

Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell
(bap. 1634–ca. 1695)
James City County, political leader

Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell (baptized May 27, 1634–ca. 1695) married three colonial governors and certainly influenced each of them, but her leadership of the Green Spring faction, a prominent political group, was her greatest position of power. The group effectively controlled the Virginia government for about two years late in the 1670s.

Frances Culpeper was born in England and was baptized at Hollingbourne Church, Kent. She moved with her parents to the Virginia colony about 1650 and three years later married Captain Samuel Stephens. He later became governor of the Albemarle settlement in present-day North Carolina. After he died in 1669, the widow Frances Culpeper Stephens inherited a Warwick County plantation, as stipulated in a premarital agreement. In an early show of independence, she managed the estate

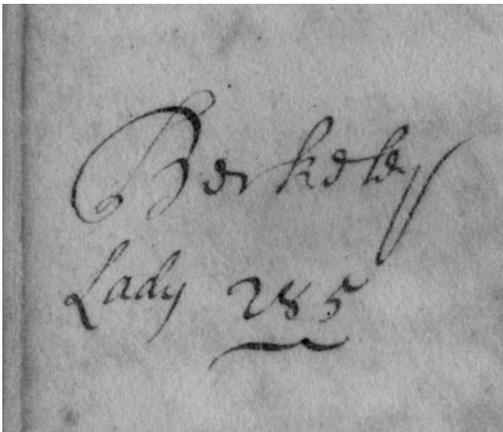
herself instead of turning it over to a male relative, as was the custom at that time. She soon married again to Virginia governor Sir William Berkeley. Lady Berkeley, as she was known for the rest of her life, became her husband's confidante and adviser.

As a leader of the Green Spring faction, Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell influenced the politics of seventeenth-century Virginia.

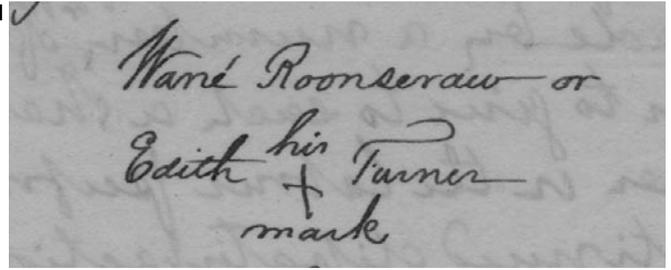
In 1676 Bacon's Rebellion broke out in Virginia, as colonists fearful of Indian attack rebelled against the governor. The leader of the rebels, Nathaniel Bacon, was a distant relation of Lady Berkeley, and she and the governor had entertained the

young man on several occasions at their Green Spring manor. While the rebellion raged, Lady Berkeley traveled to England and petitioned the king in Sir William Berkeley's behalf. After her return from England, she retained her influence with her husband, and she may have orchestrated an insult to the royal commissioners sent to investigate the rebellion. After an interview with the Berkeleys, the commissioners departed in a carriage, only to discover that the local hangman was their driver. They looked back to the house to see Lady Berkeley watching them from a window with supposed glee.

Remaining fiercely loyal to her husband and his policies after his death in 1677, Lady Berkeley rallied a group of the governor's supporters. Meeting near Jamestown at Green Spring, which she had inherited from her husband, the powerful faction maneuvered against Governor Berkeley's replacement, Herbert Jeffreys, and the English attempts to curb colonial self-determination during the next two years. After Governor Thomas Culpeper's arrival in Virginia in 1680, Lady Berkeley slowly withdrew from overt politicking. About the same time, she married Philip Ludwell (later deputy governor of North Carolina and South Carolina). Lady Berkeley retained her reputation as an intelligent and influential Virginian until her death about 1695.



Edith Turner (Wané Roonseraw)
(ca. 1754–1838)
Southampton County
Nottoway (Cheroenhaka) chief



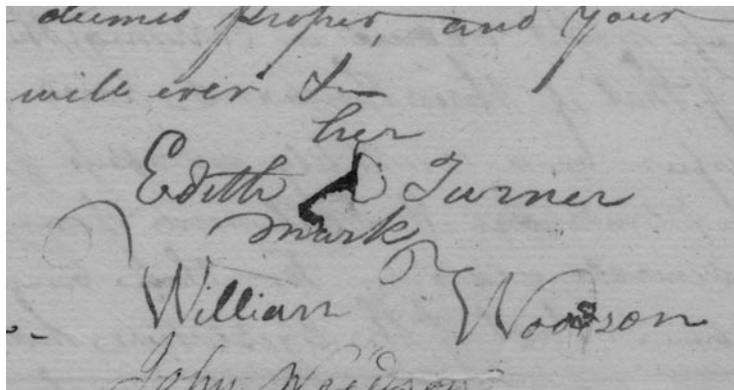
In 1821 Edith Turner (ca. 1754–February or March 1838), also known as Edy Turner (or by her Nottoway personal name, Wané Roonseraw), petitioned the Virginia General Assembly as chief of the Nottoway (Cheroenhaka). Turner had taken part in land transactions since 1794, but as chief she led a push to divide the reservation's land among the individual Indians, perhaps in an attempt to convince more Nottoway to

adopt white farming practices. Early in the nineteenth century most of the Indians on the Nottoway reservation refused to

Edith Turner, chief of the Nottoway, successfully navigated nineteenth-century Nottoway and Anglo-American societies while she strove to keep the tribe's children on the reservation.

give up their dominantly hunting-and-gathering lifestyles. As they were forced to sell reservation land to pay debts, their landholdings decreased, making their traditional ways of living off the land increasingly difficult. The tribe became almost completely reliant on state-appointed white trustees. Turner transcended these problems to own a farm, where she prospered.

Even though little is known about Edith Turner, the few records that survive concerning this nineteenth-century chief show a dynamic leader. Turner was illiterate, and she was referred to in official documents as either Edith or Edy depending on the official and the degree of respect that he afforded the Indian woman. She made her mark on documents sometimes using a curved design with a circle at the bottom. Turner was one of the last speakers of the Nottoway language, and in 1820 she provided surveyor John Wood with a short vocabulary of Nottoway words. Wood's vocabulary list came into Thomas Jefferson's possession and was preserved, remaining today as the only reproduction of the long-unspoken Iroquoian language.



Turner's level of self-sufficiency was considerable for a woman in her time and place, but her compassion for the Nottoway children makes her an outstanding figure. Records from 1808 show her acting as foster mother for two Nottoway children, and she successfully urged the white trustees of the tribe to return four other Indian children to the reservation. At age seventy-six she still looked after at least two children in her home. Turner most likely led the

struggle to keep tribal children from being schooled or apprenticed off the reservation. As one of the last speakers of the Nottoway language and with a knowledge of their legends, Turner instructed the children in the traditions of the tribe as well as in how to survive in white-controlled society. The only Nottoway of her time to have a recorded will, Turner died in Southampton County in 1838 at about eighty-four years of age.

Patricia Buckley Moss
(1933–)

Waynesboro, artist and philanthropist

Even though Patricia Buckley Moss (born May 20, 1933) was born in New York City and now divides her time between homes in Florida and Virginia, much of her art is rooted in the Shenandoah Valley. The rural scenery, along with the serenity, work ethos, and traditional pursuits of the Amish and Mennonite communities, had a profound effect on Moss when she moved to Waynesboro with her family in 1964. The modest lifestyle of the Valley inhabitants and the local flora and fauna soon began to appear in her paintings and drawings.

Moss has dyslexia, which made grade school a struggle for her, but one teacher recognized her artistic abilities and recommended that she attend the Washington Irving High School for Fine Arts. There her artistic abilities were nourished, and in 1951 she received a scholarship to New York's Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. She studied fine arts and design. Often she ignored her instructors' traditional teaching methods to develop her own style, which is at times spiritual and humorous. In 1967 she won a museum exhibition of her work, which proved to be a great success. She soon began marketing her art. The P. Buckley Moss Museum opened in Waynesboro in 1989 to house permanent collections of her work, educational exhibitions, and archival files and also to host lectures. Today galleries nationwide carry her works, and she makes frequent appearances at galleries and conventions.



Patricia Buckley Moss uses the considerable commercial success she has earned as an artist to aid child-related charities and promote the use of the arts to help children with learning disabilities succeed in school and in life.



Moss, a mother of six, has been very successful commercially. She is generous with her earnings and focuses on child-related charities. In 1985 she helped famine-struck African countries through a Mennonite African relief fund. Since then her generosity has expanded, especially in her efforts to help children with learning disabilities. Donations of her art to various children's charities have raised millions of dollars for their causes. Collectors of Moss's works established the P. Buckley Moss Society in 1987 to promote her charitable ideals, and the P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education, founded in 1995, supports the arts in educational programs, with a focus on children with special needs.

Buckley believes wholeheartedly in the advantages of using visual arts to teach people with learning disabilities. She has won numerous honors for her charitable works, and she is in demand as a speaker to special education classes. In 1988 journalist Charles Kuralt described Moss as "The People's Artist," a compliment she considers the greatest that could be bestowed on her.

Images courtesy of Patricia Buckley Moss

