

VALIANT MARYLAND WOMEN: THE FIGHT FOR SUFFRAGE

Jane Miller Gabriel 1873-1974 Baltimore

Gabriel was one of the lobbyists who went to the White House in 1916. She, with other lobbyists, was the first to bring the constitutional amendment for full suffrage to both the House and Senate's attention. The Just Government League of Maryland was created with the intention of renewing interest regarding the issue of women's suffrage. Gabriel wrote many articles for *The Baltimore Sun*, supporting the suffrage efforts of the state and national JGL. Gabriel later wrote another *Baltimore Sun* article, "The Fight for Woman Suffrage," about the struggle that suffragists mounted to win suffrage in Maryland.



Mary Elizabeth Garrett 1854-1915 Baltimore City

B & O Railroad president John W. Garrett recognized the intelligence and business sense of his daughter, Mary Elizabeth, early on. Mr. Garrett included her in meetings and worldwide travel. He taught her that philanthropy can effect change. Ms. Garrett funded the Bryn Mawr School for Girls in 1885. With the promise of a large donation, she also convinced Johns Hopkins University to admit women to its new medical school in 1893. She then devoted her time and wealth to Baltimore's suffrage movement for years. Susan B. Anthony and other activists stayed in her Mt. Vernon home when the 1906 National American Woman Suffrage Association met in Baltimore.



Gladys Caroline Greiner 1890-1961 Baltimore City

Greiner joined Alice Paul's National Woman's Party (NWP) and became one of the "silent sentinels" who picketed the White House. Arrested first in June 1917, Greiner was given the choice of paying a fine or spending thirty days in jail. Along with other NWP members, she chose jail. Greiner joined the suffragists who wore their prison uniforms on the Suffrage Special tour to gain support for the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Along with her suffrage activities, Greiner was a champion golfer.



The Silent Sentinels, Library of Congress

Elizabeth Hamilton Forbes 1882-1971 Harford County

Elizabeth Forbes, her husband and three children had a comfortable life on a Harford County farm. That didn't stop Forbes from setting out by foot, car or "prairie schooner" to spread the cause of women's suffrage to remote parts of Maryland. As president of the local Just Government League, she welcomed "pilgrims" who marched through Harford in the 1915 Prairie Schooner Campaign. She was later arrested during the "Watch Fire" protests in Washington D.C. Forbes worked on behalf of women's equality for the rest of her life.



Frances Ellen Watkins Harper 1825-1911 Baltimore City

Harper was born in Baltimore to free-born parents, orphaned at age 3, and was raised by her paternal uncle William Watkins and his wife Henrietta. Maryland's 1850 Fugitive Slave Law impelled Frances to a lifelong commitment to combat injustice. In May 1866 her speech "We Are All Bound Up Together" addressed the implicit racial bias within the women's movement. She persisted in seeking equality. Frances died on February 20, 1911, and is buried in Edenton Cemetery in Collingdale, Pa.



Mary Frisby Handy 1848-1932 Baltimore City

At 17, Handy left her hometown of Baltimore to become a tailor in New Jersey. She returned home and married a bishop, working as an assistant pastor to the congregation and community. After being assigned to Missouri, she voted in the Kansas City municipal election of 1895. In addition to her influential missionary work, Handy was a leading figure in the black women's club movement for decades. Local newspapers reference her presiding over several meetings at which suffrage was discussed, "urged," or voted upon favorably.



Photo Credit: Documenting the American South, from The Church in the Southern Black Community collection: Centennial Encyclopedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church



E. Estelle Moore 1853-1924 Harford County

Moore was an accomplished musician who taught both piano and violin lessons to Harford County students. A Quaker who dedicated her life to the service of others, she was appointed as a Lady Visitor to the County Home and served as the Chairman of the Harford County Relief Fund that was associated with the Juvenile Court. In 1912, she was the founder and first president of the Harford County Just Government League. In that capacity, she greeted pilgrims from the Army of the Hudson as they passed through the county in 1913, and organized the Prairie Schooner Campaign as it made its way through Harford County in 1915.

