

## 1 MARY VIRGINIA HAWES TERHUNE (DECEMBER 21, 1830–JUNE 3, 1922)

Under the pen name Marion Harland, Mary Virginia Hawes Terhune wrote more than seventy-five novels, memoirs, travel narratives, domestic manuals, etiquette books, and cookbooks in a career that spanned seventy-five years. She was born into a merchant family in Amelia County in 1830. Her parents, recognizing their daughter's precociousness, hired tutors and briefly sent her to boarding school. In the mid-1840s the family moved to Richmond, where she attended a Presbyterian girls' school and partook of the rich cultural life of the capital. In 1854 Hawes published her first novel, *Alone*, which received immediate public acclaim. She had written three more novels by 1860 and published stories in such national magazines as *Codley's Lady's Book*.

In 1856 Hawes married Edward Payson Terhune, a Presbyterian minister. They moved to Newark, New Jersey, shortly before the Civil

War. Terhune shared her Virginia upbringing and lessons learned as a housewife and mother in *Common Sense in the Household* (1871). Her down-to-earth narrative with easy-to-follow recipes and domestic advice was an immediate bestseller, the first of many books in which she espoused the honorable profession of homemaking. Terhune also emphasized the importance of education for women.

Travel in Europe to improve her health led Terhune to record her experiences abroad. She also wrote on historical themes, including *The Story of Mary Washington* (1892), undertaken to help raise funds for an unfinished monument to the first president's mother. Terhune completed her last book, a novel, at age eighty-eight in spite of blindness. She died in 1922 in New York City.

## 2 KATHERINE HARWOOD WALLER BARRETT (JANUARY 24, 1858–FEBRUARY 23, 1925)

Soon after her marriage to Robert S. Barrett, an Episcopal minister, Katherine Harwood Waller Barrett began caring for unmarried mothers and their children who were often treated as outcasts and had few opportunities to obtain medical care, occupational assistance, or a good education. Born in Falmouth, Stafford County, Kate Waller Barrett earned a medical degree in 1892 while living in Georgia, and after she moved to northern Virginia in 1896, she took part in founding the National Florence Crittenton Mission, the first philanthropic institution chartered by Congress, to care for unmarried mothers and their children.

First as vice president and then as president until her death in 1925, Barrett directed the national network of affiliated Crittenton mission homes and wrote and traveled throughout the world to

raise money and promote good child care and other issues relating to women's health and employment. Barrett was an honorary vice president of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia, a charter member of the Virginia League of Women Voters, and a member of the board of visitors of the College of William and Mary. She took an active role in Democratic Party politics in order to advance her work on behalf of women's issues. She was president of the National Council of Women in 1911 and in 1919 was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson as an observer to the Versailles Peace Congress. After her death, the governor of Virginia ordered the flag on the State Capitol to be lowered to half-staff, the first time a woman had ever been so honored.

## 3 JOHN-CELINE MACDONALD BOWMAN (MARCH 30, 1890–APRIL 14, 1946)

A prominent business executive herself, John-Celine MacDonald Bowman helped establish business and professional organizations for Virginia women. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia. After the death of her father, she and her mother moved to Richmond. In 1913 she married a Richmond businessman, Jacob Killian Bowman. Educated at the Academy of the Holy Cross, in Washington, D.C., she helped found the Virginia Bureau of Vocations for Women in 1914 and was a founder of the Business Women's Club of Richmond. In 1923, the year before she gave birth to twins, Bowman purchased the Expert Letter Writing Company, which produced advertising products to attract female customers to banks and other businesses. She owned and managed the company for the rest of her life and made it one of the largest such companies in the South. In 1919 Bowman was a founding member and from

1920 to 1923 president of the Virginia Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and she served as president of the Richmond affiliate from 1926 to 1928. In 1931 and 1933 she was elected president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. During the Great Depression she used her position as federation president to oppose a plan to restrict employment of married women by the federal government. Bowman was also a member of the Southern Woman's Educational Alliance and supported increased opportunities for young women to obtain advanced education at William and Mary and other public colleges and universities. A talented public speaker, she took part during both World Wars in campaigns to sell war bonds, and during the 1930s she campaigned for the Democratic Party. Her daughter, Geline Bowman Williams, served as mayor of Richmond from 1988 to 1990.

## 7 G. ANNE NELSON RICHARDSON (B. 1956)

G. Anne Nelson Richardson became chief of the Rappahannock in 1998, when she succeeded her father, Captain O. Nelson. As a child her Indian name was Princess Little Fawn. She grew up on Indian Neck, in King and Queen County. At age eighteen she was elected assistant chief. Her work on a study to establish the historical predecessors of the eight modern Virginia tribes helped the Rappahannock win official state recognition in February 1983.

In 1991 Richardson became executive director of Mattaponi-Pamunkey-Monacan, Inc., a consortium providing training and employment services for Virginia Indians. In January 1998 she was elected to her first five-year term as chief of the Rappahannock, the first woman to hold the position since early in the eighteenth century. Of the three hundred Rappahannock, about half live on or near tribal lands in Caroline, Essex, and King and Queen Counties. Richardson has diligently worked for cultural, economic, and social

revitalization, including completing a cultural center and planning for housing and future tribal development.

Richardson became chair of the Native American Employment and Training Council in 2005. She campaigns for federal recognition of Virginia's documented tribes and lobbies at both state and federal levels to ensure their rights. She seeks to educate the public by dispelling stereotypes. When asked in 2000 the single thing she wanted the public to know about the Rappahannock, Richardson replied, "That my people still exist and will continue to exist. I think most people, when they think about the history of Virginia and the Indians in particular, . . . think about these things like the dinosaurs that existed and died and now we're writing about them and learning about them. But that's not the case with the tribes. They have vibrant communities that have been preserved for thousands of years."

## 8 BENITA FITZGERALD MOSLEY (B. 1961)

The second woman and the first African American to win an Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter hurdles, Benita Fitzgerald Mosley is today a highly visible telecommunications executive. Born in Warrenton, she grew up in nearby Dale City, where at an early age she began to excel in both sports and academics. Her accomplishments in track and field competitions won her induction into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame and a full athletic scholarship to the University of Tennessee, where she earned a B.S. in industrial engineering. While at Tennessee, she was a fifteen-time All-American and won four National Collegiate Athletic Association titles, including three 100-meter hurdles outdoor championships. Mosley qualified as a member of the 1980 and the 1984 U.S. Olympic Teams and won her history-making gold medal at the 1984 Los Angeles games. Mosley has been inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame

and the University of Tennessee's Lady Volunteers Hall of Fame.

Early in the 1990s Mosley turned from competition to sports marketing and administration. She served as a regional director for Special Olympics International in Washington, D.C., as program director for the marketing division of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, and as director located in Colorado of the four Olympic training centers in the United States. She has been president of the board of the Women's Sports Foundation and is a staunch advocate for expanding opportunities for young women in sports and fitness education. In 2001 the nonprofit Women in Cable and Telecommunications, a 4,500-member association based in Chantilly, Virginia, appointed Mosley as its president and chief operating officer. In 2004 *Television Week Magazine* named her Cable Television Executive of the Year.

## 4 GRACE BREWSTER MURRAY HOPPER (DECEMBER 9, 1906–JANUARY 1, 1992)

Known as "the first lady of software," "Amazing Grace," and "Grandma COBOL," Grace Brewster Murray Hopper was a pioneer in computer science. Born in New York City, she received a Ph.D. in mathematics and physics from Yale University in 1934, four years after marrying Vincent Foster Hopper, an educator. During World War II she joined the United States Naval Reserves and was assigned to the Bureau of Ordnance Computation Project at Harvard University, where she programmed the first large-scale computer in the United States. At the Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corporation (later Sperry Rand) she helped design UNIVAC, the first large-scale commercial computer. In 1952 Hopper began writing a computer program for business-oriented tasks. FLOW-MATIC, her 1955 program, became a model for COBOL (COmmon Business-Oriented Language), the first computer language that allowed operators to use words rather than number code in programming. After a moth trapped in a

relay shut down a computer, Hopper coined the computer terms "bug" (referring to a problem or glitch) and "debug" (to remove a programming error). In 1985 she became the United States Navy's first female rear admiral. Throughout her career in mathematics, computer technology, and the navy—all fields dominated by men—Hopper continually had to prove herself. She observed, "If you do something once, people will call it an accident. If you do it twice, they call it a coincidence. But do it a third time and you've just proven a natural law!" Trying to fight what she called human beings' allergy to change, she kept a clock on her wall that ran counterclockwise. Hopper retired to Arlington County, Virginia, in 1986 and became a consultant for Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC). She died in 1992 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. A guided-missile destroyer, commissioned in 1997, bears her name.

## 5 SISTER MARIE MAJELLA BERG (JULY 7, 1916–APRIL 5, 2004)

An innovative educator and administrator, Sister Marie Majella Berg served as president of Marymount University for more than thirty years and transformed the school from a small, all-female, junior college to a large, coeducational university with several campuses. Born Mae Katherine Berg in Brooklyn, New York, she entered the order of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in 1934. As a Catholic nun, she took the name Sister Marie Majella. Sister Majella received a bachelor's degree in Latin from Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York, and a master's degree in classics from Fordham University before joining the faculty of the Marymount School in New York City, where she taught for twelve years. In 1948 she became the registrar and a professor of classics at Marymount Manhattan College.

In 1960 Sister Majella was appointed president of Marymount College of Virginia, in Arlington County. Inheriting a two-year

school with 240 students, she spent her first decade as president raising the number and quality of academic offerings, attracting new faculty, and expanding the student body. Using her outstanding relationship-building and fund-raising skills, she attracted a sizable endowment that allowed for the construction of many new buildings on the college's original site and the acquisition of two new campuses in Ballston and Sterling, Virginia. The college began offering bachelor's degrees in 1973, and in 1986 it achieved university status and became fully coeducational. By the time Sister Majella retired in 1993, Marymount offered thirty-eight undergraduate programs and twenty-three graduate degree programs to a student body of nearly 4,000. Sister Majella held honorary doctorates of humane letters from Georgetown University (1970) and Marymount Manhattan College (1983). At the time of her death in 2004 she was the longest-serving woman college president in the nation.

## 6 MARY TYLER FREEMAN CHEEK MCCLENAHAN (APRIL 6, 1917–JANUARY 16, 2005)

The daughter of famed Richmond journalist and historian Douglas Southall Freeman and the widow of longtime director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Leslie Cheek Jr., Mary Tyler Freeman Cheek married Dr. John Lorimer McClenahan in 1993. She was a founder or influential officer of such important community organizations as the Richmond Urban Forum, Richmond Renaissance, the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood, and the Richmond Better Housing Coalition. McClenahan was president of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation late in the 1970s when it began a major archaeological and historical research project to document the Lee family plantation, Stratford Hall, and in 1983 she created the Douglas Southall Freeman professorship at the University of Richmond to be filled annually by a distinguished historian. McClenahan served on the boards of several Virginia educational institutions and received honorary degrees from Hollins College, Saint Paul's College, the University

of Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Washington and Lee University. In 2003 she published an autobiography, *Southern Civility: Recollections of My Early Life*. McClenahan founded a Chesterfield County child-care center in 1997 that was named for her. She was fully cognizant that she had grown up in privileged circumstances: her parents were respected leaders of the city's white community during the era of racial segregation; she was educated at Richmond's fashionable Saint Catherine's School and at Vassar College; and her first husband was independently wealthy. Nevertheless, in her public life she was committed to bridging the gaps between rich and poor and between black and white in Richmond. In a 1986 interview she summed up her philosophy of public service: "Once you see with a clearer perspective, it's ridiculous to move in a society that does not accept the obvious fact that we are all equal in the sight of God."

# VIRGINIA WOMEN in HISTORY 2006



Women have been an integral part of life in Virginia since the earliest days of recorded history, yet their contributions have often been overlooked in the history books. Until well into the twentieth century, women could not serve in the military, vote, or hold public office, and written histories tended to focus on the deeds of great warriors and famous statesmen, ignoring women's roles as wives, mothers, teachers, nurses, farmers, artists, pioneers, laborers, and community builders.

Today, we recognize and celebrate women's accomplishments in all walks of life, particularly in March each year, which has been

designated by Congress as National Women's History Month. The Library of Virginia, in partnership with the Virginia Foundation for Women, presents the 2006 Virginia Women in History poster to honor eight women—past and present—who have made important contributions to Virginia and America. We encourage you to learn more about these fascinating women who saw things differently from their contemporaries, developed new approaches to old problems, strove for excellence based on the courage of their convictions, and initiated changes in Virginia and America that continue to have an impact on our lives today.

Photography:

The Library of Virginia  
Katherine Harwood Waller Barrett  
Mary Virginia Hawes Terhune

Navy Web Site  
Grace Brewster Murray Hopper

Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Sister Marie Majella Berg  
John-Celine MacDonald Bowman  
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