

# March 2008 "Women's Art: Women's Vision"



## EEO REVIEW

Produced monthly by the State Equal Employment Management Office (SEEM)...

### MESSAGE FROM THE SEEM

March is Women's History month, it is a time set aside to appreciate the many accomplishments of women throughout the course of history. This year's national theme is Women's Art: Women's Vision. Many great women come to my mind as I reflect on the women who have achieved greatness. But the women who have touched many of our lives the most are probably not written in the history books or even well known. They could be a mentor, a mother, a former school teacher or a grandmother. There are countless women to celebrate if you just look around and you don't have to wait until March to do it either.

It doesn't have to be a woman like Victoria C. Woodhull who was the first female to run for president of the United States in the early 1800's. It could be you or your sister who is the first to finish college or serve in the military. Many people make history every day in some way or another. We also take time to reflect on the Irish American story this month. Irish Americans were persecuted greatly upon their arrival to this country in the early 1600's but have made significant contributions to this nation in spite of their struggle. You know, it's funny the things that seem to divide are also the things that make us strong.

### First Female Artist

1707-Henrietta Johnston begins to work as a portrait artist in Charles Town (now Charleston), South Carolina, making her the first known professional woman artist in America.

### VIRGINIAN'S MAKING HISTORY

#### Anne Clay Crenshaw (1859-1945)



Clay Crenshaw hosted the first meeting of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. Eighteen women met in Crenshaw's Richmond, Va., home in Nov. 1909 to form this influential group, which fought on the state level for the right of women to vote. Clay Crenshaw was appointed to the league's six-member board of directors. When women were guaranteed the right to vote in 1920, through the ratification of Nineteenth Amendment of the Constitution, the group became the Virginia League of Women Voters.

Clay Crenshaw became involved in the suffragist movement at a young age. Her parents divorced when Anne was 19, and her mother was left with virtually no assets, while her father, a prominent diplomat who had served as an adviser to President Lincoln, retained the family home. Anne saw this as an injustice and was drawn into the women's rights movement with her sister Laura Clay. She married Spottswood Dabney Crenshaw in 1886 at age 27. They settled in Richmond, Va., her husband's hometown. She later died in 1945.

### GROUNDBREAKING WOMEN'S QUIZ

1. Former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins (1880-1965) was the first woman to be appointed to a presidential cabinet. Which leader did she serve under?
  - a. Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - b. John F. Kennedy
  - c. Calvin Coolidge
2. Who was the first woman to run for vice-president on a major party ticket?
  - a. Hillary Clinton
  - b. Geraldine Ferraro
  - c. Patsy Mink
3. Which of these women made advancements of astronomical proportions in June 1963, when she became the first woman in space?
  - a. Sally Ride
  - b. Valentina Tereshkova
  - c. Eileen Collins
4. Victoria Claflin Woodhull (1838-1927), a colorful reformer who advocated woman suffrage, free love, and socialism, was the first American woman to run for president. In which election was she a candidate?
  - a. 1872
  - b. 1900
  - c. 1912
5. Which of the following women was the first to be awarded an M.D., gaining acceptance to Geneva Medical School in 1847?
  - a. Clara Barton
  - b. Marie Curie
  - c. Elizabeth Blackwell

**2008 Upcoming Events**

© Women's History Month Program at Henrico Theatre in Sandston, Va on March 27, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.; play "Star Spangled Girls" performed by Touring Theatre of North Carolina.

**POEM OF THE MONTH  
"PHENOMENAL WOMAN"  
BY" MAYA ANGELOU**

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies  
I'm not cute or built to suit a model's fashion size  
But when I start to tell them  
They think I'm telling lies.

I say  
It's in the reach of my arms  
The span of my steps  
The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman  
Phenomenally  
Phenomenal woman  
That's me.

I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please  
And to a man  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees  
Then they swarm around me  
A hive of honey bees.

I say  
It's the fire in my eyes  
And the flash of my teeth  
The swing of my teeth  
The swing of my waist  
And the joy in my feet.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenal woman  
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered  
What they see in me  
They try so much  
But they can't touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them  
They say they still can't see.

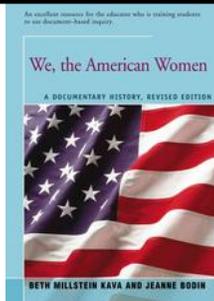
I say  
It's in the arch of my back  
The sun of my smile  
The ride of my breasts  
The grace of my style.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally  
Phenomenal woman  
That's me.

Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud  
When you see me passing  
It ought to make you proud.

I say  
It's in the click of my heels  
The bend of my hair

The palm of my hand  
The need for my care.  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally  
Phenomenal woman  
That's me.

**Answers to Quiz on Page 1**  
1. A 2. B 3. B 4. A. 5. C

**Book of the Month Spotighting**

***We, the American Women*  
A Documentary History**

- Beth Millstein and Jeanne Bodin

Brief description: A high school/junior college text which provides a chronological overview of women in American history. Each chapter includes a narrative for the time period and assorted primary source documents after each narrative section. It is an excellent resource for the educator who is training students to use document-based inquiry.

**FIVE WOMEN'S MUSEUMS  
TO KNOW**  
American Museums devoted to  
women's History

**National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame**

Since 1975 the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, in Fort Worth, Texas, has honored cowgirls and other heroines of the American West. The museum features exhibits, lectures, and other events. Potter Maria Martinez, writer Willa Cather, and Indian guide Sacajawea are among the women who are honored at the Hall of Fame.



**National Museum of Women in the Arts**

The National Museum of Women in the Arts, in Washington, DC, is the only museum in the world that focuses on the achievements of women artists. The museum's permanent collection includes more than 3,000 works of art, from sculpture to paintings to photography, and covers the 16th through 21st centuries.

**Women of the West Museum**

Founded in 1991, the Women of the West Museum, in Denver, Colorado, offers traveling exhibits, online activities, and a variety of educational programs. Topics explored in recent exhibits include the early fight for woman suffrage in the West and what life was like for the many women homesteaders who lived in sod houses.

**International Women's Air and Space Museum**

The International Women's Air and Space Museum, in Cleveland, Ohio, was established in 1986 to honor the history of women who took flight in our atmosphere and beyond. Information covers adventurer pilots such as Amelia Earhart, women pilots in the military, and those who ventured into the new frontier-space travel.

**U.S. Army Women's Museum**

The U.S. Army Women's Museum, in Fort Lee, Virginia, opened in May 2001. The museum is dedicated to preserving the history of women who served in the army from the Revolutionary War through today. It is located on the former site of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Center and School, where thousands of army women had trained.



**Female Participation in the Virginia National Guard**

**1965**

Captains Becky Sisson and Mary Rebkovich, both registered nurses who took work at Richmond Memorial Hospital, become the first women to join Virginia National Guard when they are directly commissioned as nurses in the 192<sup>nd</sup> Clinic. Sisson later served in the ANG's of Tennessee, Georgia, and Texas. Rebkovich rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel prior to her retirement in the late 1980s.



**1973**

**July 9-**Private Linda Dornbush is the first woman to join the Virginia Army National Guard. She was a non-prior service member who attended Clerk Specialist school before being assigned to the 2120<sup>th</sup> Public Information Detachment.

**November-**Specialist Five Carolyn M. Patterson, having completed four years in the Regular Army, enlists in Norfolk's 121<sup>st</sup> Signal Company. She is the Virginia Army Guard's first female African American soldier. Patterson was a teletype machine operator.

**1977**

The Virginia Guard gets its first mother/daughter combination when Sheryl Davis enlists in the flight operations section of the 149<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Fighter Group, Virginia Air Guard. She was encouraged to join the Guard by her mother, Staff Sergeant Letonia Davis, who was a member of the Virginia Army Guard.



**1987**

Warrant Officer One Suzanne L. Peake of the 176<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group graduates from Aviators School at Fort Rucker, AL, and becomes the first female helicopter pilot in the Virginia Army National Guard.



**1989**

The Virginia Air National Guard gets its first female pilot when Major Susan Gillespie joins the 192<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group. But she is not an F-16 fighter pilot; rather she flies the unit's C-26 Metroliner twin turboprop aircraft used to move personnel and light equipment along with the unit when it deploys. As a member of the Air Force Reserve she was previously trained to fly the C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft but they are not flown by the 192<sup>nd</sup> Group.

**1990/1991**

Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm-Of the ten units mobilized (eight of which were deployed to Saudi Arabia) nine had female soldiers in their ranks.

This mobilization marked several "first's" of the service of women in the Virginia Guard. The first time any female members were mobilized for active federal duty (some had done State Active Duty earlier); the first unit called to active duty commanded by a woman (213<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade

Augmentation commanded by Major Christine M. Kilgore); the first female soldier to die on active duty (PFC Pamela Y. Gay, 183<sup>rd</sup> Personnel Services Company, was killed in a traffic accident in Saudi Arabia after combat ended), first Bronze Star awarded to female member of Virginia Army Guard (Staff Sergeant LaDonda Kirkland, 116<sup>th</sup> Military History Detachment, who accompanied 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division troops in to Iraqi during ground war).

**2001**

**October-**Lieutenant Colonel Janice Igou becomes the first female commander of a battalion in the Virginia Army Guard when she takes command of the 429<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light).



**2004**

**December 14-** The 183<sup>rd</sup> Personnel Service Detachment is mobilized under the command of Captain Robin Branch. The unit deploys to Kuwait in early 2005 making Captain Branch the first woman (of any race) to command a Virginia Guard unit in a theater of operations. As a Private First Class, Branch served with the same unit in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, 1990 1991.



