

VALIANT MARYLAND WOMEN: THE FIGHT FOR SUFFRAGE

Annie Heloise Abel 1873-1947

Baltimore City, Goucher College

Abel emigrated with her family from England to Kansas at age 12. She pursued higher education, eventually earning a PhD at Yale. She became known for her expertise in Native American culture. In 1906 Abel came to Goucher College as an instructor and soon joined the nascent suffrage movement. As president of the Maryland branch of the College Suffrage League, she organized the Goucher contingent of 100 students who marched in the 1913 National Woman's Party parade.



Lucy Gwynne Branham

1892-1966 Baltimore City

Born in Virginia and raised in Baltimore, Branham was a leader of the National Woman's Party (NWP). She was arrested while picketing the White House in 1917 and served two months in the Occoquan Workhouse and district jail. She played a prominent role in the 1918 Lafayette Park demonstrations and was part of the "Prison Special" tour of 1919, travelling the country talking of her imprisonment, often in prison garb. She lobbied for equal rights in Switzerland and for the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S., as part of the NWP Congressional Committee.



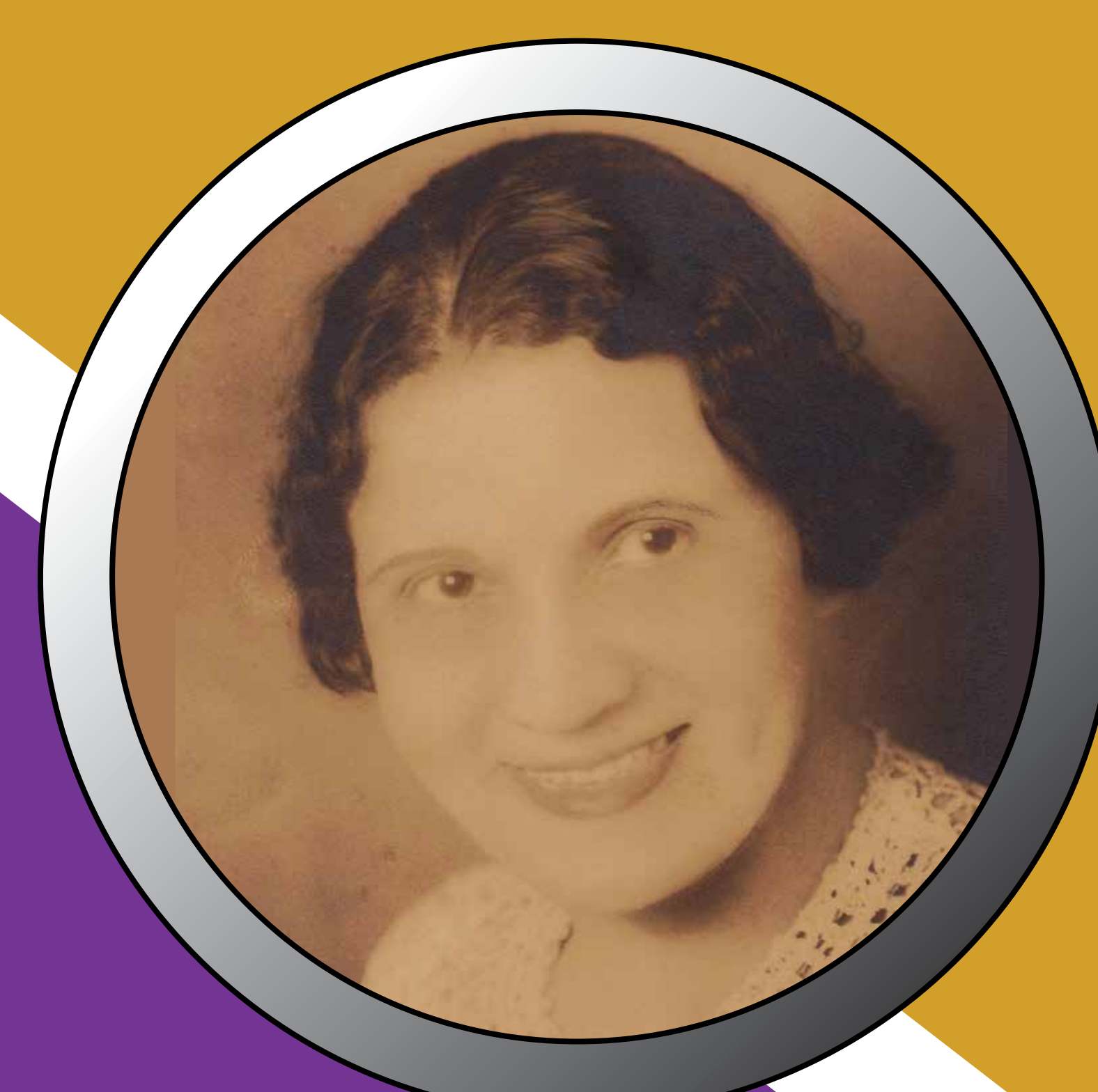
Lucy Branham in Occoquan Prison Dress
Photo Credit: Retrieved From The Library Of Congress

Augusta T. Chissell

1880-1973 Baltimore City

Chissell was an important leader of the African American women's suffrage movement in Baltimore City in the early 1900s. She had deep roots in the community and served as an officer in the Progressive Women's Suffrage Club, among others. Following passage of the 19th Amendment, she wrote "A Primer for Women Voters," a recurring column in the *Afro-American* offering guidance to new African American women voters. She also organized training sessions, weekly "Citizenship Meetings," and lectures on voting and civic responsibility.

"... it is necessary that woman not only have access to the ballot, but that she use it."



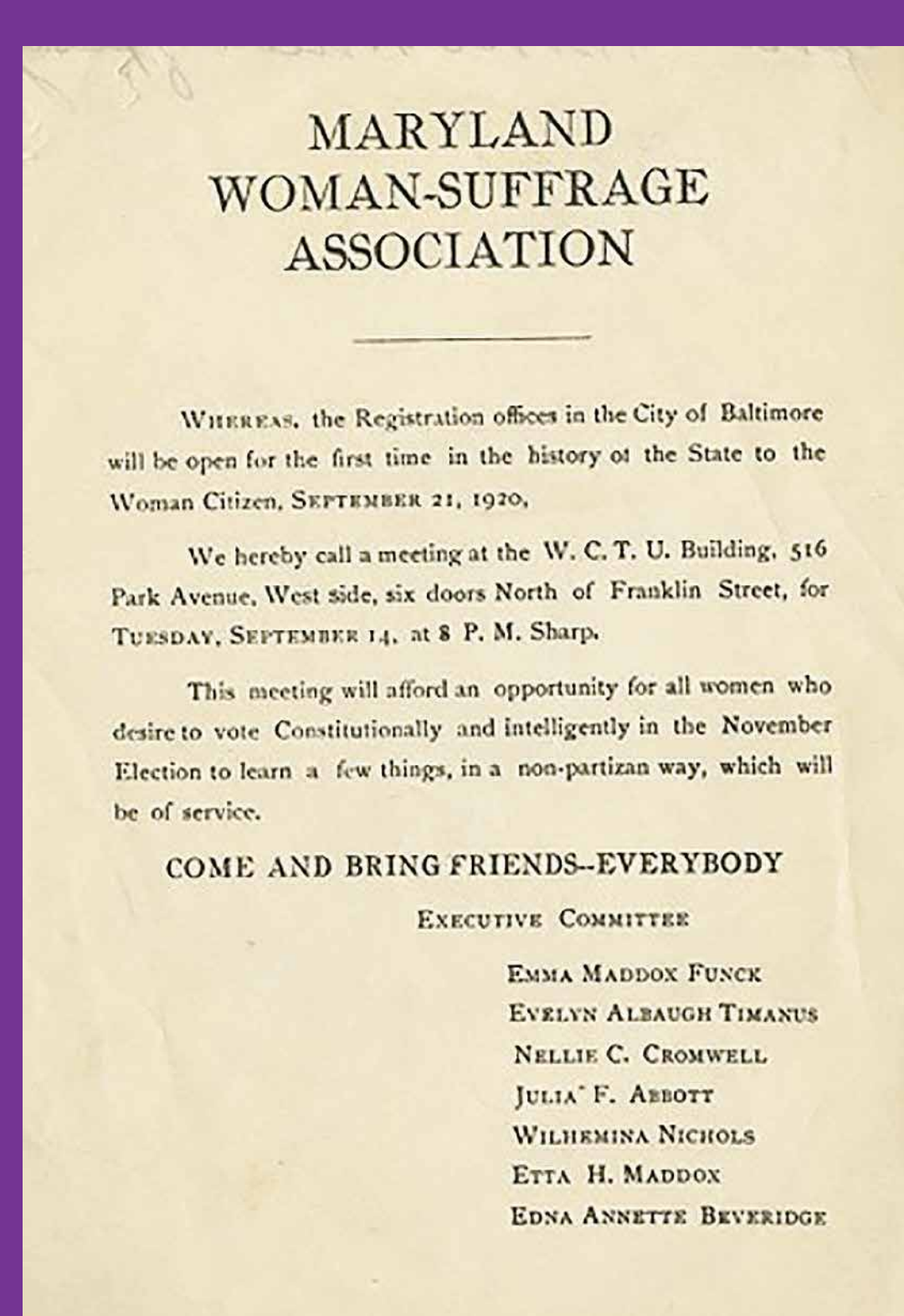
Estelle Hall Young

1884-1938 Baltimore City

In 1915, Young founded the Progressive Women's Suffrage Club in the African American community of West Baltimore. While Maryland's white suffrage groups and politicians tried to prevent African American women from gaining the power to vote, Young's club members campaigned for their rights. Young called on African American civic, church, literary and social groups to endorse women's suffrage. Once the 19th Amendment was ratified, her club held weekly training sessions to prepare new voters for civic duty.



Credit: Maryland Historical Society



Elizabeth King Ellicott

1858-1914 Baltimore City

King was among the founders of the Bryn Mawr School for Girls in Baltimore and instrumental in opening the Johns Hopkins Medical School to women. She launched the Arundell Good Government Club and the Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs. When she married the heir to a flour milling fortune, her activism was unaffected. Ellicott helped spread suffrage activism across the state, through the federation and the Equal Suffrage League of Baltimore. When she died in 1914 at age 56, she left \$25,000 for the political education of women.



Mary Gertrude Fendall

1889-1971 Baltimore City

Fendall was born in 1889 in Baltimore City and graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1912 with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Physics. Fendall traveled to France where she was active in the suffrage movement but returned to work for the National Woman's Party (NWP). She was re-elected for a second term as treasurer in December 1917 after showing \$117,000 in contributions to the NWP in 11 months. She was a secretary to suffragist benefactor Alva Belmont and an NWP picket line organizer who was able to help enlist nearly a thousand picketers in a March 1917 protest. Her prominent Baltimore family strongly disapproved of her work.



Emma Maddox Funck 1853-1940 Baltimore City

Though Funck graduated from Peabody Conservatory of Music, women's suffrage became her life's passion. Under her leadership at the Maryland State Suffrage Association, activists met on Sunday afternoons with nationally known suffrage leaders, discussed women's issues in parlor meetings and organized Congressional petitions. The 1906 National American Woman Suffrage Association's annual convention in Baltimore was one of the most memorable suffragist gatherings in history. The occasion was the last time that Susan B. Anthony spoke in public before her death.

