

Mary Bostwick Shellman

Goucher College
Equal Suffrage League



MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
HERITAGE
CENTER

VALIANT MARYLAND WOMEN: THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE



MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
HERITAGE
CENTER

Maryland Women's Heritage Center
Marian House at the Woman's Industrial Exchange
333 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org

Copyright ©2024
Maryland Women's Heritage Center

MARYLAND
SUFFRAGE
MARKER

MARGARET BENT PILGRIMAGE



Maryland is the proud home of sixteen historic markers, located throughout the state, which commemorate those who devoted years to the cause of voting rights for women. These markers are located in communities that stretch from Easton to Garrett County.

Our suffragist foremothers marched in Washington, traveled throughout the state to make speeches, gathered to strategize in parlors, organized statewide conventions, wrote untold numbers of editorials and founded active suffrage organizations to educate everyone about voting rights. They often endured abuse from naysayers. Some were even jailed.

Nonetheless, many of their names and stories were lost to history until the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center completed a comprehensive research project to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920.

Several organizations, nonprofits and government agencies came together with the MWHC to make the Maryland Suffrage Marker Trail a reality.

In recognition of the 19th Amendment centennial, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation partnered on this project by funding 250 historic roadside markers nationally at sites on the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT). They funded ten of Maryland’s markers after MWHC volunteers and board members conducted rigorous research about the people, places and events at the sites.

Dr. Pamela Young, a long-time MWHC volunteer and board member, coordinated the research and application process with property owners of the sites where the suffragists once lived, worked, marched or are buried.

This Maryland Suffrage Marker Trail demonstrates our mission to “Add HERstory to history to tell our story.” Now, we can remember their names and honor their courage.



VALIANT MARYLAND WOMEN: THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE

MARYLAND SUFFRAGE MARKER TRAIL

Baltimore City	2
Baltimore County	6
Carroll County	8
Frederick County	10
Map of Maryland Markers	12
Garrett County	14
Harford County	16
Howard County	18
Montgomery County	20
Talbot County	22



**AUGUSTA T. CHISSELL (L)
MARGARET GREGORY HAWKINS (R)**



Through their women's clubs, Black women became interested in women's enfranchisement, but were not welcome in a segregated women's suffrage movement.

In 1915 several formed the Progressive Women's Suffrage Club (PWSC) in West Baltimore. **Margaret Hawkins**, became Vice President and **Augusta Chissell**, her neighbor, became its Secretary. They hosted PWSC meetings in their homes, which were side-by-side on Druid Hill Avenue.

Chissell also authored a *Baltimore Afro-American* column, *A Primer for Women Voters*, giving guidance to new voters after the passage of the 19th Amendment. Using education through the media, the PWSC grew to hold larger mass meetings, reaching more Black women.

BALTIMORE CITY



1532 & 1534 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore 21217

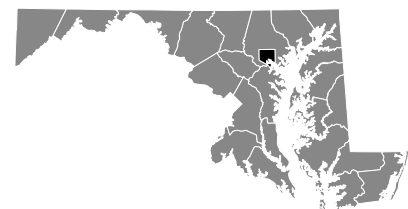


LATITUDE: 39.304105

LONGITUDE: -76.631553

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- Honoring Edith Houghton Hooker & the Just Government League at 333 N. Charles St., Baltimore 21201
- Honoring the Goucher College Chapter, College Equal Suffrage League at 1021 Dulaney Valley Rd., Towson 21204



2

3

EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER

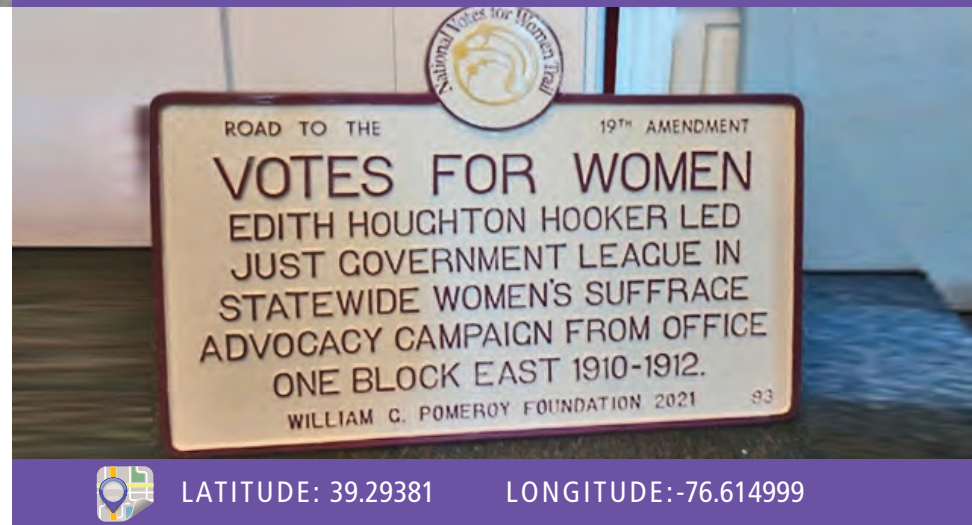


In 1910 **Edith Houghton Hooker** opened the Just Government League (JGL) Baltimore office. Knowing that pro-suffrage arguments must be made statewide, Hooker mounted a vigorous organizing campaign throughout Maryland. JGL organizers used grassroots tactics statewide, holding public events to bring attention to the suffrage cause and recruit members. She also created the *Maryland Suffrage News* (MSN), the official organ of the JGL and voice for Maryland's broader suffrage movement. With public information by the MSN, local educational campaigns, and active legislative lobbying, Hooker and the JGL grew membership and influence, establishing chapters in most counties.

BALTIMORE CITY



333 N. Charles Street, Baltimore 21201



LATITUDE: 39.29381

LONGITUDE: -76.614999

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- Honoring Augusta T. Chissell, Margaret Gregory Hawkins & the Progressive Women's Suffrage Club at 1532 Druid Hill Ave., Baltimore 21217
- Honoring the Goucher College chapter, College Equal Suffrage League at 1021 Dulaney Valley Rd., Towson 21204



4

5

GOUCHER STUDENTS AND FACULTY



Above: Goucher students on way to suffrage demonstration; Right: Dr. Lilian Welsh

As college women became active in the suffrage movement, Goucher women were leaders in Baltimore.

Mobilized by charismatic professors such as **Lilian Welsh**, Goucher students marched, picketed, and protested on behalf of women's suffrage, at times defying the will of the college leadership.

Students took part in pivotal events of the national movement such as the 1906 national convention in Baltimore, when Susan B. Anthony made her last public appearance; the 1913 suffrage parade in Washington DC preceding the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson; and the 1917 White House pickets, when the suffrage movement entered its militant phase.

BALTIMORE COUNTY



Goucher College, St. Paul and 23rd Street, Baltimore, Maryland



1021 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson 21204

LATITUDE: 39.304105

LONGITUDE: -76.631553

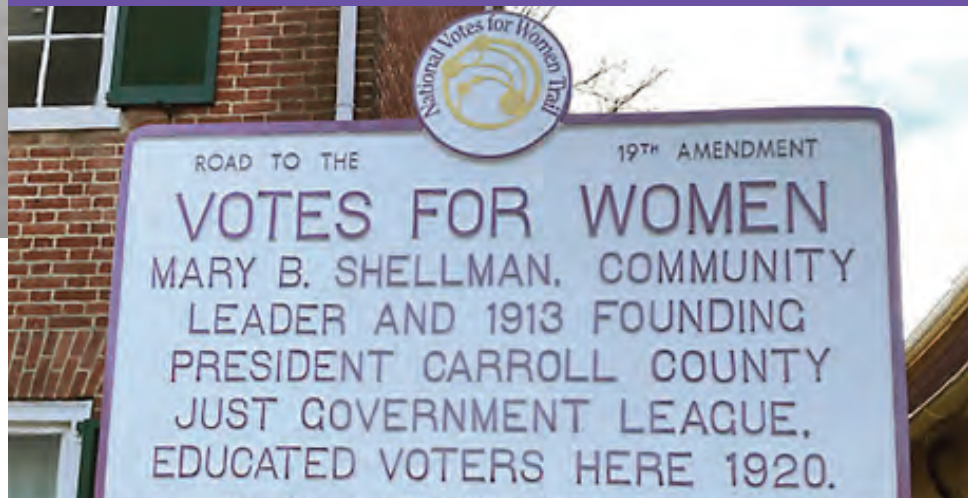
ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- Honoring Edith Houghton Hooker & the Just Government League at 333 N. Charles St., Baltimore 21201
- Honoring Augusta T. Chissell and Margaret Gregory Hawkins & the Progressive Women's Suffrage Club at 1532 Druid Hill Ave., Baltimore 21217
- Maryland State Highway Roadside Marker "Women's Suffrage," which honors the Army of the Hudson. These women's suffragists marched from New York to Washington DC, ending in a parade there on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Located at 6908 Belair Rd., Baltimore 21206





Home of Mary Shellman where voter education classes were held.



206 East Main St., Westminster 21157

LATITUDE: 39.569593

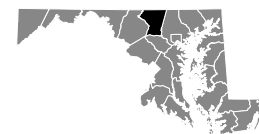
LONGITUDE: -76.990344

In 1913 **Mary Bostwick Shellman** was a founder and first President of the Just Government League chapter of Carroll County. This chapter held public education meetings, petition drives, membership recruitment events, letter-writing campaigns and general advocacy for the women's suffrage cause. She also coordinated local efforts with statewide campaigns and national events.

After the 19th Amendment's ratification, Shellman's home hosted an "instruction room" where sample ballots were provided and knowledgeable voters offered assistance during the 1920 Presidential election.

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- Mary Bostwick Shellman's former home is now the home and museum of the Historical Society of Carroll County, which was established in 1939 to save this historic landmark from demolition. Inside you may visit exhibits to learn more Carroll County history.
- Maryland State Highway Roadside Historical Marker "Just Government League" located at MD Route 31 (New Windsor Road), east side, 200 feet south of MD Route 140.



FLORENCE TRAIL (L) BERTHA TRAIL (R)



According to their talents, sisters **Florence and Bertha Trail** took leadership roles in Frederick's Just Government League (JGL).

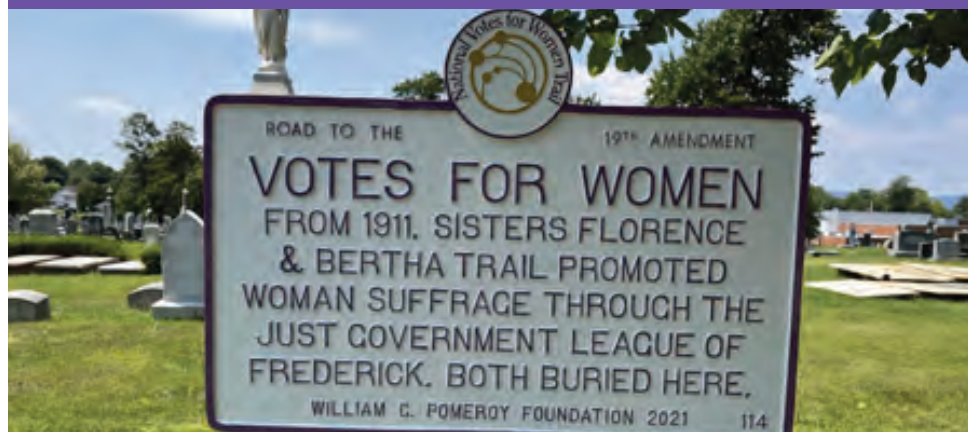
Bertha, a community activist, used her many connections to enroll members. Florence, a teacher, often spoke on suffrage. As members of the chapter's Executive Committee, they served as rotating chairs. Later, Florence became President.

In addition to local activities, both were active at the state and national levels. Bertha served on the state JGL Board. Florence represented Frederick at the 1913 Suffrage March in Washington DC, on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration.

FREDERICK COUNTY



Trail Mansion, 106 E. Church St., Frederick 21701
First home of Florence & Bertha Trail

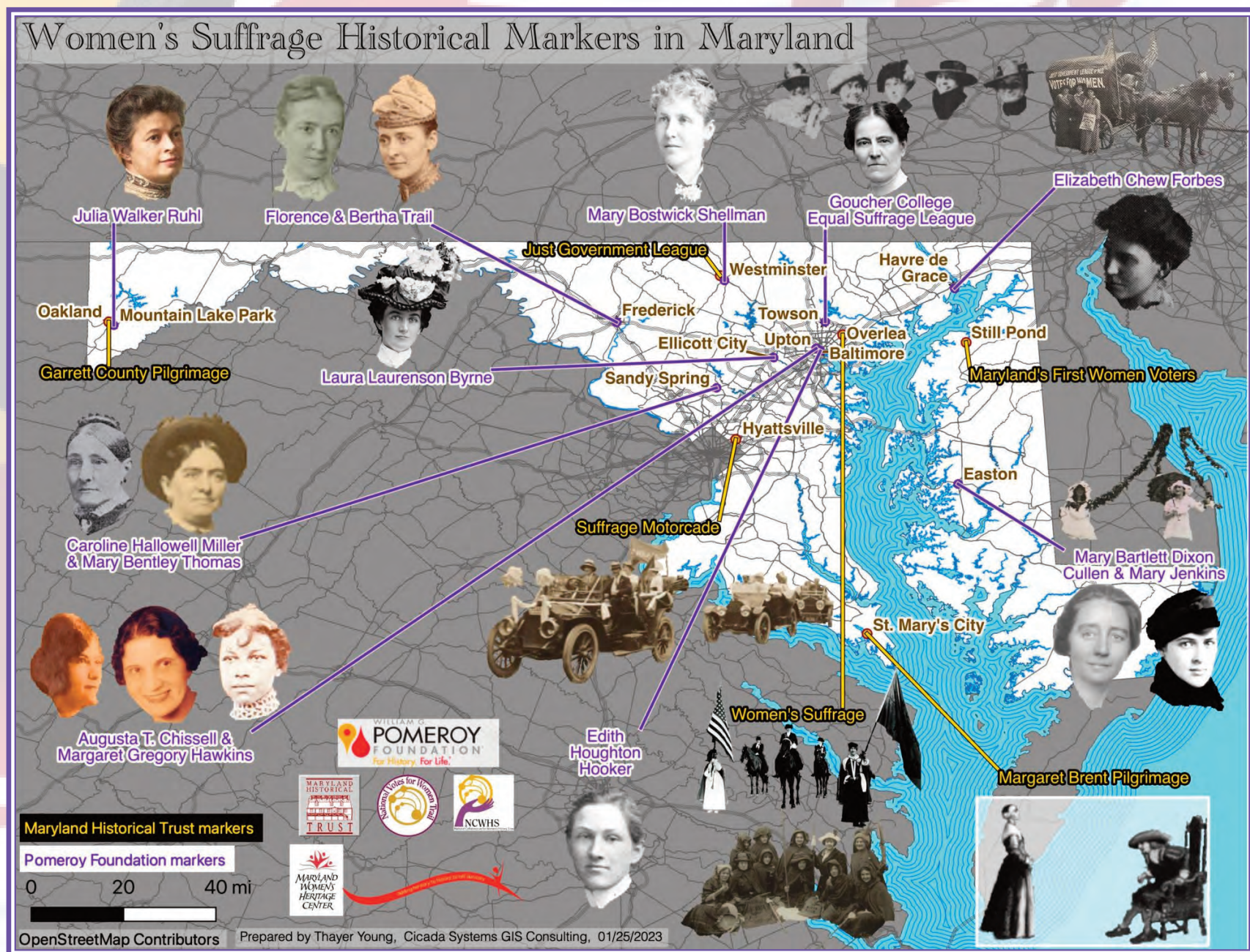


Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 515 S. Market Street, Frederick 21701
LATITUDE: 39.4061956 LONGITUDE: -77.4127686

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- The former Trail Mansion, where the Trail sisters grew up and often hosted suffrage meetings and garden parties for the cause. It is located at 106 E. Church St., Frederick 21701
- Early meetings of the Just Government League were held at the Women's College (later becoming Hood College), which was housed at that time in Winchester Hall, on East Church St.





JULIA WALKER RUHL



Julia Walker Ruhl, a West Virginia suffrage leader, inherited her family's summer home in Mountain Lake Park, a Garrett County resort built as a Chautauqua summer school.

Though Ruhl led the West Virginia Equal Suffrage Association, she spent summers in her second home, not idle, but practicing her suffrage activism. She once sent a "cheering message" to a West Virginia newspaper urging followers to stay positive about a favorable outcome for a federal suffrage amendment.

Today her summer home has been meticulously restored as "Ruhl Cottage," honoring the woman whose name it bears, and her significant achievements for women's rights and civic life.

GARRETT COUNTY



Ruhl Cottage, summer home of Julia Ruhl



105 G Street, Mountain Lake Park 21550
LATITUDE: 39.39486 LONGITUDE: -79.38165

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- Maryland State Highway Roadside Historical Marker "Garrett County Pilgrimage" located at 313 E. Alder St, in front of Garrett County Courthouse, Oakland 21550
- The 1872 Sang Run Election House, the longest functioning election house in Maryland. It was renovated in 2020 as an exhibit in Sang Run State Park. From Oakland, take Rt. 219 north, turn right on Sang Run Road in McHenry.



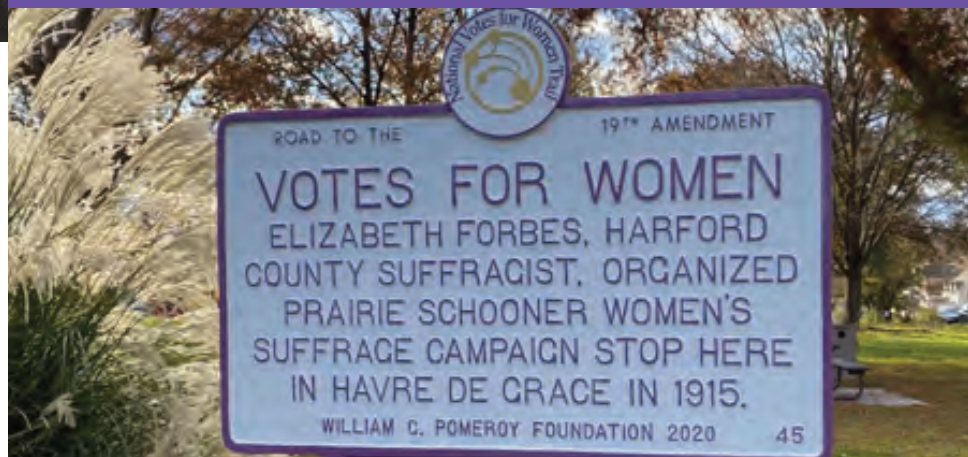


The Prairie Schooner Campaign visited Have de Grace in July 1915

Havre de Grace is a good stopover for travelers. Two women's suffrage campaigns rested there, while making their case in favor of a constitutional amendment enfranchising American women.

In 1913 when the hiking Army of the Hudson arrived from New York, they received a rousing welcome from local suffrage leaders, including May Harlow. In 1915, inspired by the "Army's" success, Maryland suffragists devised the Prairie Schooner campaign, traversing Maryland in a horse drawn covered wagon.

Elizabeth Forbes, Vice President of the Harford County Just Government League as well as the city again rolled out the red carpet for these pilgrims. Years later, Forbes, a lifelong women's rights activist, received the gold pen from Governor Tawes in 1961 when he signed a Maryland General Assembly joint resolution that urged the United States Congress to adopt the ERA as a constitutional amendment.



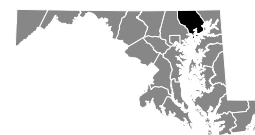
Tydings Memorial Park, 352 Commerce Street, Havre de Grace 21078



LATITUDE: 39.5380498 LONGITUDE: -76.0891808

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- Maryland State Highway Roadside Marker "Women's Suffrage," which honors the Army of the Hudson. These women's suffragists marched from New York to Washington DC, ending in a parade there on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Located at 6908 Belair Rd., 21206
- Maryland State Highway Roadside Marker "Margaret Brent Pilgrimage" in Lexington Park, Saint Mary's County at 16855 Point Lookout Rd. (MD 5), west side, in front of post office parking lot.





Home of Laura Byrne, Main St., Ellicott City 21043



8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City 21043
LATITUDE: 39.26802 LONGITUDE: -76.79847

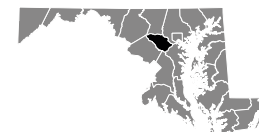
Laura Laurenson Byrne, Howard County Just Government League President, wrote a regular column in *Ellicott City Times*, the first Maryland newspaper to support women's suffrage.

In person she hosted national and state suffragists promoting the cause. On the move, she organized an auto tour of the county to notify women of relevant legislation in Annapolis. She also took part in a Howard County march that was in partnership with a national campaign that traveled around states, counties, cities, and rural areas on foot, motor vehicle or even covered wagon to bring attention to woman suffrage and gain members for the JGL.

Locally and in Annapolis, she delivered petitions, worked the polls and lobbied for suffrage bills. Tireless even after ratification, Byrne continued civic activism with the newly-formed League of Women Voters.

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- The Museum of Howard County History, the building on which the marker is mounted, to learn more of Howard County history.
- The Disney Tavern, built in 1790 and located at 8304 Main Street. This was later the home where Laura Byrne lived. Main Street has several other historical sites of interest.



CAROLINE HALLOWELL MILLER (L) MARY BENTLEY THOMAS (R)



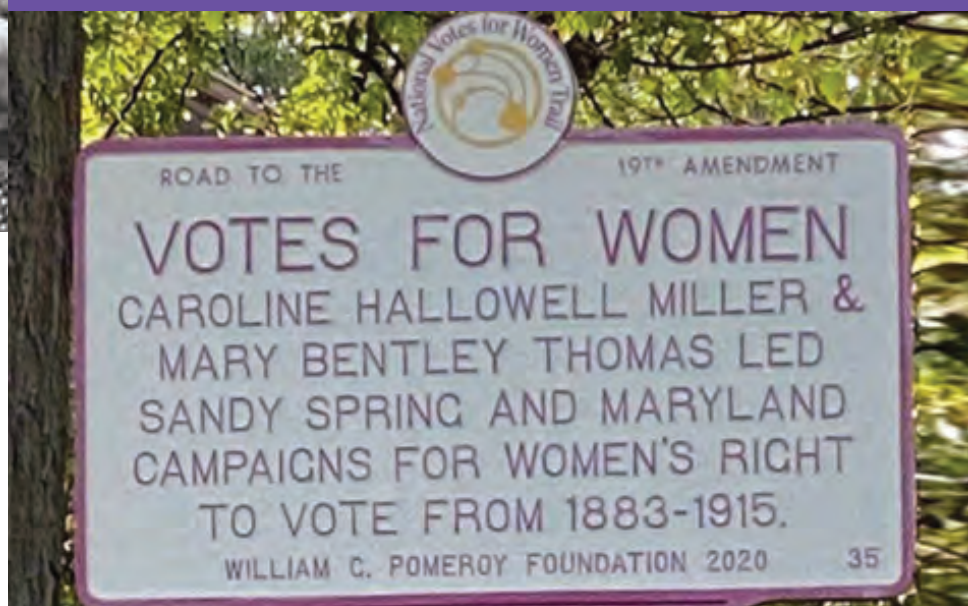
After the Civil War, Maryland suffrage activity was suppressed for nearly two decades, until 1889 when **Caroline Hollowell Miller** revived it when she began the Sandy Spring Woman's Suffrage Association and served as its president. In 1892 Miller merged it with the Baltimore City Suffrage Club making a stronger and larger Maryland Woman Suffrage Association.

Mary Bentley Thomas joined Miller and assumed a leadership role as Miller aged. As president of the statewide organization, Thomas represented Maryland at national conventions, and testified for women's enfranchisement before Congressional committees. She contributed to *The History of Woman Suffrage*, written by Susan B. Anthony and Ida Husted Harper.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



The Lyceum, meeting place of the Maryland Woman's Suffrage Association
17901 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring 20860



LATITUDE: 39.1495517 LONGITUDE: -77.0269221

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- Sandy Spring Museum, where the marker is displayed, contains galleries. Mary Bentley Thomas's scrapbook is held in the archives.
- Prince George's County also played an important role in national suffrage activism because of its proximity to the nation's capital. Maryland State Highway Roadside Marker "Suffrage Motorcade" is located at US 1 at 41st Place in Hyattsville. It honors the couriers to Congress who carried petitions in favor of women's suffrage.



**MARY BARTLETT DIXON CULLEN (L)
MARY JENKINS (R)**



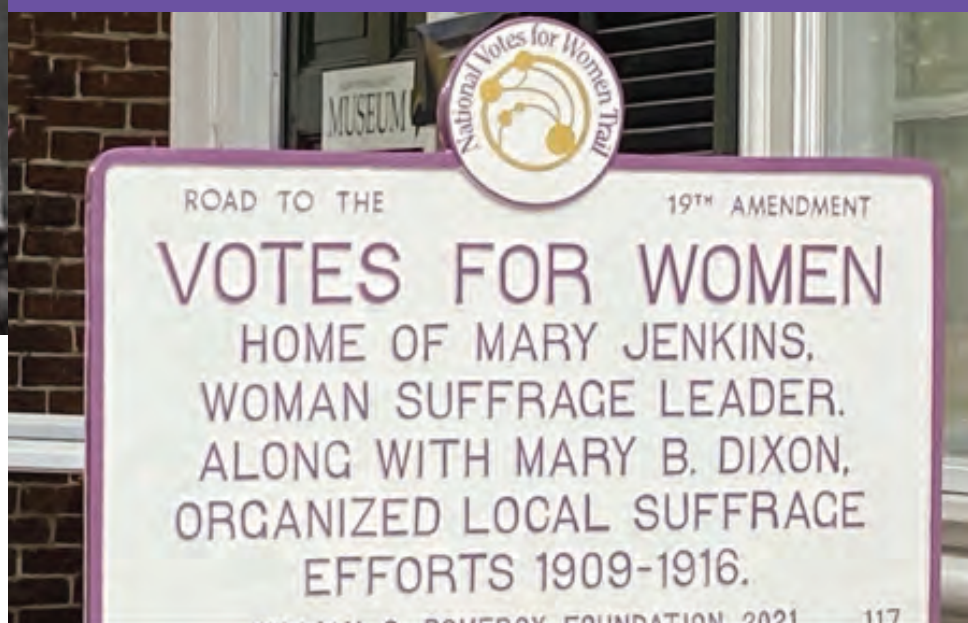
Easton's Just Franchise League (JFL) had its first public meeting in 1909, making it contemporary with other early women's suffrage organizations. Similar to Baltimore, the JFL prepared a bill for municipal suffrage for local taxpaying women.

Another JFL project reflecting national tactics introduced by the suffrage movement was a Main Street parade past the Talbot County Courthouse. JFL officers, **Mary Bartlett Dixon Cullen**, and **Mary Jenkins**, became involved in state efforts when the JFL affiliated with the Just Government League. Jenkins lived in the Mary Jenkins House, the marker site now owned by the Talbot County Historical Society.

TALBOT COUNTY



30 S. Washington St., Easton 21601

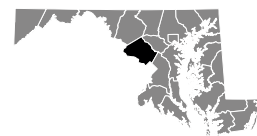


LATITUDE: 38.7737104

LONGITUDE: -76.0764697

ADDITIONAL SITES/PLACES NEARBY:

- The Mary Jenkins House, dates from 1783 and it believed to be the oldest frame house in Easton. It is now part of the museum in the Talbot County Historical Society. It is located at 30 S. Washington Street, Easton 21601
- Maryland State Highway Roadside Marker "Maryland's First Women Voters" in Still Pond, Kent County at MD 292 (Still Pond Road) at MD 566 (Old Still Pond Road), southeast corner.



Mary Bostwick Shellman

Goucher College
Equal Suffrage League

Elizabeth Chew Forbes

Just Government League

Westminster

Havre de Grace

Frederick

Towson

Overlea

Still Point

Ellicott City

Upton

Baltimore

Hyattsville



MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
HERITAGE
CENTER

To learn the names and stories of close to
100 Maryland suffragists, visit
www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org and click on
Women's Suffrage Project.

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center (MWHC)
is the Maryland representative to the National
Collaborative of Women's History Sites and the
National Votes for Women Trail.

The Maryland Suffrage Marker Trail is part of the
National Votes for Women Trail, a project of The
National Collaborative for Women's History Sites.

To learn more about the MWHC, see upcoming
events, make an appointment to visit our exhibit space
in Baltimore or to make a donation, visit
www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org

This Maryland Suffrage Trail publication was funded
in part from a grant awarded by Baltimore Heritage.
We are grateful for their ongoing support and invite you
to explore Baltimore and its many historic sites.



Women's Suffrage

Edith
Houghton
Hooker

Margaret Brent Pilgrimage

HS