the rights and liberties of blacks.
- . Over the next few months, other Southern states passed similar legislation.



## **Do you know that . . .**

- In 1864: The National Equal Rights League was formed *(one year before the end of the Civil War)*.
- The first president was John Mercer Langston *(photograph below)*
- Purpose: to advocate for abolishing slavery; to address legal equality regardless of race or color; and to advocate for black manhood suffrage.



## **John Mercer Langston (1829-1897)**

- **Oberlin College (1849 graduate)**
- **Dean, Howard University Law School (1869-77)**
- **Minister to Haiti & Chargé d'Affaires to Santo Domingo (1877-1885)**
- **First President of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (beginning 1885)**
- **First black man elected to the U. S. Congress from Virginia (1890-91)**

## GALLERY II

### Do you know that . . .

- . On March 2, 1867, The First Reconstruction Act became law.
- . The law allowed black men to participate in the process of reconstructing the governments of Virginia and other former Confederate states.
- . The law required that the new state constitutions enfranchise black men.
- . The 1867 and 1869 voter registration lists that we are featuring in this exhibit are the result of this law.

### Do you know that . . .

- . In December, 1865, Senator Charles Sumner (*Republican-Massachusetts*) proposed male suffrage for the District of Columbia. It failed in Congress in January 1866.



- . On January 8, 1867, The District of Columbia Suffrage Bill became law.
- . The first election in the District of Columbia to include black male voters occurred in Georgetown on February 25, 1867, and resulted in victory for the Republican ticket.



## **Do you know that . . .**



- On November 3, 1868, Republican Ulysses S. Grant won the presidential election.
- For the first time in American history more than 500,000 black men cast their ballots.

**Do you know  
that . . .**

**Native Americans did  
not earn the right to  
vote until 1924**

**The Snyder Act of 1924  
admitted Native Americans born  
in the United States to full U. S.  
citizenship. Like other  
minorities, Native Americans  
were prevented by state laws, or  
conditions made unusually  
difficult for them, to participate  
fully in American society until  
the passage of the Voting Rights  
Act of 1965.**



# **GALLERY III. VOTER SUPPRESSION & THE 15<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT**

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**The Road to the Voting Rights Act of 1965**

## PRESIDENT GRANT AND THE XVTH AMENDMENT

“ . . . A measure which makes at once four millions of people voters, who were heretofore declared by the highest tribunal in the land not citizens of the United States, nor eligible to become so, with the assertion that at the time of the Declaration of Independence the opinion was fixed and universal—in the civilized portion of the white race, regarded as an axiom in morals as well as in politics—that ‘black men had no rights which white men were bound to respect,’ is indeed a measure of grander importance than any other one act of the kind from the foundation of our free Government to the present time.

“Institutions like ours, in which all power is derived directly from the people, must depend mainly upon their intelligence, patriotism, and industry. I call the attention, therefore, of the newly enfranchised race to the importance of their striving, in every honorable manner, to make themselves worthy of their new privilege. To the race more favored heretofore by our laws, I would say, withhold no legal privilege of advancement to the new citizen.”

*President Ulysses S. Grant  
From “All men free and equal.”  
The XVth Amendment Proclaimed  
Message to the U. S. Senate and  
House of Representatives  
March 30, 1870*



# 1902: VOTING FOR THE VIRTUOUS

*By contrast [to Virginia], Mississippi is a hotbed of democracy.*

*V. O. Key, Historian*

July 1, 1902, was the effective date of a new Virginia constitution that specifically disenfranchised voters. The constitution was developed by only 100 delegates and never put to a vote by Virginia residents because, delegates realized, the electorate would never vote to disenfranchise themselves. This constitution remained the law of Virginia until 1971. Let's explain.

The delegates decided to make "virtuous" voters from the entire electorate by educating citizens on their civic responsibilities and then excluding whole classes of voters deemed unfit. By their definition, blacks and poor whites were not virtuous, and should therefore, be ineligible to vote.

The new constitution required payment of a \$1.50 poll tax, to be paid six months in advance of any election plus three years prior. First time voters paid \$4.50. Second, an "understanding clause" was adopted meaning that an applicant had to explain to the satisfaction of the voter registrar any portion of the Virginia Constitution that was asked.

## NO WHITE MAN TO LOSE HIS VOTE IN VIRGINIA.

*This Assurance Given by Men Who Are Most Competent to  
Speak with Authority.*

*A Meeting was Held in Richmond on October 17, 1901, at which Chairman ELLYSON  
Presided and Hon. John Goode and Mr. Montague Made Speeches. All There  
Endorsed the Policy of the Constitution in Language That Cannot Be  
Misleading. Great Enthusiasm Attended.*

### STATE CHAIRMAN ELLYSON.

"The best men in this Commonwealth have been selected as the representatives of their people in the convention. They will not fail to be responsive to the wishes of their constituents. For every Democrat in this commonwealth knows that the convention would never have been held but for the desire of the white people of this Commonwealth to have enacted such a constitutional provision as would take away from the negro the right to vote, and, at the same time preserve to the white men of the Commonwealth their right of suffrage.

"I have enjoyed the best opportunities for frequent conferences and consultations with the members of the convention on this question. I think I know their views as well as any other man in the State, and I do not hesitate to give to you and through you to the white men of the Commonwealth both my personal and official assurance that that convention has the best and most reliable assurance of securing a change which will accomplish the end I have just mentioned and which will forever remove the negro as a factor in our political affairs and give to the white people of this Commonwealth the control and control of the destiny which they have the right to shape and determine.

"The Democrats of Virginia have always kept the pledges made to the people and they will not fail to do so in this instance."—Hon. J. Taylor Elyson, Chairman of the State Democratic Committee.

### HON. JOHN GOODE.

"The Democratic party is pledged in its platform to eliminate the ignorant and worthless negro as a factor from the politics of this State without taking the right of suffrage from a single white man, and speaking for my colleagues in the convention, I solemnly declare to you that they will keep that pledge to the letter."—President Goode of the Constitutional Convention.

### HON. A. J. MONTAGUE.

The Democratic party, through its representatives in the convention, is clearly, but surely, framing a law that will so effectively exclude the idle, shiftless and illiterate of the negro race from the suffrage that the games of republicanism which cannot prevail against it. The trouble with our opponents is that they realize now that we will accomplish this and keep the pledge that no white man will be disfranchised. I stand here and declare it, for I do know it to be the truth."—Hon. A. J. Montague, Democratic nominee for Governor.

*Even though promised, the final Constitution did indeed reduce the number of white men on the voter registration rolls by 50 percent. Black men were reduced by 90 percent.*

To avoid the appearance of discrimination against poor whites, delegates would choose the registrars and those registrars would apply as they saw fit.

Third, applicants were required to write their application in their own handwriting without assistance. Last, all Civil War veterans and their sons were exempt from all of the above requirements.

In summary, the virtuous had disposable income to give to the state; the virtuous HAD paid three years prior (though how would many of them know to do that); the virtuous could read and write; the virtuous had been schooled extensively in the new Virginia constitution; the virtuous had superior tracking ability to locate a registrar at just the right time as not to inconvenience him; and the virtuous had the innate ability to force the voter registrar to NOT discriminate against the potential voter. If, however, the virtuous were Civil War veterans, they could ignore all of the above.

The 1902 Constitution also mandated school segregation.

## **IF CONGRESS RATIFIED THE XV AMENDMENT IN 1870 SPECIFYING ALL MEN COULD VOTE, WHAT HAPPENED?**

By 1883, the Supreme Court struck down all laws that enforced the Fifteenth Amendment, followed by decades of no attempts by the federal government to protect civil rights.

Not until the 1950s did Congress begin to pass civil rights legislation (1957, 1960 and 1964). None of those laws were strong enough to prevent voter discrimination.

One of the most outspoken advocates for legislation to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment was Ella Baker. The next slide shows a copy of her 1960 letter to then Vice President Richard M. Nixon.



## GALLERY III

March 30, 1960  
Vice-President Richard M. Nixon  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

"Ninety (90) years ago today, the XVth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was ratified. It purported to guarantee equal franchise rights to Negro citizens. In far too many areas of the South, this democratic right is being 'denied and abridged' by flagrant schemes, even threats and intimidations. Loyal Negro Americans feel that ninety years is long enough to wait for the unhampered access to the ballot box. Time has run out when watered-down or hamstrung proposals, claiming to remedy violations of Negro voting rights (such as were reported today by the Senate Judiciary Committee) can be considered progress. We urge the Senate to pass a strong, clear-cut provision for federal referees or registrars, with power to protect the right to vote in local, state and national elections; and thus make real the promise of the XVth Amendment".

SIGNED: Ella J. Baker, Executive  
Director  
Southern Christian Leadership Conf.



Five years after Ms. Baker's letter, President Lyndon Johnson signed the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**. The first words in the legislation are:

**An Act to enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.**

# MARCH OF THE NEWS.

FRONT PAGE OF THE WEEK•

## A MILLION NEW NEGRO VOTERS?



President Johnson, at the Capitol, signs the new voting-rights bill for Negroes

President Johnson signed the voting-rights bill for Negroes on Friday, August 6, and immediately set the vast machinery of the U.S. Government into motion to enforce the new law.



"Let me now say to every Negro in this country: You must register. You must vote. . . . It is a challenge which cannot be met simply by protests and demonstrations."

"And, under this Act, if any county . . . help, the examiner will assist. Where

U. S. News and World Report, August 16, 1965



## GALLERY III

President Lyndon B. Johnson address Congress after the nation witnessed on television the beatings at the Edmund Pettis Bridge – known as Bloody Sunday.

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“In our system the first and most vital of all our rights is the right to vote. Jefferson described it as ‘the ark of our safety.’ It is from the exercise of this right that all our other rights flow.”

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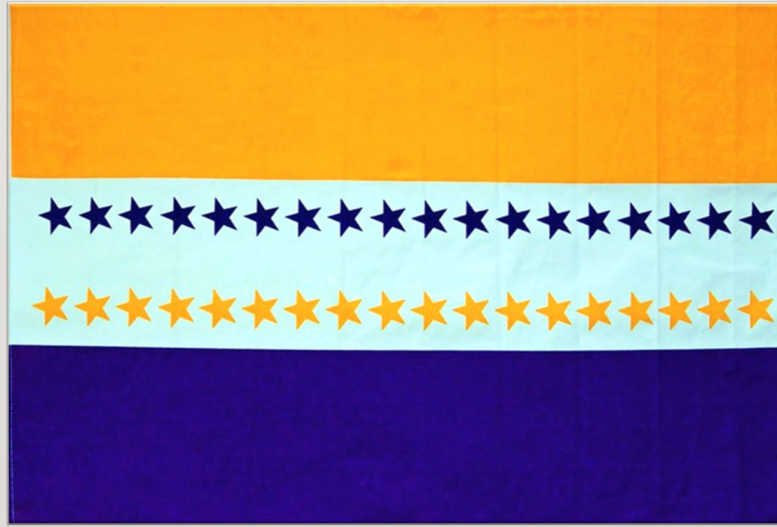


*Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson  
March 15, 1965 message to  
Congress*

## GALLERY IV. VOTES FOR WOMEN

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**16 WOMEN OF COLOR WHO WERE CULPEPER RESIDENTS WERE THE FIRST TO REGISTER TO VOTE AFTER THE RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT IN AUGUST, 1920. THEY REGISTERED FROM SEPTEMBER 22 – OCTOBER 2, 1920. SOME OF THESE REGISTRANTS HAVE DIRECT RELATIONSHIPS WITH VETERANS.**





## GALLERY IV



This cover photograph of Abraham Lincoln and Sojourner Truth is a composite by Henry Gilmore.

The Crisis magazine was the official publication of the NAACP. Its editor was W. E. B. DuBois.

# NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS

- Born: May, ~1875 in Orange County, Virginia
- Her parents: John and Jennie Poindexter Burroughs
- By 1900: Had relocated to Washington, D.C. with her mother and younger sister. They resided with her mother's older sister, Cordelia Mercer.
- In 1915, The Crisis Magazine, published by the NAACP, featured her article about the need for women's suffrage. Two quotes from her article are on display.
- Founder and President of the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, DC from 1909-1961.
- Died: May 20, 1961, in Washington, DC
- Buried: Lincoln Cemetery, Suitland, Maryland





**I** was asked by an enthusiastic worker for 'votes for [white] women,' 'What can the Negro woman do with the ballot?' I asked her, 'What can she do **without it?**'

*Nannie Helen Burroughs, 1915*

**T**he Negro woman . . . needs the ballot  
to get back, by the **wise**  
use of it, what the Negro  
man has lost by the misuse of it.  
She needs it to **ransom**  
her race.

*Nannie Helen Burroughs, 1915*



# 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution

Celebrate the 16 women of color who were the first to register to vote in Culpeper County from September 22nd through October 20th, 1920.

This part of our new exhibit, **Firsts as Citizens**, asks, "What may have motivated them to register?" Research showed that key issues of importance in 1920 are strikingly similar to those in 2020. Brief narratives of each woman are grouped according to those policy issues, such as women's health care, aging, poverty, small business sustainability, and a quality education for their children and community.

Their names as recorded in the original poll books are:

Leila H. Lightfoot	Mildred Brown
Mrs. S. T. Allen	Sallie D. Chinn
Maggie Banks	Margaret A. Johnson
Annie L. Payne	L. M. V. Marshall

*"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."*

*Passed by Congress: June 4, 1919*

*Ratified: August 18, 1920 (Tennessee was the deciding state)*

*Certified by U. S. government official: August 26, 1920*

Lucy Henry Brown	Annie E. Fields
Eliza J. Graves	Rosa A. Wilhoit
Ida V. Thompson	Alice Lizzie Wright
Leila Thompson	Mrs. A. E. Thompson

Their presidential election choice was between Republicans Warren Harding for president with Calvin Coolidge as his running mate versus Democrats James M. Cox for president and Franklin D. Roosevelt as vice president.

The election was also the first to report results on the radio — ushering in a new era and a future Census question regarding whether a household owned a radio.

**Desire for better job  
opportunities**



**Adopted mother of a  
veteran**

## **MRS. S. T. ALLEN**

- Born **Susan Alice Beckwith** on March 8, 1887 in Rappahannock County, the 7th of 10 children of Robert and Alice Grigsby Beckwith — one of the oldest African American families in the county.
- ~1915, she married Stewart Talbott Allen of Charlottesville (*son of Mason Allen and Ellen Johnson*).
- **She registered to vote on September 30, 1920, using her married name, Mrs. S. T. Allen. She listed her age as "26" and her occupation as "Housekeeper."**
- The couple raised as their own one of Stewart's nephews, Gerard Jennings.
- Through the years, she worked with her husband to support their family, including as a pool room manager.
- Her husband died on October 19, 1952 and was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery.
- Two years later, she was 67 years old when she died of heart disease on November 29, 1954 and was buried next to him.



## MAGGIE BANKS

- Maggie Elizabeth Banks was born June 12, 1877 in Culpeper to Christopher Columbus and Belle Poindexter Banks.
- Her father had died by 1900. Her mother, younger brother and she lived on **West Street** next to the Fleshman family. Her mother, a laundress, reported wealth of \$1,500 in 1930.
- **On September 30, 1920, she registered to vote and gave her age as "29;" she was actually closer to 40 years of age. She listed her occupation as "Housework."**
- For her entire life, she worked as a cook and house-keeper for private families - never having children of her own.
- Having lived almost 100 years, she died on May 29, 1977 and was buried next to her mother in Fairview Cemetery.



**Poverty**



**Providing a Quality  
Education for their  
children and those in  
the community**

**LEILA H. LIGHTFOOT**

- Leila was born on July 8, 1877 to Henry Clay and Mary Landonia Brigg Lightfoot. She was their third surviving child. They lived on Coleman Street in the Stevensburg section of Culpeper. This family was prominent and had deep roots in Culpeper.
- As early as the 1894-95 school year, she was teaching in Culpeper public schools and did so continuously until 1931.
- In the 1920 Census (*submitted on January 7th, 1920*), she was living with her elderly parents and still teaching school.
- **She was 43 years old when she registered to vote on September 22, 1920, becoming the first woman of color in Culpeper to do so.**
- By 1930, her mother had died and her father was living with her and new husband, Rev James Garfield.
- In the fall of 1931, she began the school year as usual. At the end of October, she came down with pneumonia, and less than a week later on November 4, 1931, she died at only 56 years old.



## ANNIE L. PAYNE

- She was born **Annie Laura Payne** on October 30, 1892 in Culpeper to Sawney and Cora Lee Gatewood Payne.
- She was a 1913 graduate of Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute with a concentration in business. She chose a career in teaching.
- She began teaching in the 1913-14 school year at a salary of 25/month.
- **On September 30, 1920, she registered to vote, giving her age as "25" and her occupation as "Teacher." (She was actually almost 28 years old.)**
- In the 1920-21 school year, she was assigned to the Buena school.
- By the 1924-25 school year, she had moved to the Culpeper Training School, teaching grades 5-7 at a salary of \$50/month.
- In 1932, she married building contractor William Montgomery Lovell (son of Rev. Ernest M. and Mary Wilhoite Lovell). The couple had one child, Annette.
- Four years later, she was among the first faculty hired for the newly constructed Culpeper Training School, renamed the A. G. Richardson School. She was the consummate educator and became the collective memory about the role of African American education in Culpeper.
- Her husband died in 1973.
- She lived fully until her death at age 97 on February 15, 1990.



Photograph courtesy of her granddaughter,  
Angela J. Chapman

## SALLIE D. CHINN

- She was born in **Sallie D. Washington** in Mobile, Alabama on July 31, 1867, two years after the end of the Civil War. Her parents were George and Mary Washington. Her father was a native of Mobile; her mother was from Madison County, Virginia.
- On May 25, 1891, she married Charles H. Chinn in El Paso, Texas. He was born in Lexington, Kentucky in ~ 1846, and was a U. S. Army veteran.
- She and her husband relocated to Virginia ~1896 and made their home in the Brandy section of Culpeper.
- Although she did not have biological children, she and her husband adopted Marguerite Johnson (b. 1905), and also shared their home with a young cousin, Jennie Cave (b. 1898).
- In the 1920-21 school year, she began teaching grades 1-4 at the Brandy School; she remained there until the 1925-26 academic year.
- By the 1920 Census, her now widowed mother had come to live with her — perhaps returning to the region of her birth for the first time.
- **On October 1, 1920, at 53 years old, she registered to vote in the Brandy precinct of Stevensburg. She stated her profession as "Teacher."**
- Nearly seven (7) years later, suffering from uterine cancer, she died on May 15, 1927, and was laid to rest in Elkwood. Her husband died five months later.



Mrs.  
Chinn was  
the wife of  
a veteran







Wife and then Widow of a  
World War I veteran

Single Parenthood



Mrs. Brown Green and the  
two women who follow  
suffered from  
Chronic Diseases

## LUCY HENRY BROWN

- She was born on September 8, 1895 in Culpeper to Henry and Betty Parker Brown.
- She earned her teaching credentials from the Manassas Training Institute in ~ 1924.
- She started teaching in Culpeper at the Culpeper Training School in the 1927-28 school year at a salary of \$50/month, remaining there through its transformation to a new building with a new name: A. G. Richardson School.

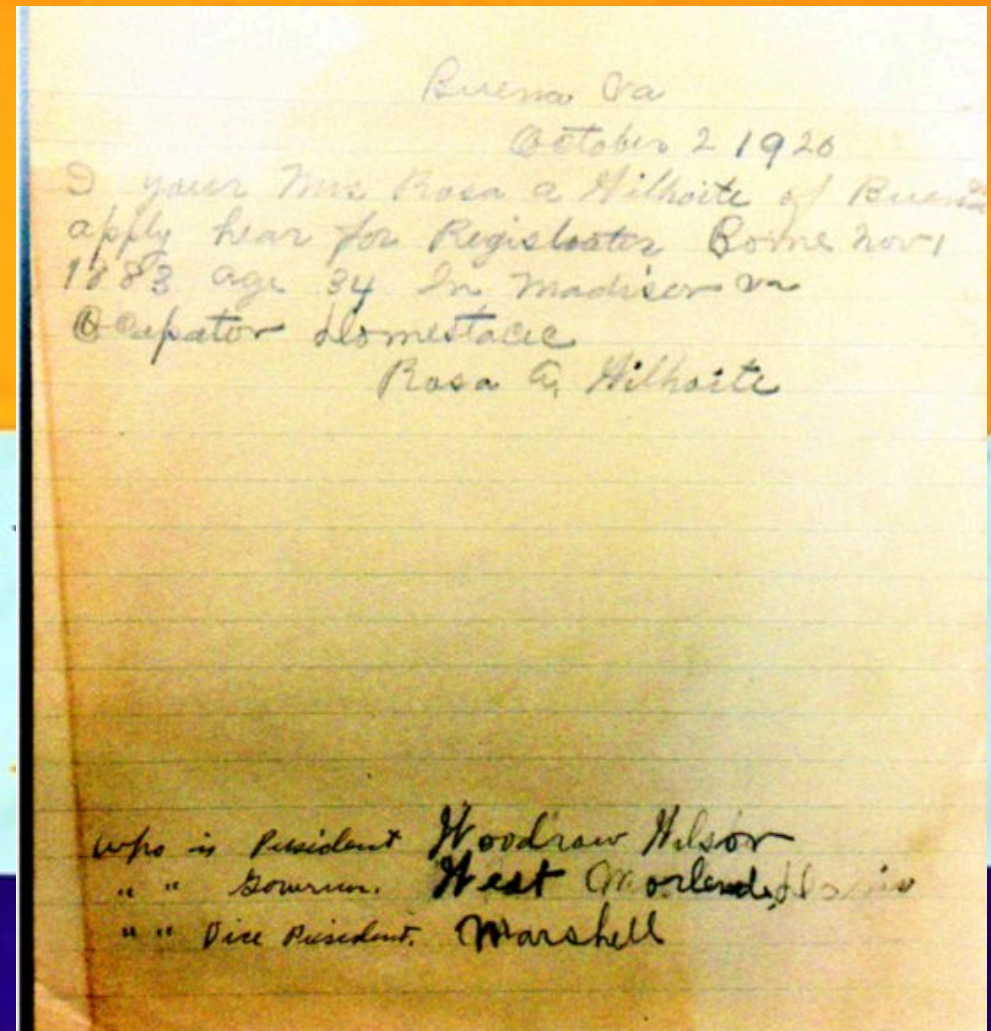


- **A 24-year old school teacher, she registered to vote on October 1, 1920.**
- ~1928, she married World War I veteran Joseph Nathan Green of Culpeper, son of Lexington and Homizell Green.
- The couple had two daughters (*Ceola and Pauline*).
- On April 27, 1938, her husband died in a work accident at a quarry in Orange County.
- This single mother continued to teach, raise her children and contribute to her community, even as her health began to fail in 1948 with a diagnosis of diabetes.
- Four years later, with the addition of hypertension and advanced heart disease, she suffered a brain hemorrhage in mid-December, 1952. She died on Christmas day at age 57, and was buried in Fairview Cemetery next to her husband.



## ROSA A. WILHOIT

- Her birth name is **Rosalie**, and she was born on November 1, 1883 in Madison County to Angus and Pamelly Clore Arrington, the first surviving girl of 12 births.
- ~1911, she married Frank L. Wilhoit (aka "Wilhoite," son of Samuel and Helen Sneed Wilhoite).
- **She was a 34-year old housekeeper when she registered to vote on October 2, 1920.**
- By 1930, although the couple did not have biological children, they raised Frank's nephew, Raymond (b. 1912) after the death of Frank's brother, Milton, in Connecticut in 1922.
- Her husband died July 22, 1941 and was buried in the cemetery of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Madison.
- She had suffered many years with diabetes, heart disease and hypertension. She died of complications of an aneurysm on December 19, 1964.
- She died in Culpeper Memorial Hospital on December 19, 1964 and was buried in the cemetery of her home church, Chestnut Grove Baptist in Madison.



As required, **ROSA A. WILHOITE** wrote her application to Register including her occupation, date and place of birth. Also included was a **literacy test**. Notice that the third question given to her was different from the one given to Eliza J. Graves. Notice also that her married name on this paper is spelled differently from that on the Registrar's book.



## MILDRED BROWN

- She was born **Mildred Lewis** in Culpeper on May 15, 1877 to Daniel Lewis (*of Culpeper*) and Mary Menefee (*of Rappahannock*).
- In Washington, D.C, at 19 years of age, she married Nimrod Jesse Brown on June 23, 1896. By 1910, they had settled on Rixeyville Road in Culpeper.
- She and her husband farmed their own land and she made their home with three surviving children: Ida (*b. 1898*); Gladys (*b. 1906*); and Dorothy (*b. 1904*).
- **On October 1, 1920, at 43 years old, she registered to vote, listing her occupation as "Housewife."**
- She had been diagnosed with Bright's disease and suffered with high blood pressure. By 1930, she and her husband had opened their home to two children, ages 12 and 11. Sadly, Mrs. Brown did not live to raise them for she died on April 7, 1930, of pneumonia (*the Census had just been taken and was submitted on the 19th with her name still on it*). She was only 52 years old.



## L. M. V. MARSHALL

- **Lydia Marie Virginia Thomas** was born in Forrestville, Maryland on August 9, 1861, to Richard Johnson Thomas (1829-1915) and Mary Ann Savoy (1832-unknown death date).
- In 1880, she was living with her uncle James Savoy and his family in Washington, D. C. while working as "Agent Family Herald."
- December 1, 1887, she married Lewis L. Marshall, son of Malinda Marshall (1831-1910). By 1896, her husband had become a minister.
- 1892-93 are the first records of the Superintendent for Culpeper Public Schools. They show that both Mrs. Marshall and her husband were teachers. The couple began their family, and thus, Mrs. Marshall "retired" from the classroom to raise their children.
- By 1910 the couple had 9 surviving children:
 

Mary E. (1889-?)	Richard J. (1896-1967)
William L. (1891-1940)	Charles H. (1897-1965)
Mortimer M. (1892-1979)	Septimus O. (1899-1945)
Oliver W. (1895-1927)	Victor H. (1902-1957)
Lewis L. (1896-1978)	
- **On October 1, 1920, at 59 years old**, having lived through significant events in U. S. history such as the Civil War, Spanish American War and World War I, this widow, mother and homemaker registered to vote, **making her the oldest woman of color in Culpeper to do so.**
- By 1930, she reported wealth of \$7,000 and her two youngest sons were living with her. By 1940, that wealth had to \$2,000, and she was accompanied by her son, Richard.
- Having lived a full 86 years, she died at her home, 1109 Orange Road, on August 14, 1947.

### Childcare



### Mother of four veteran sons

## Women's Healthcare

### ALICE LIZZIE WRIGHT

- She was born **Elizabeth Alice Wright** on June 20, 1894 in Culpeper to John James and Alice Ford Wright.
- Through the years, tragedy seems to have visited this family regularly. Her mother reported in the 1910 Census that she had had 13 births, and only 5 of her children were still living - Elizabeth Alice was one of those 5.
- **She and one of her older brothers, Franklin, went together to register to vote on October 2, 1920. She was 26 years old and reported her occupation as "Housekeeper."**
- After her father's death in 1926, she became ill with tuberculosis that was not adequately treated.
- Three years later on October 7, 1929, she died of both tuberculosis and peritonitis, an infection that spread throughout her abdominal cavity. She was only 34 years old.



## IDA V. THOMPSON

She was born **Ida Virginia Marshall** in ~1866 in Rappahannock to Malinda Marshall. Ida was one of the younger sisters of Lewis L. Marshall (*husband of L. M. V. Thomas Marshall, also in this exhibit*).

On December 31, 1890, she married Wade Hamilton Thompson, Rappahannock native and son of Wade and Kate Thompson.

She first taught in Amissville in the 1893-94 academic year, and in the Jeffersonton school the following year. As her family was growing, she retired from the classroom.

After the loss of at least three children as infants, the couple had five known surviving children:

Robert L. (1894-?)  
Lillian R. (1896-1936)  
Charles A. (1900-1918)  
Myrtle L. (1903-1967)  
Ida (1909-1937)



Above: Daughter Lillian, Baby Myrtle,  
Mother Ida, and son Charles  
Photo courtesy Monica Nickens

On November 22, 1918, her 18-year old son, Charles, was arrested on the charge of "rape on a white woman;" "was know (sic) jury held;" and "was hanged by a rope" on November 25th. (He is pictured above standing next to his mother ~1904 at about age 4).

**She registered to vote on October 2, 1920, reporting her age as "50" and her occupation as "Housekeeper."** (She was actually ~54 years old.)

On June 4, 1929, she "died suddenly after 4-hr illness without medical services." Her son Robert provided the information for her death certificate. She was buried in their family cemetery in Amissville.

## Racial Injustice

### Strange Fruit

Southern trees bear a strange fruit  
Blood on the leaves and blood at  
the root  
Black body swinging in the  
southern breeze  
Strange fruit hanging from the  
poplar trees.

Pastoral scene of the gallant  
south,  
The bulging eyes and the twisted  
mouth,  
Scent of magnolia sweet and  
fresh,  
And the sudden smell of burning  
flesh!

© 1937, poem by Abel Meeropol, Jewish school teacher from New York, after seeing a photograph of a lynching victim;  
sung by Billy Holiday and rose to #16 on the charts in July 1939



## LEILA THOMPSON

- She was born **Leila Williams** on August 2, 1874 in Culpeper - the only child of Edward (1849-1937) and Rebecca Taylor Williams (~1865 -1919).
- At ~16 years old, she married Richard Thompson (*son of Charles and Eliza Thompson*) on September 15, 1890. They were divorced by 1910 and she was living with her parents on Tin Cup Alley in Culpeper.
- She did not remarry nor have children.
- **She was 46 years old when she registered to vote on October 2, 1920, and gave her occupation as "Domestic."**
- By 1930, she was head of her household (*her ancestral home*) with reported wealth of \$1,000. She rented rooms, and was the prime caretaker for her widowed father who also lived with her.
- After her father's death in 1937, she closed her affairs and relocated to New York City.

**Home  
Ownership**

**Caring for  
Elderly Parents**





## Mother of a veteran



## Small Business Owners

### MARGARET A. JOHNSON

- She was born **Margaret A. Porter** in Culpeper on December 4, 1884 to Joseph H. and Lucy Hall Porter. By 1900, her mother had died.
- ~1910, she married Walter Harrison Johnson, son of Peyton and Eliza Stuart Johnson. He made his living as a painter, and by the 1920s was also a grocery merchant. Margaret worked alongside him.
- They were the parents of four children: Joseph (*b. 1912*); Edna (*b. 1915*); Anna (*b. 1916*); and Katherine (*b. 1918*).
- **On October 1, 1920, at 43 years old, she registered to vote, listing her occupation as "Merchant."**
- The family had lived on West Street for ~20 years when, in ~1935, she and her family purchased a home on Irving Street in Washington, D. C. Their school-aged children received a high school education, and her husband developed a home remodeling business.



## ANNIE E. FIELDS

- She was born **Ann E. Murray** in Culpeper on February 25, 1875, to Nehemiah Murray (*her mother's name has not yet been located*).
- ~1898, she married Henry B. Fields and the couple lived with her aged father (*he was born in 1825*) until his death in 1919.
- In the 1920 Census, her occupation was the postmaster of the local Buena station of the U. S. Postal Service. Her husband was a grocery merchant.
- **She was 45 years old when she registered to vote later that year on October 2, 1920, giving her occupation as "P.M. & Merchant"** (*suggesting that she helped her husband and/or was co-owner in the business*).
- Her husband died at 65 years old on March 14, 1941 of tuberculosis - a condition with which he suffered from September, 1940. He was buried in Buena.
- She died on December 15, 1952 in Hill Side Nursing Home in Fauquier and was buried in Buena at Cedar Grove Baptist Church cemetery next to her husband.

## MRS. A. E. THOMPSON

- She was born **Amanda E. Green** in Culpeper in February, 1880, the first child of William and Frances (*aka Fannie*) Thomas Green. Her father was a blacksmith and her mother was a homemaker.
- ~1895, she married Charles Augustus Thomas, son of Mattie Dawson (*and an unnamed father*).
- They combined their talents and chose to become business owners and operators. Her husband farmed and together they opened a retail grocery.
- From the late 1890s through 1918, the couple had 8 children, 7 of whom survived childhood.

Fannie E. (b. 1897)

John S. (b. 1900)

Charles A. (b. 1902)

Lilly R. (b. 1904)

Rosa L. (b. 1904)

Jackson W. (b. 1907)

Ruth E. (b. 1919)



- **At 41 years old, she registered to vote on October 2, 1920, giving her profession as "Merchant."**

- Her daughter, Rosa, worked in the store with her and her husband, especially as they aged.

- Her husband died on April 16, 1944 and was laid to rest at Beulah Baptist Church cemetery in Eggbornsville.

- She died almost three months later on July 11, 1944, and was laid to rest next to him.

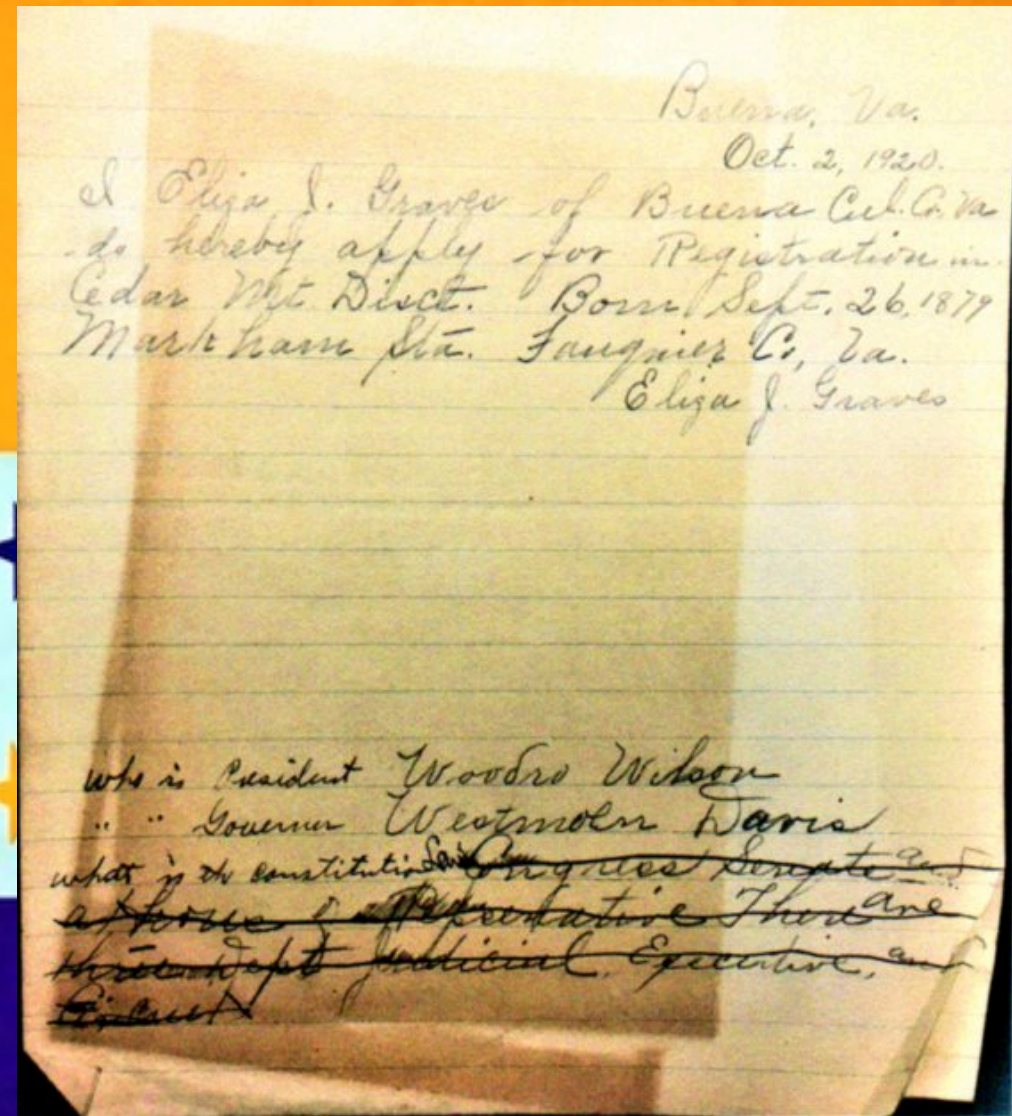




## ELIZA J. GRAVES

- She was born September 26, 1879 to Beverly and Alice Pole Julius in Hume, Fauquier County.
- ~1908, she married George Graves, son of Joseph and Mary Alice Graves, and settled in the Cedar Mountain district of Culpeper.
- They were the parents of three known children: Alice (b. 1909); Julius (b. 1911); and Robert (b. 1915).
- **She was 41 years old when she registered to vote on October 2, 1920, giving her occupation as "Housekeeper."**
- By 1930, her widowed father was living with them. He died November 26, 1939, three days after Thanksgiving.
- The 1940 Census was the first time she had been asked about her level of education. She reported she had received four years of high school.
- Her husband died on February 1, 1955 of a stroke. He was buried in Buena.
- She, however, lived until June 18, 1967, when she died in Gordonsville Hospital at the age of 87. She was buried next to her husband in Buena.

## Aging & Social Security



As required, **ELIZA J. GRAVES** wrote her application to register including her date and place of birth. Also included was a **literacy test**. Notice that her answer to #3 was more detailed than the Registrar had in mind. He simply wrote, "Law" in place of her answer.

## TWELVE REASONS WHY MOTHERS SHOULD HAVE THE VOTE

BY THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF VIRGINIA (1916)

(NOTE: WRITTEN TO NOT INCLUDE MINORITY WOMEN)

1. **BECAUSE** the mother's business is home-making and child-rearing, and the child and the home are the greatest assets of the nation.
2. **BECAUSE** the welfare of the child is affected by the laws of the State as well as the rules of the home.
3. **BECAUSE** there are just as many home interests in the government as there are business interests and the mother is primarily the custodian of these home interests.
4. **BECAUSE** the lowest death rate of babies in the world is in New Zealand, the country where mothers have had the vote the longest. In that country, the government sends out nurses to every town, village and country district, to instruct and aid mothers in the care of their babies. Young girls are taught baby hygiene and feeding.
5. **BECAUSE** the banner baby state, California, an equal suffrage state, has the highest birth rate and a very low death rate. (The lowest death rate of babies in the United States is in the city of Seattle, Washington State, where women vote.)
6. **BECAUSE** children have better school facilities where mothers vote. Washington, an equal suffrage state, is the banner state in education. State-wide compulsory education and child labor laws put every child under fourteen years of age in school, where women vote.



## TWELVE REASONS WHY MOTHERS SHOULD HAVE THE VOTE CONTINUED

7. **BECAUSE** girls have equal educational opportunities with boys from Kindergarten to State University, where women vote.
8. **BECAUSE** the moral conditions of our country are regulated by law. Should not mothers have a say about the dangers and temptations which surround their boys and girls?
9. **BECAUSE** girls of tender age are better protected by law where mothers vote. The age of consent is highest in the suffrage states.
10. **BECAUSE** mothers are equal guardians with fathers of their children in the states which have had suffrage the longest.
11. **BECAUSE** widowed mothers are protected by mother's pensions in the states where women vote.
12. **BECAUSE** it is just, it is expedient, and has proven a good governmental policy for mothers to have a voice in the laws which control themselves and their children.

## Women's Right to Vote in Virginia

Over the years, more than 1,000 organizations within the U. S. advocated for women's suffrage. One such organization was the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. Founded in Richmond in 1909, they later joined the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Members canvassed, distributed leaflets and gave public speeches in support of a woman's right to vote.

By 1916 the group chose to **silence the voices of activist Black women** by perpetuating an argument begun by Virginia anti-suffragists. That is,

**"The enfranchisement of Virginia women would increase white supremacy"** (1915 pamphlet *Equal Suffrage and the Negro Vote*).

Whereas their stance was a strategic one in an attempt to gain passage of the bill in the Virginia legislature, the betrayal negatively impacted relations between educated white and black women who had been fighting together for suffrage.

Even after the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920, the Virginia legislature refused to ratify it until 1952.



## GALLERY IV

From the founding of the republic and election of its first president, through contemporary incendiary politics, in the end all who live, work and dream within U. S. borders are indeed Americans. Since they do not choose to renounce their citizenship and emigrate to another country, Americans have responsibilities. Voting is among them and one cannot vote responsibly without knowledge. A responsive republic depends on it. An enlightened voting public has real power.

**“Promote then as a matter of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of the Government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.”**

*President George Washington  
Farewell Address, 1796*



OUR LEADERSHIP

Hortense Hinton-Jackson  
Charlotte B. Carpenter  
J. Hubert Jackson  
Alan Johnson  
William H. Lewis  
Jane C. Pollard  
Myra Williams  
Terry L. Miller, Curator

Thank you for virtually visiting our newest exhibit, **Firsts as Citizens**. The full exhibit is in our museum until February 28, 2021.

Our museum is located inside of The Carver Center, 9432 James Madison Highway (Rt 15) in Rapidan, Virginia, 22733

For safety precautions during this time of COVID-19, we are accepting on-site visits by appointment only. Groups up to 10 people are welcome.

Contact Charlotte B. Carpenter at (540) 547-2530