

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

WOMEN'S RIGHTS



Tip: Shorten your walk by taking the [tram](#). Tickets may be purchased inside the Welcome Center at the box office and outside in the tram circle at the marked podium. They may also be purchased online at www.arlingtontours.com.

★ Tram stop (daily)
★ Tram stop (weekends only)



We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

@ArlingtonNatl
#ANCEducation #ANCWomensHistory

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Length: ~5 miles

Starting Point: Section 30 (0.2 miles from Welcome Center)

Exertion Level: High

There are three types of stops on this walking tour:



HONOR stops mark the gravesites of specific individuals.



REMEMBER stops commemorate events, ideas or groups of people.



EXPLORE stops invite you to discover what this history means to you.

1	Helen Taft	Section 30, Grave S-14		
2	Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Section 5, Grave 7016-1		
3	Marguerite Higgins (Hall)	Section 2, Grave 4705-B		
4	Zitkála-Ša (Gertrude Simmons Bonnin)	Section 2, Grave 4703		
5	Alice Thornton Jenkins	Section 1, Grave 43-C		
6	Anna Kelton Wiley	Section 13, Grave 5959-B		
7	Seraph Young Ford	Section 13, Grave 89-A		
8	Female Astronauts: Resnik, McAuliffe, Chawla, & Clark	Section 46		
9	Vinnie Ream Hoxie	Section 3, Grave 1876		
10	Helen Hamilton Gardener	Section 3, Grave 4072		
11	Sojourner Truth	Corner of Clayton & Jessup Drives		
12	Elizebeth Smith Friedman	Section 8, Grave 6379-A		
13	Mary Baird Bryan	Section 4, Grave 31118-3121		



INTRODUCTION



The first known person buried on the property that eventually became Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) was a woman. Since the early decades of ANC's establishment as a military cemetery, women have been buried here — either alongside their military spouses or because of their own military service. This tour highlights some women you may be surprised to find buried at the nation's preeminent military cemetery, since they themselves did not serve in the military.

As civilians, however, these women made important contributions to American society and women's long struggle for equality. Examples include Seraph Young Ford (STOP 7), believed to be the first woman to vote in the United States after Utah passed an equal suffrage law in 1870; Elizebeth Smith Friedman (STOP 12), a pioneer in the field of military cryptology; Marguerite Higgins (STOP 3), who earned the Pulitzer Prize for her frontline reporting during the Korean War; and Zitkála-Ša (STOP 4), a leading American Indian activist and writer.

These stories represent only a tiny fraction of those that could be told. Women buried at ANC broke gender barriers, served their nation on and off the battlefield, created new roles for women in military and civic life, and contributed to the ongoing struggle for women's equality.

As you explore the cemetery on this tour, consider the women whose names have not been traditionally remembered or honored in the historical record. Their service in support of the nation's ongoing quest for equality mattered too.

HOW DO WE DEFINE WOMEN'S RIGHTS?



When you hear the phrase "women's rights," what do you imagine? You may think of historical rights, such as the women's suffrage movement at the turn of the 20th century, or the fight against sex discrimination in the workplace in the mid-20th century. Or perhaps you thought of more recent women's rights issues, such as the 2017 Women's March or the Department of Defense integrating women into all combat positions in the 2010s.

The term "women's rights" is incredibly broad and has meant many different things to people throughout history. On this tour, you will learn not only about women who significantly impacted American society and advanced gender equality; you will also learn about various definitions of "women's rights," as those definitions have evolved throughout American history.

Historically, as women gained rights, they also gained new opportunities. And as their opportunities and roles — in the home, in the workplace, in society — expanded, so too did their need for additional rights. As you visit these pioneering women's gravesites, consider:

- What rights (economic, legal, social, etc.) did each woman possess at the time?
- What rights did she seek? What rights did she not seek?
- How did the advocacy of women who came before her shape her life and opportunities?
- How did her own advocacy expand future women's rights and opportunities?
- How did women have different rights based on their race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, or socioeconomic background?
- How are "rights" defined in American society? By the Constitution? By legislation? By everyday practice? Who decides the meanings of rights?

Each of the women featured on this tour worked to expand women's roles in society. They fought for the right to vote, the right to hold particular occupations, and the opportunity to live freely and independently, to name just a few things these women supported. They may not have agreed on what rights women should hold, which women should hold those rights, and how those rights should be attained. But they all sought improved social, legal, and economic circumstances for themselves and for those who came after them.

HELEN HERRON "NELLIE" TAFT



WALKING TOUR STOP 1 Section 30, Grave S-14

BIRTH: June 2, 1861, Cincinnati, OH

DEATH: May 22, 1943, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: Helen Taft, who went by the nickname "Nellie," was the wife of President William Howard Taft and first lady of the United States from 1909 to 1913. Raised in a prominent Ohio political family, Taft visited the White House as a teenager and vowed that she would one day live there. She and her friends organized Sunday afternoon "salons," where they would discuss intellectual topics. It was at one of these events that she met her husband, then a young lawyer. William was more interested in law than politics, and even after he became president he thought of Nellie as the politician of the family.

CAREER & LEGACY: In 1900, William Taft was selected as the American governor general in the Philippines. Helen relished the opportunity to travel and host foreign dignitaries, and she was disappointed when they had to return to the United States for her husband to serve as secretary of war. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt considered nominating William Taft to the Supreme Court. Dissatisfied with how that would cut short Taft's political career, Helen met with the president and convinced him not to make the appointment. Her strategy paid off, as Taft was elected president in 1908, and later became chief justice of the Supreme Court in 1921.

As first lady, Taft took a keen interest in current events and reportedly had as much influence on her husband as a Cabinet member. She implemented safety and sanitary standards for federal workplaces, opened the White House to a wider range of visitors, and began the tradition of the first lady riding in the inaugural parade. Sadly, she suffered a stroke only two months into her time as first lady, and afterward was not able to be as involved in the administration as she had hoped.

Helen Taft's most visible legacies are the more than 3,000 cherry trees that grace Washington, D.C.'s Tidal Basin. Inspired by her travels to Japan, and by her time living in the Philippines, she supported writer Eliza Ruhama Scidmore's long campaign to plant Japanese cherry trees along the Potomac River. Helen Taft's involvement in the project represented a diplomatic success for the first lady, who expanded the role of the president's spouse throughout her husband's time in office. On March 27, 1912, she planted two cherry trees on a bank of the Tidal Basin with Japanese Viscountess Iwa Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador. The trees symbolized the friendship between Japan and the United States. Helen Taft's legacy lives on through these trees — including at Arlington National Cemetery, where more than 400 bloom each year between March and May.

After President Taft died in 1930, Helen commissioned noted sculptor James Earle Fraser to design the monument for his gravesite, where she too was buried in 1943.

Helen "Nellie" Taft,
circa 1909. (LOC)



WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR

From the Welcome Center, turn right on Schley Drive and continue past the Military Women's Memorial. Just after Custis Walk, on your left, is a stone pathway. Taft's gravesite is at the end of the pathway.

Cherry trees along the Tidal Basin, with
Arlington National Cemetery in the background,
undated. (NPS/Anthony DeYoung)





FIRST LADIES' ROLES & INFLUENCE



Before women were allowed to vote, their political power often lay in their ability to convince men to support their interests. As the woman closest to the president, this gave the First Lady perhaps the most power in the country. Today, women often do not have to gain their power or career through their connections to men, but first ladies are still celebrated and scrutinized as public figures, and they can influence American culture in numerous special ways.

WHITE HOUSE HOSTESS

Starting with Martha Washington, first ladies have played the part of White House hostess. Dinners, parties, and other social events are an important part of building relationships with other countries, making political allies, and furthering the president's agenda. By selecting who was welcome at the White House and how they would be honored, the first lady can influence public opinion and policy. Dolley Madison, for example, was well-known for bringing together people of different statuses and opinions, and for charming her husband's political enemies. In 1870, while the United States was still waging war against various Indian tribes, Julia Grant hosted a reception for a group of Native Americans who were seeking protection and assistance from the U.S. government. And in 1929, Lou Hoover caused a stir by inviting Jessie DePriest, a Black woman, to the White House for tea. Ms. DePriest was the wife of a congressman, and the tea was a traditional event for the wives of congressmen, but the invitation still enraged racists.

POLICY ADVOCATE

Beyond their role as hostesses, first ladies have also been able to use their position to advance causes they found important. Ellen Wilson's advocacy for the poor resulted in the passage of "Mrs. Wilson's Bill," which provided for better housing to be built in the slums of Washington, D.C. Eleanor Roosevelt held press conferences for female reporters and wrote a daily newspaper column, promoting her views on women's equality, racial justice, New Deal policies, and relief for the poor. Betty Ford championed the Equal Rights Amendment, even lobbying for its passage from her personal desk in the White House. She also spoke publicly about her breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, inspiring women nationwide to get screened.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR

First ladies who have taken on active roles in their husband's work have both been lauded for their passion and criticized for getting involved where, according to social norms, they "don't belong." Helen Taft was recognized by many as being more politically ambitious than her husband, and she preferred to attend his policy meetings over social calls with other wives in the Taft administration. Eleanor Roosevelt was also one of her husband's closest advisors, sometimes called "the President's eyes, ears, and legs." Rosalynn Carter sat in on Cabinet meetings and was even appointed honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health. After President Woodrow Wilson was partially paralyzed by a stroke, his second wife, Edith, managed the particulars of his presidential duties. Because of the level of influence she held in the White House during that time, some have called her "first woman to run the government." All first ladies must walk the fine line between their lack of elected authority to influence policy and their own ambitions and interests.

Fictional reception honoring "Lady Washington" in May 1789, one month after her husband's Presidential Inauguration, 1861. (Brooklyn Museum/Daniel Huntington)



Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover greet disabled veterans at a garden party held in their honor, June 1929. (NARA)



Honorary Chairperson Rosalynn Carter hands President Jimmy Carter the President's Commission on Mental Health's final report, April 1978. (NARA)

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FIRST LADIES' ROLES & INFLUENCE

STYLE ICON

A less controversial area of first ladies' influence is as style icons. Helen Taft kicked off the tradition of first ladies donating their inaugural gowns to the Smithsonian Institution, where they are featured in one of the National Museum of American History's most popular exhibits. Women nationwide copied Frances Cleveland's hairstyle, and when it was falsely reported that she had stopped wearing bustled dresses, they quickly fell out of fashion. Mamie Eisenhower's love for pale pink (which came to be known as "Mamie pink") inspired many a 1950s kitchen and bathroom. Jackie Kennedy's style was famous worldwide — clean-lined suits and dresses, bouffant hairdo, and a pillbox hat — and defined early 60s fashion. Decades apart, Jackie Kennedy, Nancy Reagan, and Michelle Obama attracted attention for sleeveless looks and for highlighting American fashion designers.



Mamie Eisenhower in her 1953 Inaugural "Mamie pink" gown. (NARA)



Jackie Kennedy in 1961. (NARA)

You can thank a First Lady for:

- Cherry trees in Washington, D.C. (Helen Taft)
- Historical restoration and preservation of the White House (Jackie Kennedy)
- Wildflowers alongside highways and roadsides (Lady Bird Johnson)
- Pandas at United States zoos (Pat Nixon)



Lady Bird Johnson spreading seeds at the National Wildlife Research Center (now Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center) during the groundbreaking ceremony in 1982. (LBJ Library/Frank Wolfe)

The level and area of a first lady's influence can vary widely, depending on her individual interests. In paying tribute to Rosalynn Carter, Michelle Obama said, "You learn very quickly that there is no handbook or rules to being first lady. Technically, it's not even an official position. And while there are spoken and unspoken expectations that provide some structure, the role is largely shaped by the passions and aspirations of the person holding it." More succinctly, Laura Bush reflected that "the role of first lady is whatever the first lady wants it to be."

REFLECT

- What do you think is the appropriate role for a first lady — or a first gentleman? Are there areas you think she or he should definitely be involved in? Or areas where she or he should not be involved?
- The United States has, for the first time in history, a second gentleman: Vice President Kamala Harris's husband, Douglas Emhoff. When the nation has a first gentleman, do you think he will have the same level of cultural influence as a first lady? Why or why not?
- What initiatives would you take on as first lady or first gentleman? What would you want your legacy to be?
- Can you think of other examples of women being able to influence the world around them, even without holding elected power?



RUTH BADER GINSBURG



WALKING TOUR STOP 2

Section 5, Grave 7016-1

BIRTH: March 15, 1933, New York, NY

DEATH: September 18, 2020, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: Ruth Bader Ginsburg — Supreme Court justice, lawyer, cultural icon, and indefatigable champion of gender equality — is buried alongside her husband, Martin Ginsburg, an attorney and U.S. Army veteran eligible for burial at ANC.

The first Jewish woman appointed to the Supreme Court, and the second female justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg served on the nation's highest court from August 10, 1993, until her death in 2020. Described by Chief Justice John Roberts as “a tireless and resolute champion of justice,” Ginsburg steadfastly advocated for the equal rights of all U.S. citizens regardless of gender, race, or religion.

EARLY LIFE & EDUCATION: Ruth Bader was born in Brooklyn, New York, to working-class Jewish parents. Her father had immigrated from Russia as a child and her mother was the daughter of Polish immigrants. Bader's mother — who died the day before her high school graduation — had not been able to attend college, and she inspired Bader to pursue education as a means of independence and empowerment. The family's Jewish identity, also informed her career: “The demand for justice runs through the entirety of the Jewish tradition,” she stated in 1996.

Ginsburg attended Cornell University on a scholarship, graduating in 1954 at the top of her class. That same year, she married fellow Cornell graduate and ROTC Army officer Martin Ginsburg. The couple's partnership lasted 56 years, until his death from cancer in 2010. They had two children, Jane and James.

In 1955, Ginsburg began law school at Harvard University, where her husband Marty had also enrolled following his two-year Army service. One of only nine women in a 552-person class, she endured gender discrimination — women could not use certain sections of the law library, for example — but nonetheless she became the first woman selected for the Harvard Law Review, one of the nation's most prestigious legal journals. Ginsburg gave birth to her daughter Jane in 1955, the same year that Martin Ginsburg was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Yet even as she devoted significant time to caring for her baby and husband, she continued to excel academically. As Ginsburg recalled in the award-winning 2018 documentary “RBG,” she spent time with her family after returning from her classes, and then, after the baby went to sleep, worked late into the night on her studies — a pattern that would continue throughout her career. After Martin accepted a job in New York, she transferred to Columbia Law School and graduated at the top of her class in 1959.

PRE-SUPREME COURT CAREER: Despite such sterling credentials, Ginsburg faced significant social barriers in her early career. “In the Fifties,” she later recalled, “the traditional law firms were just beginning to turn around on hiring Jews. But to be a woman, a Jew, and a mother to boot — that combination was a bit too much.” Although a professor had recommended Ginsburg for a clerkship with Supreme Court of the United States Justice Felix Frankfurter, he declined even to interview her, and she received no offers from law firms in New York.

Ginsburg found greater opportunities as a law professor, teaching first at Rutgers University (1963–1972) and then at Columbia (1972–1980), where she became the first female law professor to earn tenure. While at Columbia, she worked in Sweden on an international civil law project, and Swedish feminism influenced her thinking on gender equality and the law.

Ginsburg Supreme Court portrait, 2016. (SCOTUS)



WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR

Return to Custis Walk and turn right up the hill. Turn left on Sheridan Drive and continue until you almost reach the Kennedy gravesite. On the right is Section 5.



RUTH BADER GINSBURG



In 1972, Ginsburg stepped onto the national stage when she co-founded and served as the first director of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). In this capacity, she argued six cases before the Supreme Court between 1973 and 1978, winning five. She became known for her careful yet pointed oral arguments, which explained how the law created and sustained gender inequality — with negative consequences for both women and men. Indeed, one of her most significant cases, *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld* (1975), effectively ended gender-based distinctions in Social Security spousal benefits, allowing men to receive survivors' benefits previously granted only to widows. In recognition of her success in such landmark cases, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980.

SUPREME COURT CAREER: President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Ginsburg to the Supreme Court on June 15, 1993. After a 96-3 Senate confirmation, she took her seat on August 10, 1993. As an associate justice, Ginsburg continued to pursue what she described as a “measured” approach to judicial change, yet her decisions often had far-reaching implications. In 1996, for example, she wrote the majority opinion in *United States v. Virginia*, a landmark gender equity case which held that Virginia Military Institute's all-male admissions policy was unconstitutional.

As the Supreme Court became increasingly conservative in the 2000s, Ginsburg began to be known for her forceful dissenting opinions, often articulated in oral arguments. With the retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens in 2010, she became the Court's senior liberal justice and an increasingly public symbol of resistance to the Court's rightward turn. Leading the Court's four-member liberal minority, Ginsburg issued prominent dissenting opinions in cases on gender equality, voting rights, and religious freedom, among other key issues.

In *Lilly Ledbetter v. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Inc.* (2007), she read an impassioned oral dissent defending women's right to equal pay; although the Court's majority ruled against Ledbetter's gender discrimination suit, two years later, President Barack Obama signed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, which reflected the principles of Ginsburg's dissent. In *Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder* (2013), she argued that the majority ruling to dismantle key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act was “like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.” And in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* (2014), her dissent maintained that private corporations could not use religious freedom laws to deny health care coverage to employees.

LEGACY: Soft-spoken and small in stature, Ginsburg may have seemed an “unlikely revolutionary” (as the *Washington Post's* obituary described her), yet her vision of justice transformed not only the law but also the cultural landscape. “The Notorious RBG” — as supporters affectionately dubbed her — became a veritable icon who inspired multiple generations.

Prior to her private burial ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Justice Ginsburg lay in repose at the U.S. Supreme Court building for two days. On September 23 and 24, 2020, long lines of mourners waited to pay their respects to her. Then, on September 25, her flag-draped casket lay in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. Ginsburg was the first woman in American history to receive this honor.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's remarkable life and legacy is perhaps best summarized in her own words, as she expressed when receiving Harvard's Radcliffe Medal in 2015: “Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”



Ginsburg accepts President Clinton's nomination for Associate Supreme Court Justice, 1993. (NARA/Sharon Farmer)



The first four female Supreme Court justices prior to Justice Kagan's Investiture on October 1, 2010. L–R: Sandra Day O'Connor, (Ret.), Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Elena Kagan. (SCOTUS/Steve Petteway)



MARGUERITE HIGGINS HALL



WALKING TOUR STOP 3 Section 2, Grave 4705-B

BIRTH: September 3, 1920, Hong Kong

DEATH: January 3, 1966, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Marguerite Higgins covered World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Higgins' Irish-American father met her French mother during World War I in Paris. After the war, they moved to Hong Kong, where Higgins was born. When Higgins was three years old, her family moved to Oakland, California. Higgins graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1941. She then moved to New York City to pursue a career in journalism, earning a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

CAREER: In 1942, Higgins became the Columbia University campus correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune, which led to a full-time reporting position after she graduated.

In the fall of 1944, toward the end of World War II, Higgins secured her dream job and joined the Tribune's ranks of foreign war correspondents in Europe. Over the next few years, she reported on the liberation of the Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps, the capture of Hitler's home, Berchtesgaden, and the Nuremberg trials. She also spent several years after the war traveling behind the Iron Curtain and reporting on the Soviet Union's takeover of Poland and Czechoslovakia, as well as its blockade of Berlin.



*Marguerite Higgins as a war correspondent in Korea, October 1950.
(Syracuse University Libraries/Carl Mydans)*

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"It was undoubtedly fortunate for me that so many persons envisaged Berlin primarily in terms of acres of ruins and shortages of food and coal. ... For although the term 'cold war' had not yet been invented, I thought even at that time that Berlin, being the focal point of Russian-American relations, was far more exciting than the more sought-after bureaus in European capitals."

– Marguerite Higgins in *News is a Singular Thing*



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Continue on Sheridan. Just past the Kennedy gravesites, you'll notice a red stone headstone on your right. Higgins' grave is across from that headstone in the first row.



*Higgins, circa 1950.
(Syracuse University Libraries)*



MARGUERITE HIGGINS HALL



When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Higgins was one of the first reporters — and the only female reporter — on the front lines of the fighting. She fled Seoul with American troops in June 1950, landed on Inchon as part of an amphibious assault in September, and followed Marines beyond the 38th Parallel during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in December. She received the Pulitzer Prize for reporting on the Korean War in 1951.

“[U]ntil the moment I was en route to the beach [at Inchon] I was so consumed with the effort of merely making sure that I could cover the story that I had no time or energy left for hesitation. ... the hesitation came as usual when it was much too late.”

– Marguerite Higgins in *News is a Singular Thing*

“[T]he main difference between a newsman and a soldier in Korea was that the soldier in combat had to get out of his hold and go after the enemy, whereas the correspondent had the privilege of keeping his head down. ...[M]any of us frequently went out on patrol. We felt it was the only honest way of covering the war. The large number of correspondents killed or captured in Korea is testimony to the dangers to which scores willingly subjected themselves.”

– Higgins in *War in Korea: The Report of a Woman Combat Correspondent*



After Korea, Higgins interviewed world leaders, traveled to the Soviet Union, and worked at the Tribune’s Washington bureau. In 1963, she returned to the frontlines to cover the war in Vietnam. While in Vietnam in 1965, Higgins contracted a parasitic disease and died on January 3, 1966, at age 45. She is buried with her second husband, U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. William Evens Hall.

LEGACY: Higgins’ reporting in Korea helped illuminate the United States’ early lack of preparedness in the war. She was committed to reporting what she saw on the ground — both to give voice to service members and so that the American public could know the full story of the war.

Higgins gained fame not only for her exemplary reporting, but also because she was a female war correspondent. The Tribune’s management and U.S. military officers repeatedly tried to expel Higgins from Korea due to her gender, but she continually fought for and won her right to report. Higgins blazed a trail for female war correspondents and still serves as inspiration to many female reporters.

ZITKÁLA-ŠA (GERTRUDE BONNIN)



WALKING TOUR STOP 4 Section 2, Grave 4703

BIRTH: February 22, 1876, Yankton Indian Reservation, SD

DEATH: January 26, 1938, Washington, D.C.

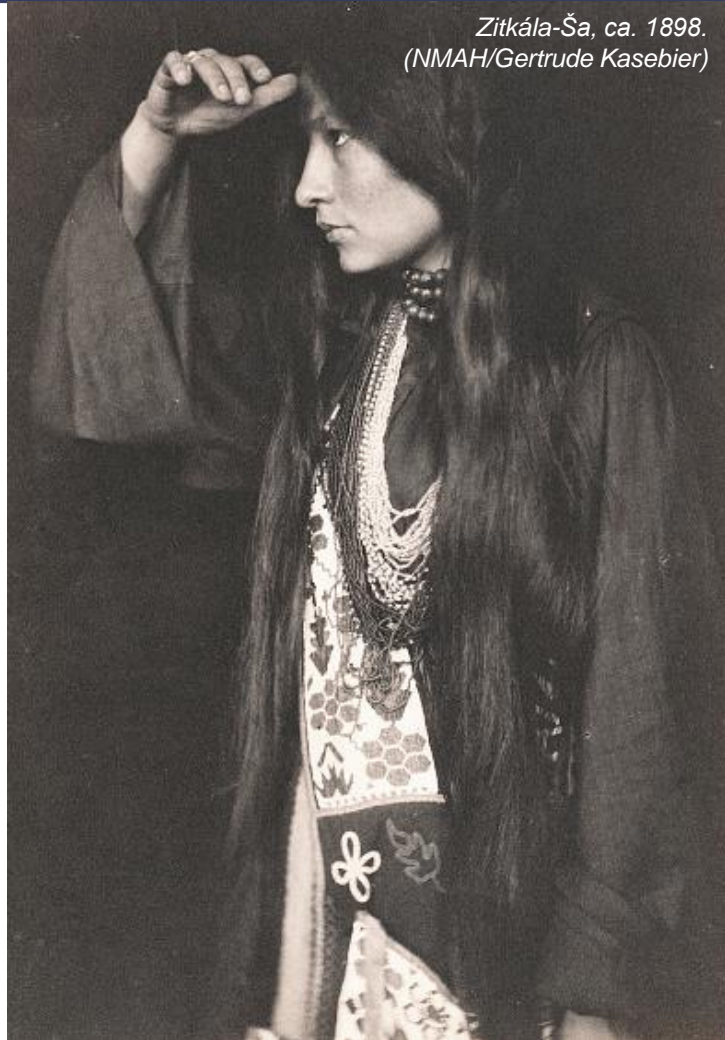
BACKGROUND: Zitkála-Ša, whose name means “Red Bird,” was one of the most important American Indian activists and writers of the 20th century.

A member of the Yankton Dakota Sioux, Zitkála-Ša was born on the Yankton Reservation in South Dakota in 1876. When she was eight years old, she was sent, against her mother’s wishes, to a Quaker missionary school in Wabash, Indiana. The Indiana Manual Labor Institute was one of many boarding schools founded in the late 19th-century not only to educate American Indian children, but also to assimilate them into white Christian culture. There, she was given the name Gertrude Simmons. While Zitkála-Ša enjoyed learning to read, write, and play the violin, she resented being forced to pray and to cut her hair, and she grieved the loss of her own culture — feelings that she chronicled in her autobiographical story, “The School Days of an Indian Girl.”

CAREER: Zitkála-Ša’s formative experiences at an Indian boarding school and her growing political consciousness of her ethnicity and gender, set the stage for her later activism. After graduating from the Indiana boarding school — and giving a commencement speech on women’s rights — Zitkála-Ša attended Earlham College and the New England Conservatory of Music. She was then hired to teach music at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania — the first government-run, off-reservation Indian boarding school in the United States, which became the model for many others. However, Zitkála-Ša was fired from her job after writing an article for Harper’s Monthly that criticized the school’s forced assimilation policies. She returned to the Yankton Reservation, where she began collecting and publishing traditional Dakota stories; her first book, “Old Indian Stories,” was published in 1901. Meanwhile, she worked as a clerk for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), where she met U.S. Army Captain Raymond Talefase Bonnín, who was also of Dakota descent. They married in 1902. The BIA assigned Capt. Bonnín to the Uintah-Ouray Reservation in Utah, where the couple lived and worked for the next 14 years.

While in Utah, Zitkála-Ša continued her cultural and political advocacy work. In 1910, she wrote the libretto for the first American Indian opera, “The Sun Dance Opera,” which was based on a sacred Sioux ritual that had been banned by the U.S. government. Co-written by composer William F. Hanson, a professor at Brigham Young University, the opera premiered in Utah to critical acclaim in 1913. Zitkála-Ša also joined the Society of American Indians (SIA), an organization founded in 1911 with the twin goals of preserving American Indian cultures and advocating for their full U.S. citizenship rights. As editor of the SIA’s journal, she frequently wrote about American Indian issues for high-profile national magazines such as *Harper’s* and *The Atlantic*.

Zitkála-Ša, ca. 1898.
(NMAH/Gertrude Kasebier)



Zitkála-Ša, ca. 1898.
(NMAH/Gertrude Kasebier)



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Bonnín’s headstone is two headstones back from Higgins’.

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ZITKÁLA-ŠA (GERTRUDE BONNIN)

In 1916, the Bonnins moved to Washington, D.C. to work on behalf of American Indian cultural sovereignty and citizenship rights. There, Zitkala-Sa became an active member of the women's suffrage movement. She spoke at the National Woman's Party headquarters in 1918 and after the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote in 1920, she traveled the nation urging white women to use their newly earned suffrage to advocate on behalf of Native American citizenship and voting rights.

In 1924, Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act, which granted full U.S. citizenship rights to all American Indians. Although the act represented a major legal milestone, it did not guarantee equality in practice. For one thing, states retained the authority to determine who could or could not vote, meaning that many states continued to restrict American Indian suffrage. In 1926, Zitkála-Ša and Capt. Bonnin founded the National Council of American Indians, which played a leading role in advocating for all Indians' right to vote. Serving as the Council's first president, Zitkála-Ša organized voter registration drives and gave speeches across the country. She specifically campaigned for American Indian women's right to vote, and she organized an Indian Welfare Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a prominent national women's suffrage organization.

Zitkála-Ša died in 1938. She served as president of the National Council of American Indians until the day of her death.

LEGACY: Zitkála-Ša was an important advocate for both women's and American Indian's civil rights. She was proof that American Indians did not have to choose between two different worlds but could balance identities and citizenship in both. She fought for the agency of American Indians and women and promoted her heritage through the arts. Her activism laid groundwork for education, health care, and legal reform.

Her headstone has a carved tepee on the back, symbolizing her cultural heritage. In her own words, "There is no great; there is no small; in the mind that causeth all."



Zitkála-Ša's author photo in her 1921 book, "American Indian Stories."



Zitkála-Ša, 1898. (National Portrait Gallery/Joseph Turner Keiley)



SUFFRAGISTS



On August 18, 1920, with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, American women finally obtained the right to vote. For over half a century, the women's suffrage movement had advocated for this foundational citizenship right. While many are familiar with suffrage leaders like Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, and Alva Belmont, thousands of lesser-known American women devoted themselves to the suffrage cause. This determined group marched in cities, lobbied politicians, wrote letters to editors, gave speeches, and practiced civil disobedience. Several of these brave, trailblazing women are buried here at Arlington National Cemetery. Continue to the next few stops to learn some of their stories.

Female activists formed several national organizations in support of women's suffrage. A brief overview of a few of the major organizations:

National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA): Formed in the late 1860s and led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, NWSA sought women's suffrage through a federal constitutional amendment.

American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA): Formed in the late 1860s and led by Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, and Julia Ward Howe, AWSA sought women's suffrage through a state-by-state campaign.

National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA): In 1890, NWSA and AWSA merged to form NAWSA, combining both national and state-level approaches to secure suffrage. After the 19th Amendment passed in 1920, NAWSA transformed into the League of Women Voters, which still runs today.

National Woman's Party (NWP): Alice Paul and Lucy Burns founded the NWP in 1913 (then called the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage) after splitting from NAWSA. NWP modeled its tactics after the British suffrage movement; they protested, marched, petitioned, and spoke on behalf of suffrage. Hundreds of women were arrested and jailed for their advocacy. After 1920, the NWP shifted its attention to an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The ERA failed to achieve ratification. In 2020, the NWP officially ceased operations; however, the Alice Paul Institute continues its mission to advance gender equality, and the National Park Service and the Library of Congress serve as stewards of the organization's headquarters and archives, respectively.

The start of the 1913 Suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. (LOC)





WALKING TOUR STOP 5

Section 1, Grave 43-C

BIRTH: December 18, 1857, Baltimore, MD

DEATH: June 30, 1935, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: Born into a military family, Jenkins never married and is buried alongside her father. She attended Moravian College in Pennsylvania, had an interest in music, and worked for the Navy Department as a copyist.

CAREER: Jenkins played an active role in the suffrage movement as director of the D.C. Woman Suffrage Association, auditor for the State Equal Suffrage Association, and a delegate to three National American Woman Suffrage Association conventions: Washington, D.C.; Louisville, Kentucky; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

She also led the D.C. suffragists at marches in New York, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. in 1912–13. The 1912 march in Baltimore coincided with the Democratic National Convention: the NAWSA hoped to get the suffrage amendment onto the Democratic platform. Similarly, the 1913 march in D.C. coincided with President Wilson's presidential inauguration.

Thornton's life-long passion and study of music supported her suffragist activism. In 1914, for example, she directed a musical to raise money for The Council of Women at George Washington University.

LEGACY: Jenkins exemplifies the hundreds of grassroots-level suffrage leaders across the nation. She organized and motivated women in the Washington, D.C. region to show up for and donate money to the national suffrage cause. Local activists like Jenkins were incredibly important to the suffrage movement but often do not get recognized in stories that focus mostly on national leaders.



Alice Thornton Jenkins, undated. (Find a Grave)



WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR

Continue along Sheridan Drive. At the intersection, take Meigs Drive. Walk most of the way to the next road (McPherson Drive).

On your right, you'll notice a tall, rough-hewn column, in the second row from Meigs Drive. Jenkins' headstone is four rows further back.

THE 1913 D.C. SUFFRAGE PROCESSION



On March 3, 1913, the day before President Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration, about 8,000 women marched from the U.S. Capitol to the White House in a national parade for women's suffrage. At least three women who are buried at ANC marched in the parade: Alice Thornton Jenkins, Anna Kelton Wiley, and Jane Delano.

WHO MARCHED?

Women from across the nation marched in state delegations or in academic or professional delegations. They aimed to demonstrate their varied accomplishments through their diverse delegations and floats and thereby showcase the accomplishments of all women. Floats portrayed women across different fields, such as government, agriculture, the home, the military, law, and medicine. Professional delegations included businesswomen, librarians, writers, teachers, social workers, and more.

Although most marchers were white, the procession did include several African American women, including Ida B. Wells (who marched with the Illinois delegation) and Mary Church Terrell (who marched with the university women delegation in her Howard University cap and gown), and at least one Native American woman (Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin who marched with the lawyer delegation). African American women had to fight for their right to join the march, and despite some white women's efforts to force Black women to march at the back of the procession, the NAACP's newspaper, *The Crisis*, reported that over 40 Black women marched with their state or professional delegations, and at least two Black women led their state delegation.

REFLECT

Imagine marching in a parade for women's rights today. How would you represent yourself? By statehood? By professional affiliation? By social affiliation?

The parade also included four floats dedicated to the different eras of the 75-year suffrage movement: 1840, 1870, 1890, and modern day (1913). Anna Kelton Wiley led the 1840 float, representing the "first leader of the Movement for the Emancipation of Woman standing alone, scorned by her own sex and facing a black wall of prejudice."

Visit the Library of Congress's website to explore the march's official program:
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2020780515/>.



Cover of the "Official Program Woman Suffrage Procession," March 3, 1913. (LOC)

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NEXT PAGE



THE 1913 D.C. SUFFRAGE PROCESSION



WHY DID THEY MARCH?

The women marched for a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing suffrage for all women. This demand for national suffrage was a major shift in strategy, pioneered by NAWSA's Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. When women first started seeking suffrage in the 19th century, they sought a constitutional amendment, and in 1868, a women's suffrage amendment reached the floor of the Senate. However, it was quickly defeated, and suffragists started shifting their efforts to winning suffrage on the state level. This parade announced NAWSA's return to the original goal. A float at the head of the parade stated this new strategy in plain terms: "We demand an amendment to the Constitution of the United States enfranchising the women of this country."



The Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C., March 3, 1913. (LOC)

HOW WERE THEY RECEIVED?

Over 250,000 spectators lined the streets of Washington, D.C. to watch and many interfered in the procession. As the women marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, crowds of hostile men converged on the women, yelling insults and attacking the marchers. Police were stationed along the parade path, and either were unable to or did not try to control the crowd. Over 100 women were hospitalized for injuries. Despite this abuse, the marchers did not stop. They held their ground for nearly an hour until U.S. Army troops arrived and cleared the streets.

The next day, news of the procession and the abuse covered the front pages of newspapers around the nation, and in some instances, even overshadowed reports on the presidential inauguration. The marchers' commitment to their cause, reinvigorated the suffrage movement and calls for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

WOMAN'S JOURNAL AND SUFFRAGE NEWS

VOL. XLIV. NO. 10 SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1913 FIVE CENTS

PARADE STRUGGLES TO VICTORY DESPITE DISGRACEFUL SCENES

Nation Aroused by Open Insults to Women—Cause Wins Popular Sympathy—Congress Orders Investigation—Striking Object Lesson

Washington has been disgraced. Equal suffrage has scored a great victory. Thousands of indifferent women have been aroused. Influential men are located and the United States Senate demands an investigation of the treatment given the suffragists at the National Capital on Monday.

Ten thousand women from all over the country had planned a magnificent parade and passed to take place in Washington on March 3. At first, the parade was to be a peaceful demonstration of suffrage work to the public that would show the National Capital for the inauguration festivities. The procession started down Pennsylvania avenue, when the police protection, that had been promised, failed them, and a disgraceful scene followed. The crowd surged into the space which had been marked off for the parade, and the leaders of the suffrage movement were compelled to push their way through a mob of the most violent in Washington and vicinity. Women were spit upon, slapped in the face, and insulted by jeers and obscene language too vile to print or repeat.

The cause of all the trouble is apparent when the facts are known. The police authorities in Washington opposed every attempt to have a suffrage parade at all. Having been assigned a place in the inaugural procession, the suffragists asked to have a procession of their own on March 3. They were finally told that they could have a procession but that it could not be on Pennsylvania avenue, but must be on a side street. At last they got permission to have the suffrage parade on the avenue, and asked that traffic be excluded from the street during the parade. But a long time this was denied, and only on Saturday were they successful.

Everything was at last arranged; it was a glorious day; ten thousands of women were ready to do their part to make it a credit to womanhood and to demonstrate the strength of their movement for their enfranchisement. The police were determined, however, and they had their way. Their tactics and keep the space of the avenue free for the suffrage procession was the final aim. Police officers stood by with folded arms and pointed while the packed women of the land were insulted and roughly abused by an ignorant and uncouth mob.

Mrs. Alice Paul and other suffragists were compelled to drive their automobiles down the avenue to escape the crowds as the suffragists pass. The police officials say their force was inadequate to handle the crowds, but it is noted that there was no disorder on the avenue during the inaugural procession. It is stated that federal troops were offered to the chief of police for the suffrage procession, but that he refused their aid. At any rate, assistance was finally called from Fort Myer and mounted soldiers drove back the crowd so that a straggling line of marchers could pass through.

Not only were the suffragists bitterly disappointed in having the effect

AMENDMENT WINS IN NEW JERSEY

Easy Victory in Assembly 46 to 5—Equal Suffrage Enthusiasm Runs High

The New Jersey Legislature passed the woman suffrage amendment in the Assembly last week by a vote of 46 to 5. The Senate had already voted favorably 14 to 8. A large delegation of suffragists crowded the galleries, and when the overwhelming vote was announced there was a scene of great enthusiasm. Women stood in their seats and waved handkerchiefs and "votes for women" flags and cheered themselves hoarse.

Dr. Jekyll becomes Mr. Hyde. Opposition was confined exclusively to the old sentimental arguments.

(Continued on Page 79)

MICHIGAN AGAIN CAMPAIGN STATE

Senate Passes Suffrage Amendment 26 to 5 and Battle Is Now On

Michigan is again a campaign state after a short lapse of four months. The amendment will go to the voters on April 7. The Statewide feeling that the women were defeated at victory last fall will help the suffragists.

The final action of the Legislature was taken last week, when the Senate, by a vote of 26 to 5, passed the suffrage amendment, with a slight amendment to make the requirements for foreign-born women the same as those for male immigrants.

Governor Watches Debate

The debate in the Senate lasted an hour and a quarter, and was characterized by the persistent efforts of Senator Woodcock and a few others to tack on crippling amendments. Several suggestions, including the disabling of women for holding office or serving on juries, were voted down in quick succession.

Gov. Ferris was among the violent who crowded the chamber and gallery. Mrs. Clara B. Arthur, Mrs. Thomas R. Henderson and Mrs. Wilbur Brinkerton, of Detroit; Mrs. Jennie Law Hardy, of Tecumseh, and other state leaders were present, supported by a large delegation of ladies from Detroit.

The final stand of the opposition was made by Senator Murchie in the hope of putting off the submission till November, 1914, and this also failed. Of the five who opposed the measure on the final roll-call, three were from Detroit.

A complete campaign of explanation and education has been mapped out by the State Association. The

(Continued on Page 74)





General Realistic Jones in Pilgrim Costume; Miss Inez Millard in White Gown Leading the Parade; One of the Scores of Impassioned Fights; One View of the Procession

(Continued on Page 76)

Front page of the Women's Journal on March 3, 1913. (LOC)



WALKING TOUR STOP 6

Section 13, Grave 5959-B

BIRTH: March 8, 1877, Oakland, CA

DEATH: January 6, 1964, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: Anna Kelton Wiley lived a long life, and yet the quality of her contributions exceeded the number of her years. An influential woman, Wiley was dedicated to public service, the suffragist movement, and women's rights. She earned a degree in physics from Columbia College (now George Washington University) in 1897. She then studied library science and worked as a clerk for the Department of Agriculture and in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress. In 1911, at age 33, she married Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, then 67, a Civil War veteran and founder of the Food and Drug Administration.

CAREER: Anna Kelton Wiley was a lifelong champion of the suffragist movement. She served as the president of her local Elizabeth Stanton Suffrage Club in Washington, D.C. and led that group at the Suffragist Baltimore Parade held during the 1912 Democratic Convention. She served as the Hospitality Committee Chairman for the 1913 Washington, D.C. Suffrage Procession. Later in life, she served as two terms as president of the influential National Woman's Party, in 1930-32 and 1940-42.

Her marriage to Harvey Wiley fueled her ability to fight for women's suffrage. In their wedding announcement, published in the local media, Anna Wiley indicated that Dr. Wiley supported women's right to vote, writing that he "carried their courtship at meetings held in the interest of women." She also leveraged his position within the Food and Drug Administration to raise awareness and funds for the suffrage movement. At a Pure Food Show in October 1911, suffragists ran a booth promoting their cause and placed a "Votes for Women" banner at all but one of the other booths. In addition, they raised money for their cause by selling candy for a neighboring booth.



Anna Wiley's official portrait in the 1913 Washington, D.C. Suffrage Procession program. (LOC)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR



Wiley's headstone is across Meigs Drive, in one of the plots closest to the road.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

National Woman's Party council meeting in the early 1920s. L- R: Anita Pollitzer, Florence Bayard Hilles, Margaret Whittlemore, Caroline Spencer, Anna Wiley, Elizabeth Kent, Maude Younger, Mabel Vernon, Evelyn Wainwright, Alice Paul, Edith Hooker. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)





ANNA KELTON WILEY



President Woodrow Wilson did not provide overt support for women's suffrage during his first administration. Nonetheless, suffragists' perseverance resulted in no less than five meetings with President Wilson during his first two years in office. On June 30, 1914, Wiley led a delegation of women to meet with him. She challenged the president on his view that suffrage should be decided at the state level. She countered by emphasizing that states have a say in the constitutional amendment process. The president side-stepped the exchange by saying, "I do not think it is proper that I submit myself to cross-examination." Wiley was savvy enough to know when to back down. But her determination was not deterred.

In 1918, at the height of U.S. participation in World War I, Wiley picketed the White House. She was arrested for "obstructing traffic" and sentenced to 15 days in district jail. She could have been pardoned but chose to go to jail so that her fellow suffragist, Elizabeth McShane, would not have to go alone. Later, Wiley said that the "jailing was the highlight of my life."

Wiley and McShane were only two of nearly 100

American women suffragists to serve jail time for protesting at the White House. While confined, the women lived in unsanitary conditions and endured beatings, and some were even force fed after going on hunger strikes. Meanwhile, President Wilson avoided addressing women's suffrage, claiming that the nation should focus solely on the war. In 1918, Wiley wrote an article for Good Housekeeping magazine explaining why she and others picketed the White House. She wrote that the "untenable position of imprisoning women for demanding democracy at home while sacrificing precious lives securing democracy abroad could be endured no longer."

The forced feeding of the jailed suffragists tipped the scales for Wilson's support of suffrage: he was appalled by their treatment. Combined with concern over negative publicity for his administration, as well as women's many roles in the war effort, the previously tepid Wilson fully supported the 19th Amendment from 1918 on.



D.C. leaders for the Federation of Women's Club's delegation to the White House in 1914. Wiley is the second from the left. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)

The jail where Wiley and other suffragists were imprisoned is now a museum.

Visit their website to learn more and plan your visit: <https://www.workhousearts.org/lucy-burns-museum>.

LEGACY: Following passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, Wiley remained active in civic and women's rights organizations, such as the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the District of Columbia Department of Education. Five years prior to her death, Wiley summarized her own legacy. While attending the 1959 GFWC convention she succinctly recapped the purpose of her work as "arousing public opinion."



Suffragists picketing the White House in 1917. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)



WALKING TOUR STOP 7

Section 13, Grave 89-A

BIRTH: November 6, 1846, Winter Quarters, NE

DEATH: June 22, 1938, Takoma Park, MD

On February 14, 1870, Seraph Young became, according to many accounts, the first woman in the United States to vote under a territorial women's equal suffrage law. Two days earlier, Utah (then a U.S. territory) had passed legislation granting women the right to vote. It took another 50 years for all women in the United States to gain the right to vote through the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

Young, a schoolteacher and the grand-niece of Brigham Young — president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Utah's first governor — was 23 years old when she became the first woman to cast a ballot. She exercised her newly-granted right to vote in a local Salt Lake City election. A few months later, in August 1870, approximately 2,000 women voted in in Utah's general election.

In 1872, two years after she voted for the first time, Seraph Young married Seth L. Ford, who had fought for the U.S. Army during the Civil War. The couple had three children, although only two lived to adulthood. In the late 1870s, the family moved to the East Coast, eventually settling in Maryland. Throughout their marriage, Ford cared for her husband and managed the household on his small military pension. According to Seth Ford's pension records, he suffered from "blindness and spinal disease" as the result of his Civil War service; he died in 1910, nearly three decades before Seraph Young Ford's death. Seth Ford served the nation in the military; Seraph "served" by exercising her franchise and inspiring other women to exercise their own.

Seraph Young, 1902. (Public Domain)



WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR

Turn left on McPherson Drive. At the intersection, bear right. At around the apex of the curve, on the right, Ford's headstone is about 3–4 plots in from the road.



Mural in the Utah State Capitol of Seraph Young casting her ballot in 1870, 2007. (State of Utah Capitol/David Koch)

FEMALE ASTRONAUTS: RESNIK, MCAULIFFE, CHAWLA, & CLARK



WALKING TOUR STOP 8 Section 46

Women's rights also included the effort to gain expanded professional opportunities, including new frontiers such as space exploration. Victories won by women through suffrage paved the way for women to have careers unimaginable to many suffragists 50 years earlier.

During the first two decades of the space program, NASA accepted no female astronauts. When NASA began selecting candidates for astronaut training in 1959, it asked the service branches to provide lists of personnel who met certain strict criteria; candidates had to be qualified jet pilots and graduates of test pilot school, with a minimum of 1,500 hours of flying time. Thus, during NASA's first two decades, those selected to become astronauts tended to be current or former military pilots. The military background required of early astronauts explains why many of them are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Since women were not permitted to serve as military pilots until the 1970s, this also explains why there were no female astronauts until 1983, when Sally Ride became the first American woman in space.

As of March 2023, 72 women, across nationalities, have flown in space. Four of these female astronauts are buried at ANC:

- Dr. Judith A. Resnik
- Christa McAuliffe
- Dr. Kalpana Chawla
- Capt. Laurel Blair Salton Clark, M.D., U.S. Navy (Section 46, Grave 1180-2)



WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR

Continue on McPherson. Turn left on Farragut Drive, and then right on Memorial Drive. Turn right onto the sidewalk leading to the USS Maine Mast Memorial. There is a small pathway on the right, the Challenger and Columbia Memorials are at the end of that path.

SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER: RESNIK & MCAULIFFE

Judith Resnik and Sharon McAuliffe both died on January 28, 1986, when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded just 78 seconds after takeoff, killing all aboard. The unidentified, commingled remains of all seven Challenger astronauts are buried beneath the Challenger Memorial in Section 46 of ANC.



Dr. Judith Resnik (1949–1986)

Dr. Resnik was one of the first six female astronauts and the second American woman in space. Resnik graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1970 with a degree in electrical engineering and earned a Ph.D. in the same subject from the University of Maryland in 1977. That same year, NASA began recruiting women for the space program. Resnik applied and joined the 1978 astronaut class, the first to accept women.

In 1984, Resnik served as a mission specialist on the inaugural flight of the orbiter Discovery. During this seven-day mission, she and the rest of the crew deployed three satellites, conducted numerous scientific experiments, and successfully removed hazardous ice particles from the orbiter — earning the crew the nickname, “Icebusters.” Resnik’s next and final mission was aboard the ill-fated Space Shuttle Challenger.



Dr. Judith Resnik. (NASA)

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FEMALE ASTRONAUTS: RESNIK, MCAULIFFE, CHAWLA, & CLARK



Christa McAuliffe (1948-1986)

High school teacher Christa McAuliffe was selected from more than 11,000 applicants to become the first teacher in space as part of the Teacher in Space Project in 1984. In her application, McAuliffe proposed to keep a journal chronicling her experience. She also planned to teach two lessons from space, which would be simulcast to students across the world, and to spend nine months upon her return on a lecture tour to schools across the nation.

Christa McAuliffe. (NASA)

SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA: CHAWLA & CLARK

On February 1, 2003, Space Shuttle Columbia was headed home after a 16-day scientific mission, its 28th venture into space, when it suddenly exploded. All seven crew members perished, including Kalpana Chawla and Laurel Blair Salton Clark. Clark is one of only three crew members whose remains could be identified, and she has an individual gravesite near the Space Shuttle Columbia Memorial.



Dr. Kalpana Chawla (1962-2003)

Dr. Chawla was the first Indian woman, and first South Asian American woman, to travel to space. Chawla was born in India and immigrated to the United States in 1982 to attend the University of Texas at Arlington for a master's degree in aerospace engineering. She then earned a Ph.D. in the same field from the University of Colorado Boulder. In 1991, Chawla became a United States citizen. Three years later, NASA selected her for astronaut training. Chawla flew as a mission specialist on two Space Shuttle Columbia missions: STS-87 in November 1997 and STS-107 in January 2003. On the 16-day STS-87 mission, Chawla operated a robotic arm to deploy the Spartan Satellite and helped conduct experiments that studied the weightless environment. During the 16-day STS-107 mission – Chawla's final mission – she oversaw microgravity experiments on crystal growth, combustion and fire suppression, and cancer.



Dr. Kalpana Chawla. (NASA)



Laurel Clark (1961-2003)

While attending medical school, U.S. Navy Capt. Laurel Clark participated in active-duty training with the Diving Medicine Department at the Naval Experimental Diving Unit. After graduating in 1987, she completed her post-graduate training in pediatrics at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. She then joined the Navy as an undersea medical officer and radiation health officer. In this role, she performed numerous submarine medical evacuations. Clark next served as a naval flight surgeon, the position she held when NASA selected her for astronaut training in 1996. Seven years later, Clark finally had the opportunity to go to space aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia on its 2003 STS-107 mission. As a mission specialist, she helped conduct over 80 experiments over 16 days in space.

Capt. Laurel Clark. (NASA)

Resnik, McAuliffe, Chawla, and Clark all helped pave the way for future female astronauts and expand women's opportunities in space exploration, science, and research.



“VINNIE” REAM HOXIE



WALKING TOUR STOP 9

Section 3, Grave 1876

BIRTH: September 25, 1847, Madison, WI

DEATH: November 20, 1914, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: In 1866, sculptor Lavinia "Vinnie" Ream received a commission to design a sculpture of President Abraham Lincoln for the U.S. Capitol Rotunda — becoming, at the age of 18, the youngest artist, and the first woman artist, to receive a commission from the U.S. government. While attending Christian College in Columbia, Missouri, her musical and artistic talent caught the interest of Missouri Congressman James S. Rollins. When Ream's family moved to Washington, D.C. in 1861, Reams reconnected with Rollins, who introduced her to prominent Washington, D.C. sculptor Clark Mills. While visiting Mills' studio in 1863, Ream showed remarkable potential as a sculptor, and Mills took her on as an apprentice.

CAREER: Under Mills' tutelage, Ream's artistic career took off, and she was soon earning enough money on commissions to sculpt full time. As Ream's skills improved, her ambition expanded, and she declared that she wished to create a bust of Lincoln. Initially the president denied her request. But, as Ream later recalled, he changed his mind "when he learned that I was poor." She continued, "he granted me the sittings for no other purpose than that I was a poor girl. Had I been the greatest sculptor in the world, I am sure that he would have refused at that time." From December 1864 through early April 1865, Ream visited the White House for a half hour each day to construct a clay model of the president. She was nearly finished when President Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865.

After Lincoln's assassination, Congress called for the construction of a statue of Lincoln to display in the U.S. Capitol. They offered a \$10,000 commission and 19 sculptors from across the nation, including Vinnie Ream, applied for the honor. On July 28, 1866, the Senate awarded 18-year-old Vinnie Ream the commission. Ream quickly got to work in a small studio in the basement of the U.S. Capitol.

Creating the Abraham Lincoln statue was a multi-step process. Ream initially made a full-sized plaster model. She then traveled to Rome, Italy, where she oversaw the marble carving of her model into the final statue. On January 25, 1871, Congress unveiled the [statue](#) in the Capitol Rotunda, where it still stands today.

Vinnie Ream, undated. (LOC)



WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR

Continue on Memorial Drive. Turn right on Porter Drive and then left on Grant Drive. Turn left on McKinley Drive and then left on Miles Drive. Ream's headstone is at the end of the drive and has a statue of Sappho atop it.

Ream posing with her Lincoln bust, circa 1865–1870. (LOC)



CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE



“VINNIE” REAM HOXIE



In 1872, Ream won another Congressional commission: to sculpt Civil War Admiral David G. Farragut for Farragut Square in Washington, D.C. Ream fought hard for this commission, using her considerable congressional connections and friendship with Mrs. Farragut to advocate on her behalf. Following this commission, Ream married Army lieutenant Richard L. Hoxie and took a break from sculpting to focus on her family and home. The couple had one son.

A few years after her son came of age, Ream returned to her work as an artist. In 1907 and 1912, she received commissions from Iowa and Oklahoma, respectively, to create statues of important local figures: [Iowa Senator Samuel Jordan Kirkwood](#) and a statue of [Sequoyah](#), creator of the Cherokee alphabet. Both of these statues stand in the U.S. Capitol.

LEGACY: Vinnie Ream was one of the foremost statuary artists for our nation’s capital. Her statues that still stand across Washington, D.C. tell stories about our nation’s leaders and its history. Throughout her career, and especially while she created the Lincoln statue, Ream received intense vitriol from newspapers, Congressmen, and the public for daring to sculpt in the public realm and for asserting her right to participate in the public sphere as a woman. Many called her untalented or accused her of being a “lobbyist” – at the time, a thinly-veiled term for prostitute. However, these accusations did not stop Ream from sculpting or putting her name forward for national commissions.

Because of her national success, women’s rights leaders, including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, asked Ream to publicly support the movement for women’s equality. Ream, however, refused, given the public criticisms she had received. Regardless of Ream’s public or private support for women’s equality and suffrage, Ream represented an important shift in the artistic realm, where women were slowly gaining prominence. She exemplifies how women who did not publicly identify as suffragists or speak out about women’s rights in the public sphere, nonetheless advanced women’s equality in American society.



Ream working on her Farragut statue, circa 1880. (LOC)

Ream’s grave marker features a bronze replica of her “Sappho” statue, on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. This statue is one of the few pieces Ream created that depicts a female form, and one of the few that she completed without a commission or patron. Her husband commissioned the replica and donated her original to the Smithsonian after her death.

Her grave marker also features a bas-relief portrait of Ream. Her husband commissioned George Julian Zolnay to create this portrait. Zolnay had an established relationship with Ream and her work; he cast her Sequoyah statue in bronze after death.



HELEN HAMILTON GARDENER



WALKING TOUR STOP 10

Section 3, Grave 4072

BIRTH: January 21, 1853, Winchester, VA

DEATH: July 26, 1925, Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: An intellectual, activist, and champion of women's rights, Helen Hamilton Gardner used her life experiences as inspiration for the social change she advocated. Born Mary "Alice" Chenoweth, she sought independence early on by training at the Cincinnati Normal School to become a schoolteacher. At the time, teaching was one of the few socially acceptable paid professions for young women to pursue. She graduated in 1873 and took a position as a teacher in Sandusky, Ohio, where she quickly rose to become the principal of Sandusky's new teacher training school.

However, Chenoweth's career success turned out to be short-lived. After newspapers exposed her for having an affair with a married man, she resigned from her position. At the time, such accusations could ruin a woman's professional and moral reputation.

Undeterred, she changed her name to Helen Hamilton Gardner. She refused to let her status as a "fallen woman" define her, and under her new name, she spent the rest of her life challenging the social, sexual, and religious norms that limited women's independence.

CAREER: As part of her evolution, Gardener immersed herself in the freethought movement, an intellectual movement that advocated for freedom of thought, secularism, and the importance of science. She independently advanced her education by reading widely, and she eventually became a protégé of Robert Ingersoll, a leader in the freethought movement who supported women's rights. With Ingersoll's support, Gardener emerged as a popular speaker. She steadily gained national prominence and notoriety, as well as criticism for espousing views that many found "unseemly" coming from a woman.

While Gardener's speaking career included hardships and setbacks, she eventually flourished and also became a published writer of both non-fiction and fiction. Much of her writing focused on issues related to women's rights. For example, in an 1887 letter to the editor of Popular Science Monthly, Gardener publicly sparred with William A. Hammond, former surgeon general of the U.S. Army (buried in Section 1 of ANC). She critiqued an article he had written, in which he claimed that physiological differences in the female brain made women intellectually inferior to men and unsuited to study subjects such as math. A debate between Gardener and Hammond in Popular Science Monthly ensued, and although the publication allowed Hammond to have the final say, the incident inspired Gardener to take a bold step. Upon her death, she willed her brain to Cornell University so it could be studied as an example of the brain of an accomplished female intellectual.



Helen Hamilton Gardner, circa 1920. (LOC)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR



Gardener's headstone is 11 rows back from Ream's and a little to the left.



Gardener and Alice Paul, circa 1908-1915. (LOC)



Gardener and Carrie Chapman Catt leaving the White House, circa 1920. (LOC)

HELEN HAMILTON GARDENER

Gardener next turned her attention to advocating for women's political rights. Among other causes, she became a leader in the effort to raise the age of sexual consent for girls — in many states at the time, the age of consent was just 10 or 12 years old. Her focus on women's bodily autonomy led her into the suffrage movement. She dedicated herself to the fight for women's right to vote, working with Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt, and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Gardener provided essential support to the planning of the March 3, 1913, Suffrage Parade in Washington, D.C. She served as the "official press agent for the Suffrage Procession," and the printed program for the event included her biography. Five thousand strong, the marchers encountered opposition and mistreatment from both hostile men and the police, and the parade became an iconic moment in the history of the suffrage movement. Gardener remained deeply involved with the movement through Congress's passage of the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919, and its subsequent ratification on August 18, 1920.

Gardener's activism did not end with the long-sought suffrage victory. She continued her campaign for women's autonomy and advancement, this time by making inroads into federal government employment. On April 13, 1920, Gardener became the highest-ranking and highest-paid female federal employee after the Senate unanimously approved her for a position on the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Her groundbreaking position opened the door for new generations of female federal employees.

LEGACY: After a life of achievement, advocacy, and relentless pursuit of equality, Gardener died on July 25, 1925. The funeral service, held at her home, featured several speeches, including one by Carrie Chapman Catt. She is buried alongside her husband, Civil War veteran Col. Selden Allen Day.

Gardener recognized the importance of her intended burial place at ANC. In her final public speech at a NAWSA luncheon on April 23, 1925, just a few months before her death, she lamented that so many deceased female leaders were being lost to public memory. She worried about how — or even if — these women would be remembered. Like several other suffragists buried at Arlington because of their husbands' military service, Gardener's burial counteracted some of the inequality that she bemoaned in her speech. Her grave and the graves of other suffragists buried here enable Arlington to tell the stories of women's suffrage. These women can now be forever memorialized as significant figures in United States history alongside our nation's military dead.



House of Representatives Speaker Frederick H. Gillett signing the Nineteenth Amendment on June 4, 1919, after Congress approved the amendment. Gardner stands behind Gillett in the foreground. (Schlesinger Library, Harvard Radcliffe Institute)



WALKING TOUR STOP 11

Corner of Clayton & Jessup Drives

BIRTH: Circa 1797, Ulster County, NY

DEATH: November 26, 1883, Battle Creek, MI

BACKGROUND: The famous abolitionist Sojourner Truth lived and worked on the Arlington property in 1864 as an agent of the National Freedman's Relief Association. Washington, D.C. abolitionists formed this association in 1862 in response to the growing number of Black refugees fleeing to Washington, D.C. to escape slavery. In this position with the Association, she served the residents of Freedman's Village, a temporary settlement for formerly enslaved people that pre-dated the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery.

CAREER: Born Isabella Baumfree, Truth was almost 30 when she escaped enslavement and seized her freedom, shortly before New York abolished slavery in 1827. Of her escape, she said, "I did not run off, for I thought that wicked, but I walked off, believing that to be all right." She changed her name to Sojourner Truth in 1843 and became a well-known proponent of the abolition of slavery and the pursuit of women's rights. Truth gave speeches around the country promoting abolition and women's suffrage, including her famous 1951 "Ain't I A Woman?" speech. Although she never learned to read or write, her memoirs were published in 1850 – she dictated her memoirs and all of her letters.

In 1864, she moved to the Freedman's Village located on the Arlington property to instruct women in domestic duties, to offer counseling, and to help people exercise their civil rights. Her tenure here demonstrates the national significance of this model community intended to ease Freedpeople during their transition into their new lives outside of enslavement.



Truth, with a photo of her grandson James in her lap, 1863. James served in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. (LOC)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR

Return to Miles Drive. Turn left on McKinley and then left on Grant Drive. Turn right on Clayton Drive and then stop where the road curves and turns into Jessup Drive. This road curvature is a close match to the same road curvature on the Freedman's Village map on the next page.



TRUTH & FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE

The Civil War marked the start of an important transitional era for Black Americans. Following the Emancipation Proclamation and the prohibition of slavery in the District of Columbia in 1862, many enslaved African Americans from the Confederacy fled to Washington, D.C., seeking their freedom. Newly freed enslaved people from Confederate states often settled in Army freedman's camps throughout the city and its vicinity. These men, women, and children were refugees, having fled the only homes and communities they knew in search of a new and better life as free people. The camps were established not only to help integrate newly freed Black Americans into society, but also to prevent them from creating permanent, integrated communities in racially segregated Washington, D.C. However, as more people arrived, the camps quickly became overcrowded, and conditions deteriorated.

In May 1863, the military chose the Arlington Estate as the site for a new camp called Freedman's Village, which was intended to serve as a model community for freed people. The village was designed as a place where newly freed slaves could temporarily live while they learned trade skills and earned some money before moving on to permanent homes.



African American family coming into U.S. Army lines, 1863. (LOC/David B. Woodbury)

SOJOURNER TRUTH & FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE

In 1864, Sojourner Truth moved to Freedman's Village with her grandson, Sammy. Truth resided in the village for a year. In a letter to a friend shortly after she arrived, Truth related, "I have obtained a little house here, through the kindness of the Captain of the Guard, and think I will remain, and do all I can in the way of instructing the people in habits of industry and economy." Truth understood that to create a self-sustaining Black community was to rebuild their economies, industries, culture, family, and way of life.

Sojourner Truth's role at the camp was to be a "counselor to the freed people." Her job was to teach formerly enslaved women essential life skills needed to maintain a home. In the same 1864 letter, she explained that many of the freedwomen were "entirely ignorant of housekeeping." The majority of her instructions centered around assisting women with domestic work and maintaining cleanliness. Part of Truth's purpose was to instill good domestic habits. Being enslaved often came with living and working in unsanitary conditions. Individuals rarely had the time or energy to prioritize themselves. She encouraged the community to take pride in themselves and their collective spaces. She promoted "a love of neatness and order" to those under her instruction, and she often proclaimed that "cleanliness is godliness."

She continued to crusade for the rights of Black Americans, predominantly women and children until her death at the age of 86.

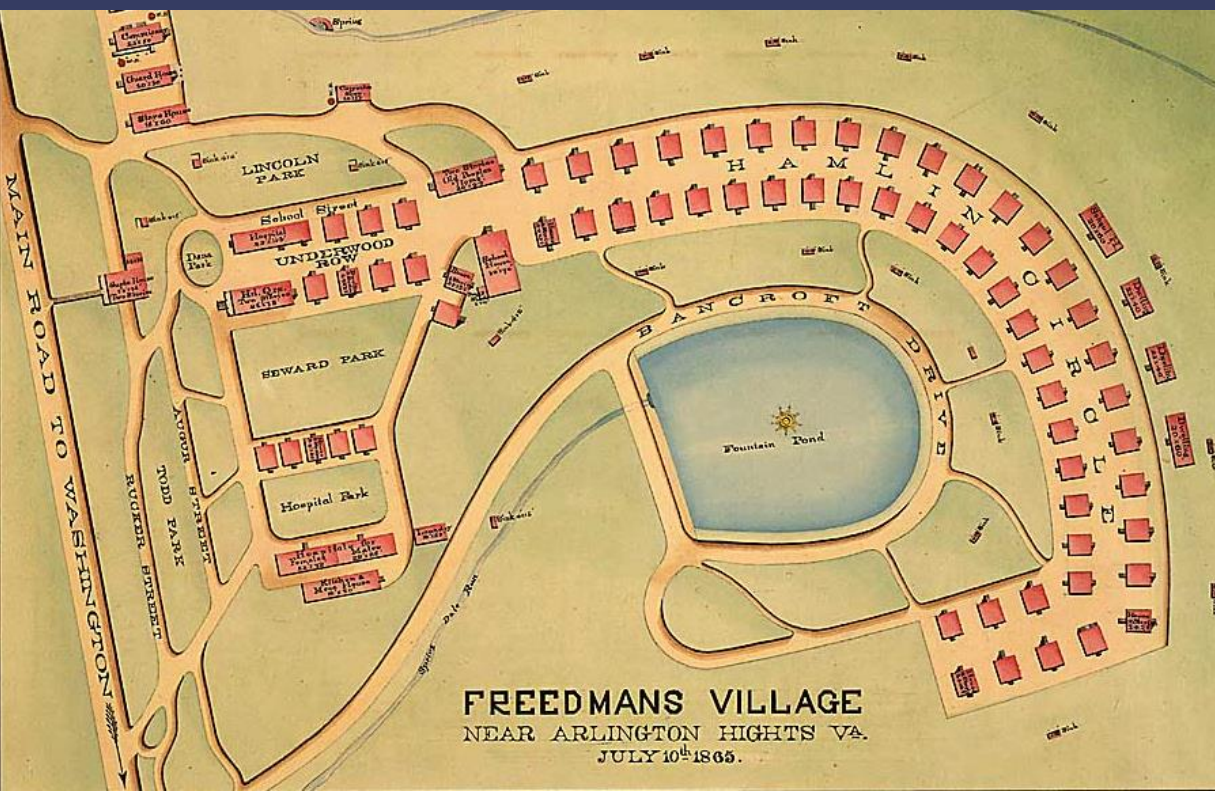
Drawing of Freedman's Village, 1864. (LOC/A.R. Ward)



REFLECT

- How might the formation of a clean and organized community have improved women's lives within Freedman's Village?
- What basic skills and knowledge do women need today to live independently and freely?
- How does domestic and community support lead to greater rights and opportunities for women — both historically and today? What ways can you give back to support the women in your community?

Learn more about Freedman's Village in our [African American History at ANC module](#).



Map of Freedman's Village, 1865. (National Archives)

ELIZEBETH SMITH FRIEDMAN



WALKING TOUR STOP 12

Section 8, Grave 6379-A

BIRTH: August 26, 1892, Huntington, IN

DEATH: October 31, 1980, Plainfield, NJ

BACKGROUND: Famed cryptologist Elizebeth Smith Friedman was the youngest of nine children. A gifted student, she graduated from Hillsdale College with a major in English literature (and a passion for Shakespeare). She also had a talent for languages and studied Latin, Greek, and German. While Smith was working at Chicago's Newberry Library in 1916, George Fabyan, an eccentric millionaire businessman, recruited her to work at Riverbank Laboratories, his private think tank. During World War I, Riverbank served as the U.S. government's unofficial cryptologic laboratory. While working as a cryptologist there, Smith met her future husband, William F. Friedman, also known for his work in cryptology. They married in May 1917. In 1921, the Friedmans moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the War Department.

CAREER: Hired by the Treasury Department in 1924, Friedman assisted various Treasury agencies with codebreaking. In 1927, she was assigned to the Coast Guard to help fight the "Rum War" created by Prohibition. As part of this work, Friedman and her team intercepted and decrypted international smuggling and rum-running radio messages. Between 1927 and 1930, she is estimated to have solved over 12,000 messages in hundreds of different code systems, all by hand with just pencil and paper. Her work led to 650 federal prosecutions.

During World War II, Friedman led the civilian team, working on behalf of the military, that broke codes generated by the Germans' formidable Enigma machine. She exposed a ring of German spies in South America, effectively denying them a foothold in the Western Hemisphere. According to the National Security Agency, her cryptanalytic unit "was probably even more secret than other organizations because it dealt with counterespionage." It was crucial that no one knew of her work. If her Nazi targets knew she was breaking their codes, they would switch to more complicated codes, and the United States would no longer know of their activities — at least until Friedman could break their new codes. After the war, Friedman retired from government service.

LEGACY: Called "America's first female cryptanalyst," Elizebeth Friedman pioneered the cryptology field, and proved that women were just as capable as men at cryptology and mathematics, further expanding women's workplace professional opportunities in national security. Because her work was classified, she received no credit during her lifetime for her crucial codebreaking work in World War II. However, since her work was declassified in 2000, she has been increasingly recognized as one of the world's greatest cryptologists.

Elizebeth Friedman, undated. (NSA)



WOMEN'S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR



Continue on Clayton Drive. At the gate, turn left onto Patton Drive. Friedman's grave is in the last row, third from the left end.

Can you find the hidden cipher on the Friedman's headstone?

Elizebeth chose to hide William's initials in the inscription "Knowledge is Power," using [Bacon's cipher](#). While at Riverbank, Elizebeth and William were tasked to prove that Francis Bacon was the secret author of Shakespeare's works, something they later disproved.

Hint: Some letters in the epitaph are Serif font, while others are Sans-Serif.



MARY BAIRD BRYAN



WALKING TOUR STOP 13

Section 4, Grave 3118-3121

BIRTH: June 17, 1861, Terry, IL

DEATH: January 21, 1930, Hollywood, CA

BACKGROUND: Mary Baird Bryan was the wife of William Jennings Bryan, a politician famous for his oratory skills who ran for president in 1896 and led the prosecution in the “Scopes Monkey Trial” of 1925. Yet Mary Baird Bryan was a national figure in her own right. She met William in 1879 while attending the Jacksonville Female Academy in Illinois, the first women’s college in the Midwest. The couple married in 1884, and Bryan gave birth to her first daughter, Ruth, the following year. While caring for Ruth, Bryan studied law and earned a law license in Nebraska. Bryan never practiced law herself. Instead, she used her knowledge to support her husband’s career. She later learned German for the same reason. She was truly the woman behind the man.

CAREER: Bryan also supported her own political causes, namely women’s suffrage and prohibition. At the turn of the 20th century, women’s suffrage and the temperance movement (which advocated for the limitation or prohibition of alcohol) were the leading political causes women supported. Many women supported suffrage so that they could exercise their own vote rather than relying on their husbands or fathers to vote on their behalf; and many others supported the temperance movement because men often squandered their family’s income on alcohol and/or abused their wives and children while intoxicated. Bryan was a strong advocate for both causes and served as an official in organizations for each: the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Bryan also traveled the nation on speaking tours promoting suffrage. On these tours, Bryan tried to alleviate men’s worries that women would become more like men if granted suffrage — demanding additional rights and neglecting their traditional duties within the domestic sphere. Bryan argued against these worries and assured audiences that giving a woman the vote would not “unsex her, make her coarse or vulgar.” She also emphasized that a woman “can be a voter and still be an excellent wife and mother.” In April 1917, when the Florida State Assembly was considering a state constitutional amendment granting women suffrage, Bryan spoke on behalf of Florida’s suffragists. She was the first woman to address the complete assembly.

Bryan was also an accomplished writer. She wrote a biographical sketch of her husband after his 1896 bid for the presidency, entitled *The First Battle: A Story of the Campaign of 1896*. Following his death in 1925, she completed over half of his 600-page memoir before the year was over. It was appropriately entitled, *The Memoirs of William Jennings Bryan, by Himself and His Wife, Mary Baird Bryan*.

LEGACY: For the period in which she lived, Bryan was both a traditionalist and progressive. She supported her husband, her children, and women’s suffrage, all while developing herself and her own intellectual pursuits. Of supporting her husband, she wrote, “I hold the theory that if a wife does not show an interest in her husband’s work and does not go with her when he asks her, the time will come when he will cease to ask her.”

It is difficult to measure how Bryan’s work for women’s suffrage inspired other women. Yet for one woman, the answer can be found close to home. Her daughter, Ruth Bryan Owen, became the first woman elected to the House of Representatives from Florida (1928) and later served as ambassador to Denmark (1933–36).

Mary Baird Bryan, circa 1910–1915. (LOC/Bain News Service)



WOMEN’S RIGHTS WALKING TOUR



Return to Jessup and turn right. Walk along Jessup and around the curve, until you notice, on your left, headstones curving away from the ones lining the road.

Follow the curved headstones up the hill. Bryan’s headstone is in the last row of curved headstones.

Bryan and William Jennings Bryan, circa 1915–1920. (LOC/Bain News Service)



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IMAGES

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