

# VALIANT MARYLAND WOMEN: THE FIGHT FOR SUFFRAGE

## Emilie A. Doetsch 1882-1969 Baltimore

Though Doetsch graduated from the University of Maryland Law School and was the second woman admitted to the bar by the Maryland Court of Appeals, she did not practice law due to a lack of opportunity for women in the field. Instead, Doetsch found employment at the *Baltimore News* as a journalist. Her most notable contribution to the *Baltimore News* was her time spent as an "Army Correspondent" covering the Suffrage Army Hikers' journey from New York to Washington, D.C. in February 1913. She filed daily reports with the paper. Doetsch was not only a journalist on the march, but was also one of the fourteen women that completed the entire 240-mile trek by foot during the harsh February winter.

## Margaret Gregory Hawkins 1877-1969 Baltimore City

As the daughter of a principal, Hawkins was infused with a calling to disrupt injustice through education. She became an educator, teaching first in New Jersey and then in Maryland. Hawkins became the first African American woman to serve on the Central Branch YWCA executive committee of the Board of Directors. She also served as the vice president of the Progressive Women's Suffrage Club in Baltimore, and was involved in the 1909 effort by African American women to ensure the retention of the 15th Amendment for men in Baltimore City.

## Dr. Lilian Welsh 1858-1938 Baltimore City

Welsh earned a medical degree at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889 and continued her training in Switzerland. In 1894, she joined the faculty of the Woman's College of Baltimore (Goucher College) as the only female full professor. She worked to persuade Johns Hopkins University to open its graduate school to women, a goal realized in 1908. On March 3, 1913, Welsh joined 100 Goucher students for the suffrage march in Washington, D.C. She became the faculty leader of Goucher's Equal Suffrage League chapter in 1916.

## Julia Emory 1885-1979 Baltimore

Emory gave up her work with the National Women's Trade Union to work for suffrage in 1917. Emory was first arrested with twelve other women on September 8, 1917. The women picketed with a sign that read, "Mr. President, How Long Must Women Be Denied A Voice In the Government." Emory was sentenced to sixty days at the Occoquan Workhouse, where conditions were deplorable. Several months later, November 1917, Emory protested the imprisonment and treatment of NWP leader, Alice Paul. Emory and forty other women picketed the White House on Paul's behalf. They were arrested, tried and charged with obstructing traffic. Only two days later, Emory was arrested again in protest of Paul's imprisonment. Emory and her counterparts were beaten and eventually subjected to forced feedings. Emory's spirit was not to be deterred by her repeated imprisonments.



Julia Emory and Bertha Graf carrying bundles of flags and banners on a sidewalk in Washington, D.C., as they leave for a suffrage demonstration in Marion, Ohio.

## Edith Houghton Hooker 1879-1949 Baltimore City

A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, Hooker was one of the first women accepted by Johns Hopkins Medical School. She was a social worker who founded a home for unwed mothers and their babies. In 1909 she organized an affiliate of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the Just Government League, and started the *Maryland Suffrage News*, which became the voice of the movement. After the defeat of the state suffrage bill, she worked for passage of the 19th Amendment, conducting meetings across the state from her automobile.



## Mary E. Lent 1869-1946 Baltimore

Lent was born in New York and graduated from Johns Hopkins Nursing School in 1895. She was the inaugural president of the Maryland Just Government League, an affiliate of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, founded in 1909. After her speech in 1910, 300 nurses indicated that they would support the suffrage bill. A petition for the bill won 173,000 signatures but was controversial, as it offered suffrage only to literate or property-owning women in municipal elections of Baltimore. The bill passed in the House but not the Senate.

## Dora Gelletly Ogle 1882-1960 Baltimore City

Gelletly was born to a Baltimore silversmith and married Charles J. Ogle in 1910. Her activism began with the Just Government League of Maryland. She was business manager of the *Maryland Suffrage News* and, later, for the National Woman's Party's newspaper, *Equal Rights*. Ogle picketed the White House in 1916. After voting rights became law, she was a life-long supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. For years, she lived in the National Woman's Party headquarters, the Sewall-Belmont House.

