2004 Virginia women in history presented by the virginia foundation for wor



Cockacoeske 1630.1686

Worked with the colonial

English government to
recapture the political unity of
the Powhatan Confederacy,
and ushered in 100 years of
peace between Native
Americans and colonists.



Anne Makemie Holden 1702.1788

Extensive landholder due to inheritance from her parents and three husbands; managed the estate profitably for her heirs.



Martha Washington 1731.1802

Wife to the father of our country; established the social protocol for her successors.



Mary Draper Ingles 1732.1815

A strong, resourceful woman who escaped Shawnee captives to walk 500 miles back home, becoming a tangible example of the pioneer spirit.



Grace Evelyn Arents 1848.1926

Saw her personal wealth as a gift to be shared with the city of Richmond for schools, libraries, churches, and gardens.



Sarah Jones 1865.1905

Saw a need for medical services in Richmond's African American community; established a hospital and a nursing school.



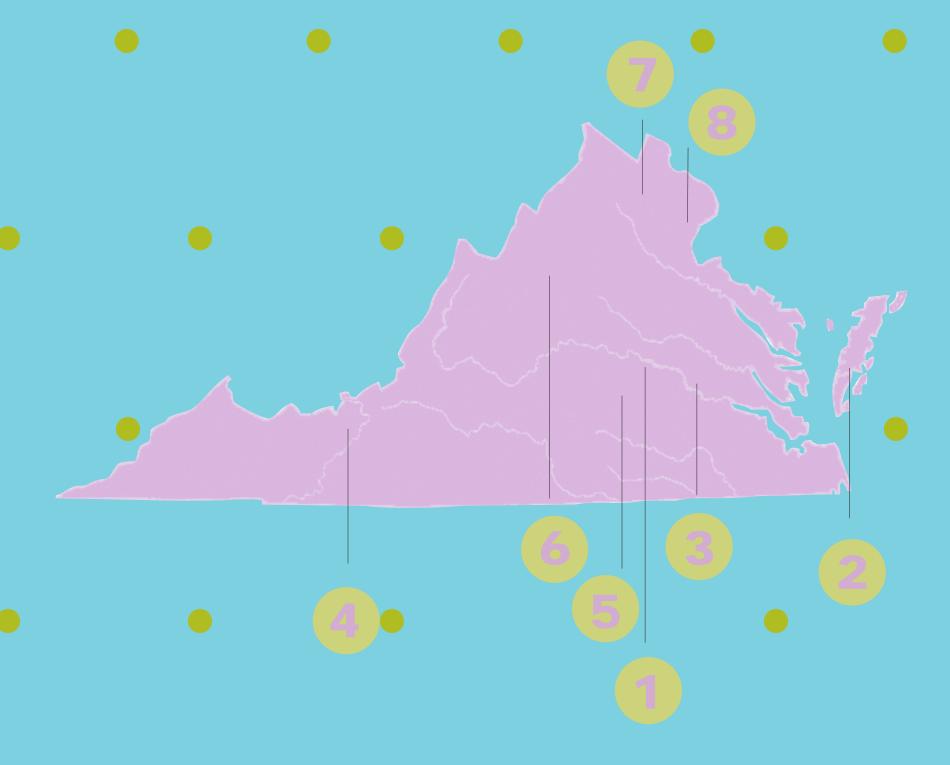
Elizabeth Snyder 1921.2002

An outspoken activist for the preservation of open spaces and national battlefields.



Katherine Couric 1957.

An outstanding television journalist and anchor for NBC



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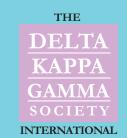
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Cockacoeske 1630 . 1686 King William County . Diplomat

Cockacoeske, a direct descendent of the Pamunkey Chief Powhatan, was born circa the 1630s in the land lying between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers. Upon Powhatan's death others followed and the once mighty chiefdom disintegrated. Power changed hands and the English grew stronger in the Virginia colony. By 1649, Totopotomoy was leader of the Pamunkey tribe. He had become a staunch ally of the English. In 1656, while fighting with them, Totopotomoy was killed. Cockacoeske, his widow then became Queen of the Pamunkey tribe, a position she maintained until her death in 1686. Over the thirty-year span of her reign, Cockacoeske worked within the English system to recapture the former power of Powhatan and maintain a peaceful unity among the several tribes under her control. By working with the English, she fostered a diplomatic relationship in which her people could survive. Following the collapse of Nathaniel Bacon's revolution of 1676, she was able to effectively turn the English

people could survive. Following the collapse of Nathaniel Bacon's revolution of 1676, she was able to effectively turn the English political system to a greater advantage for her own people.

Sporadic Indian raids on the colony's frontier sparked Bacon to lead a popular uprising. The attackers were the infamous Doegs but rather than attacking them, Bacon's men went after the peaceful Pamunkey, Mattaponi, and Chiskiack tribes, ravishing, killing, and plundering them. Governor William Berkeley sought Cockacoeske's support in quashing the rebellion. When Cockacoeske's encampment, was attacked, she barely escaped with her life, surviving in the woods for over two weeks. Two events turned the tide toward peace: Three British commissioners arrived in early 1677 seeking her assistance in reestablishing goodwill with her tribes; and Bacon died of dysentery in his camp allowing Berkeley to arrest and put to death his key followers.

The Governor and the Commissioners summoned Cockacoeske to Jamestown to replace her destroyed or stolen possessions and to become a signer to the 1677 Middle Plantation Treaty on behalf of all of the Tidewater tribes. She exerted considerable influence over the treaty's terms gaining the assurance of future protection for her people and her lands from English

influence over the treaty's terms gaining the assurance of future protection for her people and her lands from English possession. In this way, she was able to manipulate the treaty agreement, unify most of Powhatan's former tribes under the Pamunkey tribe and her control, and usher in almost 100 years of peace with the colonists. Her diplomatic charm and accomplishments were so pleasing, that the new Governor, Thomas Culpeper, presented her with gifts of gratitude from King Charles II in 1680. In the years following, Cockacoeske maintained close ties with the English government by representing her people in an acknowledged official capacity.

Anne Makemie Holden 1702 . 1788 Accomack County . Landholder and Businesswoman

The parents of Anne Makemie Holden met in Onancock on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and married in 1687. Naomi Anderson Makemie, her mother, was the eldest daughter of a thriving, wealthy merchant. Francis Makemie, Anne's father, had arrived from Ireland in 1683 as an ordained Presbyterian minister to establish missions. At the time, the Anglican Church was the established church to which everyone had to pay support taxes. In 1699, after Makemie had financially established himself as a rising merchant and a landowner, he obtained a certificate under the English Toleration Act to preach Presbyterianism freely officially breaking the Anglican monopoly. He successfully combined trading expeditions with preaching missions throughout the

estate, but in 1708, he died. Anne's sister died shortly after. At age seven, Anne was heiress of nearly 6000 acres of land and numerous slaves. Her mother remarried and her stepfather helped with her upbringing and education. In 1725, Anne married Thomas Blair, a merchant of Virginia and Scotland who had a fleet of ships and storehouses throughout the Chesapeake. Blair's health failed and he died leaving his land, slaves, personal property, and cash on hand to Anne in 1739. She became the executor of his estate at age 38 managing the lands of her parents and husband. Within a few years, she married a widower with three children, Robert King of Maryland, who had a distinguished public service record. This marriage thrived until King's

passing in 1755. Anne kept her original property holdings in tact and received additional land and cattle from King, whose will secured her property against any stepchildren's claim.

Within a year, Anne married for the third and last time. At age 54, she had become an astute businesswoman and estate manager. Before this marriage, a prenuptial agreement was made with her intended, George Holden, securing all of her property and possessions and conveying all they might accumulate during their marriage to her should he die before her. As Accomack County Clerk of the Court, Holden was also financially well-off in his own right with several Virginia plantations. Over the 14 years of this marriage, the couple's properties married. Widowed in 1770, Appendixes to return to her Possenske plantation where years of this marriage, the couple's properties merged. Widowed in 1770, Anne chose to return to her Pocomoke plantation where she built a new home on Crooked Creek. There as a recognized, capable businesswoman, she managed thousands of acres of plantation land. When she died childless in 1788, her final will provisioned deeds of land to her nephews provided they "proved

Martha Dandridge Custis Washington 1731 . 1802 **New Kent County**. First Lady

began at Chestnut Grove Plantation in New Kent County on the banks of the Pamunkey River where her father cultivated tobacco. Trained in the fine art of maintaining a well-ordered household, in 1749 at age 18, she became the bride of Daniel Parke Custis, the eldest son of one of Virginia's wealthiest planters. Within her eight years of marriage, she lost two of her four children, two brothers, her father-in-law, and her husband. Suddenly widowed at age 26, Mrs. Custis was soon enchanted to meet the tall, handsome, and eligible bachelor George Washington at the home of neighbors. He was equally delighted to meet her, a dark-haired gentle lady of considerable wealth. In early January, 1759, the two became husband and wife after a short engagement. Washington quickly adopted her remaining two children and brought the family to his home, Mount Vernon in Fairfax County. By then, Washington had served with the military in the Ohio Valley and was a member of the House of Burgesses. George frequently brought guests to their home and Martha immediately put her superior hostess talents to work

brought guests to their home and Martha immediately put her superior hostess talents to work.

Prior to the American Revolution, Washington moved quickly into the forefront of colonial politics. Martha followed him first to Williamsburg, then to Philadelphia where independence was declared, and later to several winter camps where he served as Commander of the Revolutionary Armies. During her many visits to the winter encampments, Martha came laden with multiple supplies of food, blankets, and clothing that she personally distributed to the troops. Her constant cheerfulness and uplifting spirit helped the troops endure camp hardships. Later, upon Washington's election as first President, many former

soldiers came to their home in Philadelphia to express their gratefulness for her caring attentiveness during the war.

As America's first First Lady, Martha's role was undefined allowing her to establish precedents for her successors. In good Virginia tradition, social protocol demanded formality at public events. Thus, in the homes they established, formality was de rigueur. By the time of the presidency, both of Martha's children had died and the couple became parents to two of her grandchildren adding a special dimension to their lives. In style of clothing, at home etiquette, and in public appearances, Martha established the rules of conduct for the first administration. She was at ease with foreign diplomats, and wealthy matrons, as well as with casual visitors and former soldiers. Both Washingtons were happy to retire to Mount Vernon when their second term

Mary Draper Ingles 1732 . 1815 Radford . Courageous Pioneer

born. In the 1840s, the family moved to an unsettled area west of the Blue Ridge, which they named Draper's Meadows. In 1750 at age 18, Mary married an Englishman, William Ingles. By 1755, they had two sons, Thomas and George.

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The mid-eighteenth century was a period of advancing westward movement of colonists from along the Atlantic seaboard into the mountains and valleys of western Virginia. The Drapers and Ingles helped this movement occur. Native Americans attempted to maintain their private hunting havens from encroachment, but white people continued to flow over the mountain ranges. The pull and tug between English, French and natives resulted in the Seven Years' War, the rumblings of which were already occurring in 1755. That summer, English General Edward Braddock and young General George Washington marched British troops through the wilderness to Fort Duquesne in western Pennsylvania. On July 8 of 1755, while Will Ingles was in the fields harvesting wheat, Shawnee warriors swooped down upon Drapers's Meadows in a surprise attack. Several people were killed and six others were taken prisoner, including Mary Ingles and her two sons. Looting of horses, guns, ammunition, tools, and food occurred before the marauders left. By the time Will realized what was happening, it was too late to save his family and he barely escaped capture himself. The Shawnees took their hostages and stolen goods north along the New River.

It is uncertain whether Mary was pregnant at the time, but it is known that she cared for her wounded sister-in-law and others over the long trek to the final destination just west of present-day Cincinnati. Mary was a strong, resourceful, woman, calming her frightened children and foraging for healing herbs along the way. It is speculated that Mary began memorizing landmarks, tying knots into a string to count days that elapsed, noting the rivers taken. Once in the Shawnee village, she watched as her sons were traded off, the younger to die. Immediately, she began plotting her escape. Among the captives was an elderly German woman from Pennsylvania, whom Mary persuaded to attempt an escape with her. One day, before setbacks including the onset of winter, pain of exposure, and incessant hunger made the journey horrendous. The two parted company when the German woman threatened cannibalism. Within 30 miles of home, Mary had to climb Anvil Rock. Descending the rock, Mary collapsed and was later found by members of the Harmon family. Although she was only 23, her hair was nearly

white. Within days, Adam Harmon returned Mary to her husband.

In the years following Mary's ordeal, the couple established Ingles' Ferry across the New River and accumulated extensive landholdings. Four more children were born to them, and Will was able to buy back their captured son, Thomas at age 17. Mary

Grace Evelyn Arents 1848 . 1926 Richmond . Philanthropist and Horticulturist

orphaned brother of her mother, the former Jane Ginter, lived with them. Lewis moved to Richmond where, in time, he acquired a fortune managing the Allen and Ginter Cigarette Manufacturers. George Arents later joined his uncle's business when a widowed Jane and her children moved to live with Ginter.

A diminutive, shy woman, Grace Arents wore thick glasses and was self-conscious. She had a gentle, kind, reticent nature. As a maiden niece, she cared for her aging Uncle Lewis until his passing in 1879, at which time she received a substantial inheritance. Strongly believing that her wealth was custodial and should be shared with those less fortunate, she spent her adult years engaged in philanthropic activities. A devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, her personal involvement outside of the home began early in 1873 when she helped others establish Belvidere Mission School on Oregon Hill. Beginning with a kindergarten and some sewing classes, the curriculum quickly expanded remedying the absence of public education in the area. At Arents direction, tuition was free. This venture led to the building of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. In 1912, Richmond built the Grace Arents Public Elementary School there with a sizeable land and dollar donation from her.

Arents then started a library on Laurel Street, which became free to the general public in 1899 beginning the Richmond Library System. She gave the Instructive Visiting Nurse Association free use of a building for three years until they could afford

Library System. She gave the Instructive Visiting Nurse Association free use of a building for three years until they could afford to buy it in 1919, paid for the construction of the Church of the Holy Comforter, and the remodeling of a school building that became known as the Lewis Ginter Community Building in Ginter Park, site of her uncle's residential development. Concern for children led Arents to establish a country convalescent home for sick infants at the abandoned ten acre Lakeside Wheel Clubhouse in Henrico County. Purchasing the land, she remodeled the house and named the area the Bloemendal Farm after the Ginter ancestral home in the Netherlands. Once the Instructive Visiting Nurse Association was established, there was no longer a need to ancestral home in the Netherlands. Once the Instructive Visiting Nurse Association was established, there was no longer a need to care for children at Bloemendal Farm. She then donated her house on Franklin Street to the city, and moved to Bloemendal.

Arents traveled extensively in Europe and become a devotee of botanical gardens. Importing a variety of rare trees, shrubs and plants, she had a series of three ridge and furrow greenhouses built at Bloemendal. An extensive garden was laid out near the house. Numerous acres were cultivated using the latest agricultural practices. She died suddenly in 1926 lending the property to friend Mary Garland Smith until Smith died in 1968. At that time the 72-acre estate went to the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks dedicated in perpetuity to Arent's uncle as the Lewis Ginter Botantical Garden.

Sarah Garland Boyd Jones 1865 . 1905 Albemarle County . Physician

Sarah Garland Boyd was born to Ellen and George W. Boyd in Albemarle County in 1865, the year the Civil War ended.
Leaving the county for Richmond, George Boyd established a thriving construction company and soon distinguished himself as a building contractor. Considered the top "colored" builder in the city, he constructed many homes, schools, and businesses in Jackson Ward and elsewhere, amassing a sizeable fortune over time. His daughter, Sarah attended Richmond public schools graduating in 1883 from Richmond High and Normal School. Maggie Walker was a fellow student of hers at this school.

Following graduation, Sarah taught at the Baker School for five years. While there, she met Miles Berkley Jones, another teacher. They married in 1888. When a law was passed forbidding black men to teach in Richmond Public Schools, Miles Jones decided to go to medical school. In 1890, both enrolled at Howard University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. They graduated, took the Virginia Board of Medicine examination in 1893 and were certified. Sarah became the first African-American to pass the exam earning a 90 percent score on the surgery portion.

The couple set up a medical practice for the black community that thrived and became quite lucrative. Sarah specialized in care for women patients while her husband cared for the men. They made house calls in a horse-drawn carriage, Richmond was segregated, and hospital space for African Americans was non-existent. Consequently, in 1895, the couple established the Richmond Hospital on Baker Street in Jackson Ward to specifically serve black patients. The 25-bed facility became known as the Women's Central Hospital. The Joneses were committed to the advancement of medical education. They added a training school for nurses to their hospital facility graduating the first class of nurses in 1901. The school operated until 1921.

Sarah was praised for her incisive, accurate diagnoses of patients and stood in high regard within the medical profession. She also saw many white p

Elizabeth "Annie" Delp Snyder 1921 . 2002 Prince William County . Civic Activist and Preservationist

Elizabeth Anne Delp, the precocious daughter of a well-to-do Pittsburgh lawyer and his wife, was born in September, 1921. She entered Allegany College at age 16 graduating at age 19 with a B.A. She attended law school at the University of Pittsburgh until 1943 when she abrupily left to enter the Marine Corps. She was one of the first women to graduate from Marine Officers Candidate School. While a quartermaster stationed at Quantico, she met her husband, Waldon "Pete" Snyder. After World War II, the couple married and purchased their 180 acre Pageland Farm next to the Manassas Battlefield. Here she raised Black Angus cattle and grew strawberries while Pete piloted commercial airliners. Together they raised five children.

A 53-year resident of western Prince William County, Annie became legendary, leading many groups in efforts to preserve open spaces and the Manassas Battlefield's historic land. She was an untiring civic activist and preservationist waging battles against the great and the powerful. Her first battle in the 1950s pitted Annie against highway engineers who wanted to route Interstate 66 through the battlefield. Due to her efforts, the highway now dips to the south. In 1973, Annie took on the Marriott Corporation, which wanted to build a Great America theme park adjacent to the battlefield. Rallying like-minded neighbors and friends, she helped stop that plan at its inception.

In 1986, the Hazel/Peterson Company proposed the construction of a corporate park of glass and steel buildings for well-educated, white-collar workers. Trees would screen the 600-acre complex from the battlefield; traffic impact was promised to be minimal. Two years later, once the company received approval of their plan from the County Board of Supervisors, the plans were drastically changed. It announced that a huge mall would be built on the land. Construction began immediately. Now dubbed "Stonewall Annie", Snyder sprang into action. Seeing the ravishes of bulldozers working around the clock, Annie rallied the National

Annie's last major act as a preservationist was in 1994 when she thwarted the plans of the Walt Disney Company to build a theme park near the battlefield. Pleading on national television, Annie prevailed, and her strong communication skills won over public opinion again. Within weeks, the project was tabled. Tenacity, passion, and perseverance were the hallmarks of Annie's life. In 1999, she was named Prince William County's "Person of the Century."

Katherine Anne Couric 1957. **Arlington** . Television Journalist

On January 7, 1957, Katherine Anne Couric was born in Arlington to John and Elinor Couric. Mr. Couric was a journalist and public relations executive. Mrs. Couric was a homemaker for their four children. Katfe was their youngest child. She was very active at Yorktown High School competing in track and field, gymnastics, cheerleading, and writing for the school newspaper. A member of the National Honor Society, she was accepted to the University of Virginia.

At UVA, Katle served as an associate editor of the Cavalier Daily newspaper. She graduated with honors in American Studies in 1979 with a strong desire to become a print journalist. Her father, however, encouraged her to go into television. Following his advice she talked her way into an entry-level job as a desk aide to an assistant bureau chief at ABC News in Washington. Her next job was with the Washington Bureau of Cable News Network. Displeased with the quality of her voice, Katie began to work with a voice coach after her next move to Atlanta. Here she became an associate producer for CNN. She produced "Take Two" a two-hour news and information show. She evolved into a skillful broadcast reporter and interviewer, and was hired as a full-time correspondent for the program. By 1984, Katie obtained a temporary position as an on-air political correspondent. Then she moved to WTVJ in Miami.

In Miami, Katie was a general assignment reporter broadcasting twice a day. She produced an award-winning series on child pornography. Within two years, she moved back to D.C. to work as a general assignment reporter for WRC, the local NBC affiliate. During her third year at WRC, she won an Emmy and an Associated Press Award. In 1989, she was NBC's Pentagon reporter and became the bride of attorney John Paul "Jay" Monahan III. Before long, Katie was covering the invasion of Panama live for NBC News. Impressing local Bureau Chief Tim Russert, she was assigned to anchor the "Saturday Nightly News" program. In 1990, she served as a substitute anchor on NBC's "The Today Sh









Women have always been an integral part of Virginia history since their earliest days as Native American wives, mothers and frontier settlers. For centuries, history was defined by heroic deeds, great warriors, and famous statesmen. Women by definition did not make it into the history books. If women were included, they were considered the supporting

