

LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD™



A Quarterly Publication

Black History

LET'S CELEBRATE 365

Black History IS America's History

Let The Truth Be Told (TM) is a quarterly newsletter.

Let the Truth Be Told is intended to give African Americans the opportunity to speak “truth to power” through media such as commentary, poems, history and art, among others, which will be provided by parents, teachers, children, ministers, historians, and other citizens. This platform aims to transform our words into empowered activism.

We are seeking contributors to **Let the Truth Be Told**. If you feel you have something to say but do not believe you write well enough, don't let that stop you. Please submit what you want to say and you will be given support which will lead to your voice being heard. Let the Truth Be Told!

Submissions are reviewed by the editorial board and may be edited for brevity and clarification. We regret we cannot return any unsolicited articles, photos or other materials.

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THE FIRE NEXT TIME

MESSAGES TO AFRICAN AMERICANS, WHITE PEOPLE AND FOR AMERICA'S SURVIVAL

BY DR. MARLENE A. SAUNDERS

James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*, published in 1963, contains "My Dungeon Shook" and "Down at the Cross." It was written when Black children and thousands of adults bravely marched, went to jail and died for the cause to eliminate the yoke of structural racism. Nevertheless, the book provides truths about race relations that continue to apply today for Black and white people.

Baldwin deftly examines the basis of racism and the manifestations of which were not only visible in the attitudes and behaviors of white people toward Black people, but in addition, were readily apparent in the race-based practices each of the society's institutions used to maintain the group in second-class status. He held white people directly responsible for the group's unequal position. In addition, he supported his condemnation with honest explanations regarding the host of unrelenting disadvantages that accompanied the group's pariah status.

Consequently, he imparts this lesson to his nephew,

This innocent country set you down in a ghetto in which, in fact, it intended that you should perish. Let me spell out precisely what I mean by that, for the heart of the matter is here, and the root of my dispute with my country. You were born where you were born and faced the future that you

you faced because you were Black and for no other reason. The limits of your ambition were, thus, expected to be set forever.

Is *The Fire Next Time* relevant today? Consider the Black Lives Matter Movement and the Enough Is Enough protests where a broad spectrum of white people and people of color joined Black people to say, "We get it and stand together to put an end to systemic racism."

Honestly, the mechanics of the structural racism Baldwin describes prevail today and are defended by White Nationalists and others intent on breaking the arc of justice. As an example, in "My Dungeon Shook" he writes,

The details and symbols of your life have been deliberately constructed to make you believe what white people say about you. Please try to remember that what they believe, as well as what they do and cause you to endure, does not testify to your inferiority but to their inhumanity and fear.

This insight is not a new revelation or truth for Black people. In the wake of America's so-called post-racial society following the election of President Obama, his lesson emphasizes the need for Black parents and children to get and keep their minds right by not internalizing psychologically, socially, culturally or physically, the pseudo-science regarding Black people's innate inferiority we

The Fire Next Time: Messages continued

see in the media and the political arena. Recommendations that can be extracted from this lesson include enrolling Black children in Freedom Schools, making sure they participate in Kwanzaa and Juneteenth celebrations and reading books such as those recommended by the Children's Defense Fund (Books All Children Should Read — Children's Defense Fund, childrensdefense.org). These are important protective factors that reduce the harmful risks racism can rain on Black children.

Having identified white people as historically responsible and currently accountable for the problem of the color line, Baldwin provides insights about their resistance to discussing racism and race relations; a behavior seen frequently today. In part he stated, "...a vast amount of the energy that goes into what we call the Negro problem is produced by the white man's profound desire not to be judged by those who are not white." Robin Diangelo in her new book, *Nice Racism*, offers a similar observation. She states, "It is white people digging their heels in deeper and protecting their worldview, blocking any further engagement that could expand that world view." This, of course, includes engagement with Black people and other people of color around race.

Side by side with this deep anger about the immorality racism represents, Baldwin puts forth love and the reality that Black and white people **need one another** as essential elements to putting America on a path to achieve myth-free American ideals. Love in this context is not about saving white people. Rather, it describes a state of mind, a spirit that enables people to courageously face head on "...the racial tensions that menace Americans." One would be hard pressed to argue that this virtue has been lacking in Americans of

African descent.

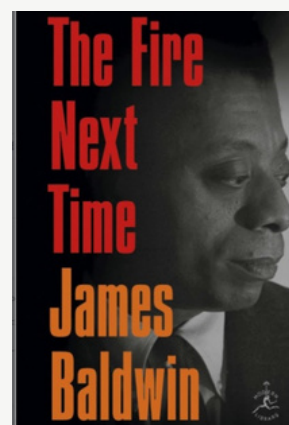
Baldwin is correct in this respect, and yes, his truth is obviously relevant today. Up and down our state organizations, such as the Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission in the Episcopal Church in Delaware, Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, the United Way Delaware and their Racial Justice Collaborative, have brought together white people, Black Americans and others representing a spectrum of ethnic populations, to honestly talk about the personal impacts of racism, even on white people, and to etch out actions to move America toward full equality, not only for Black Americans, but all Americans.

Baldwin reminds us that the struggle for equality is hard and, at times, puts us on the brink of giving up. However, we must stay the course for us all. As only Baldwin could express, he prophetically and eloquently wrote "...everything now, we must assume, is in our hands; we have no right to assume otherwise. If we, and now I mean the relatively conscious whites and the relatively conscious blacks, who must, like lovers, insist on, or create, the consciousness of the others--do not falter in our duty now, we may be able, handful that we are, to end the racial nightmare, and achieve our country, and change the history of the world."

If, dear readers, the effort to come together in loving ways fails, Baldwin warned, "*God gave Noah the rainbow sign, No more water, the fire next time*".

References

- Baldwin, J. (1968). *The Fire Next Time*. Dial Press.



Black Women Advance Technology

By Kathy Trusty

Black women are responsible for some of the greatest inventions and advances in technology the world has ever known.

In May 2022, two of those women, Marian Croak and Patricia Bath, will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Marian Croak is a leader in technological inventions and is best known for her advances in VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). VoIP makes it possible for people to make phone calls over the internet.



Marian Croak

Marian attended Princeton University and the University of Southern California where she received a PhD in data science and social psychology.

She began her career in technology at AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1982. Marian was a member of the team that convinced AT&T to move away from technology which required telephone lines, to technology designed to make it easier to communicate over the internet.

When the popular television show, American Idol, came on the air, Marian was responsible for overseeing the call-in-voting process and

ensuring that calls were routed properly. The vast number of calls put a burden on telephone lines. Marian created the text-to-vote system to ease this burden. Her actions helped make text messaging the popular communication tool it is today.

In 2005 Marian developed text-to-donate technology. She came up with the idea after seeing the crisis created by Hurricane Katrina. Her technology made it possible to process donations faster and get help to those needing assistance sooner.

Marian has over 200 patents for her technology inventions and is one of the inventors featured in the United States Patent and Trademark Office collectible cards on the country's greatest inventors.

Patricia Bath (1942-2019) was an innovator in cataract laser surgery.



Patricia Bath

Patricia always had an interest in medicine. In high school she was featured in the New York Times for research she conducted for a scientific paper on cancer.

After graduating from Howard University School of Medicine in Washington, DC, Patricia realized that eye care was not part of routine healthcare. She wanted to change this

Black Women continued

idea so she turned her focus to ophthalmology.

In 1980, Patricia began researching the use of laser techniques in eye care and surgery. A few years later she developed the Laserphaco Probe and a technique for removing cataracts, for which she received a patent in 1988.

Patricia's technique for the removal of cataracts made cataract surgery faster, easier, and less invasive. With her technique and the Laserphaco Probe she was able to restore the sight of patients who had been blind for years. Patricia's invention is one of the most important developments in the field of ophthalmology.



In 1885, **Sarah E Goode (c. 1855-1905)** received a patent for a Folding Cabinet Bed.

Sarah owned a furniture store in Chicago, Illinois. She got the idea for the folding bed after overhearing customers complain about not having enough space in their cramped apartments for all the furniture they needed.

With the help of her husband, who was a carpenter, Sarah created a bed that served as a roll top desk during the day and folded out into a bed at night.

Sarah's folding cabinet bed was the forerunner in hideaway beds. She never received recognition for her invention, and it did not become a popular piece of furniture. Nevertheless, Sarah deserves credit for being one of the first people in the country to invent a piece of multipurpose furniture.

When **Marie Van Brittan Brown (1922-1999)** felt insecure in her own home and could not rely on a timely response from police, she created a home security system. Marie's system was the first of its kind. She described it as a "Home Security System Utilizing Television Surveillance." The system had several features that were revolutionary at the time. With its video feature, which was the first closed-circuit TV, the person inside the home could scan the area outside and see who was there. It also included an audio feature so you could speak with anyone at the door. Marie's system was groundbreaking. The New York Times published an article about the invention in their December 6, 1969 edition.



Marie's security system is the model for systems used today in banks, office buildings, stores, churches, schools, and apartment buildings.



Shirley Jackson is the first Black woman to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has conducted important research in telecommunications and is responsible for developing the technology that led to Call Waiting and Caller ID.

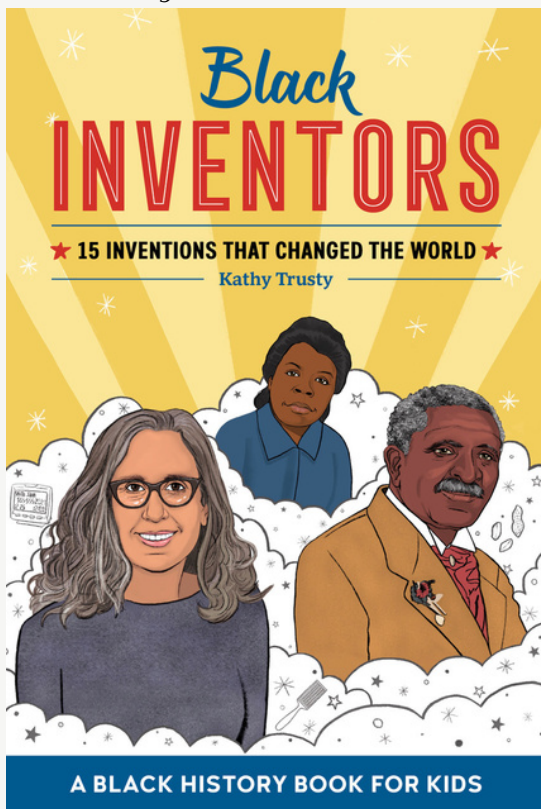
Black Women continued



In 1999, Shirley became president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Rensselaer is the oldest technological research university in the United States.

When we look at great inventions and advances in technology, we cannot forget these women. They deserve immense credit for their achievements and their contributions to science.

Source: *Black Inventors: 15 Inventions That Changed The World*



<https://www.blackhistoryedzone.com>

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Howard High School

By Shane Cannon

In 1866, General Oliver Otis Howard, leader of the Freedman's Bureau, came to Wilmington and placed the cornerstone for the future Howard High School. This occurred at the school's original location at 12th and Orange Street. Local funding, along with matched funds from the Freedmen's Bureau led to the building of the original Howard School. On September 20, 1869, construction of the Howard School was completed.

The Howard School initially had classrooms for primary school and grammar school. Howard School's first principal's name has been lost to history, but its second principal was Sallie A. Miller. She became the principal in 1876 and continued in that role until 1883, when she was transferred to another school. Edwina B. Kruse was then promoted from assistant principal to principal, and remained Howard School's principal for over 30 years.



Howard School started offering a high school curriculum in 1887, and in 1893, it had its first high school graduation with six students. One of the last additions to Howard High School was Kindergarten, which began around 1895. Howard High School remained the only high school for African Americans in the entire state until Delaware State College, now Delaware State University, opened a high school in the 1920's.

Howard High School's third principal, Edwina B. Kruse, was from Puerto Rico and was the daughter of a German father and a Cuban mother. Edwina received her education in Massachusetts and at Hampton Institute, now Hampton University. Edwina was greatly responsible for the curriculum at Howard High School which included arts and trades. She was also responsible for recruiting other high-quality teachers, which all helped to set Howard High School apart from other schools. Many early Howard High graduates went on to graduate from Ivy League colleges. Howard High School would also teach many future African American teachers. In 1899, there were 28 African American teachers in Wilmington, and 15 of those 28 teachers had graduated from Howard High School.

Arguably, one of Edwina's greatest recruits was Alice Dunbar-Nelson. She became a great educator, writer, and activist throughout her life. Alice Dunbar was originally from Louisiana, but she moved near Delaware after separating from her famous husband, Paul Lawrence Dunbar. Edwina was able to bring Alice onto the Howard staff as the leader of the English Department along with being an English teacher. Alice and Edwina were very close, and it is believed they, at some point, became more than friends. While in Delaware, Alice helped house another important Howard High School student, her niece, Pauline A. Young.

Pauline A. Young was responsible for the preservation and knowledge of the early days of Howard High School. Pauline was a great educator, activist, writer, and historian. Pauline A. Young moved to Delaware with her family at an early age, and attended Howard High School from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Pauline graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and then returned to Howard as a teacher. Pauline used this time to gather information, books and other primary

Howard High School continued

documents pertaining to African American history and Howard High School's history. While still teaching, Pauline was asked to organize the library at Howard High, and she started doing such a great job that she was convinced to become a librarian. Pauline returned to college, studied Library Science and then returned to Howard High School as the librarian where she continued to organize the history contained in its library. The library in the (renovated) 1927 building bears her name today.

In 1927, the school was given a large contribution by Pierre S. du Pont which provided funding for renovations. The original building was replaced with a larger and more modern structure. The 1927 building had modern classrooms, a soundproof music room, and six rooms for shops. Pierre S. du Pont's funding also allowed for Howard High School to buy new textbooks for the students, who often had to use old textbooks from other schools. In 2018, a renovation of the 1927 building was completed, bringing the building back to its grandeur while still utilizing modern technology in its classrooms.

The school's full name became Howard Comprehensive High School, however, in 1975, it formally became a vocational school and changed its name to Howard Career Center. This vocational change led to many internal changes in the occupancy of Howard. The 1927 building housed the shops, and a new adjacent building was opened in the winter of 1976 which housed the educational classrooms. Over the years, Howard High School continued to build up the number of shops it contained as these shops attracted more students to the school, especially from the suburbs. Howard High School joined the New Castle County Vocational School District in 1978. In the late '80s, the school obtained its current name, Howard High School of Technology. It's important to note these name changes do not reflect a break in lineage as all students, staff, faculty, and friends over the years, are a part of the Howard High School family and its rich history.

Look for future articles about Howard High School, its history and legacy, to be published in upcoming editions of Let The Truth Be Told.



Images courtesy of <http://howardhsalumniassoc.com/#rowone>

DELAWARE WILL BE A MAJORITY MINORITY STATE BY MID-CENTURY. ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO BUILD A MORE DIVERSE WORK FORCE?

BY MICHELLE A. TAYLOR, E.D.D.

The sun will rise one day in 2044—no one knows the exact date—and according to researchers at the Center for American Progress, the American Enterprise Institute and the Brookings Institution, Delaware will be a majority-minority state. And by 2060, USA Today predicts that New Castle County will be one of the most racially and ethnically diverse counties in America.

For Delaware's business community the challenge is not, "Are we ready to compete in this new future?" The real challenge is, "Are we doing enough, fast enough, to prepare our work force?" At present, the data is not encouraging. Let's start with something as basic as literacy. Most

Latino households in the county have no net worth, and nearly one-in-three African American households have no assets and no real stake in building generational wealth.

Similar patterns of racial disparity play out across nearly every socio-economic category, from high school graduation rates and college and career readiness, to home ownership and health outcomes. No matter how we slice the data, one thing is clear: if Delaware is to compete effectively, we must do more today to address diversity and equity in our work force, and we must do it quickly.

TODAY IN DELAWARE'S EIGHT MOST UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, LESS THAN 30 PERCENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS ARE READING ON GRADE LEVEL.

childhood development experts say third grade is a turning point in every child's education. If a student is not reading on grade level by the end of third grade, school becomes increasingly difficult and the risk that a child will drop out increases exponentially. Today in Delaware's eight most underserved communities, less than 30 percent of public school third graders are reading on grade level. In Wilmington, it's less than 20 percent. Not surprisingly, poor education often translates into low-paying employment, or worse yet, unemployment. In the fourth quarter of 2020, White unemployment in the state was slightly more than 4%; but for Black residents, unemployment topped 8%. Or we can look at the poverty rate in Delaware. According to the United States Census Bureau, the national African American poverty rate is 21%. In Delaware, the African American poverty rate is nearly 30%. And while less than 15% of White households in New Castle County have zero networth, 31% of

Many Delaware corporations are diversifying their work forces more intentionally, while working purposefully to ensure greater equity and inclusion, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity or other factors. But there remain formal and informal policies and practices, and a range of social barriers that can make it difficult for people of color to succeed in Delaware. To address these systemic issues, in the summer of 2020 United Way of Delaware re-launched the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) by applying a community impact model and stepping up as DRJC's backbone operational platform. With new energy and a strategic vision, the DRJC grew quickly and now includes a diverse group of more than 250 people representing about 150 community-based organizations from across Delaware.

Today the DRJC is leading initiatives aimed at knocking down some of the systemic barriers holding back the diversification of our state's work force. As highlighted above, one of these is education. In the middle of a global pandemic, in collaboration with many of Delaware's school districts, and with the support of the Longwood Foundation and several corporate partners, the DRJC stood up 27 learning pods in some of the state's highest need communities. The goal of the learning pods is to close the academic achievement gap by supplementing in-class instruction with out-of-school academic coaching, tutoring, homework assistance and wraparound social services.

The DRJC also recently launched The Fusion Alliance, which aims to help small and mid-size businesses that lack the resources of large corporations develop and implement diversity, equity and inclusion programs that align with their business goals and cultures.

But these and other DRJC initiatives cannot possibly succeed unless business leaders from the majority community take an active role in promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within their own organizations, and across the entire business community. Working through the DRJC, we've opened a dialogue with some of these business leaders. Our goal is to begin moving the equity dial in Delaware faster and more effectively by defining a short list of initiatives where the business community can focus its resources and to then begin driving toward that majority-minority future in a more intentional fashion.

I invite you to be part of United Way of Delaware's discussion of education and a diverse workforce. If you believe as I do in the importance of early childhood literacy as a foundation for a more diverse work force is not just important, but vital to the future of Delaware's economy, please contact me at mtaylor@uwde.org. Together, we can meet the future with confidence.

THE REAL CHALLENGE IS, "ARE WE DOING ENOUGH, FAST ENOUGH, TO PREPARE OUR WORK FORCE?"

<https://unitedwayinc.org/our-work/youth-success/united-we-read/>



Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D. is the President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Delaware

THERE'S MORE *to the Story*

They knew the importance of the vote and fought so
all women would have that right.



Ida B Wells



Harriet Tubman



Josephine Bruce



Mary McCurdy



Angelina Weld Grimke



Frances Ellen Watkins Harper



Charlotte Forten Grimke



Gertrude Bustill Mossell

Black Suffragists



Nannie Helen Burroughs



Harriet Forten Purvis



Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin



Mary Burnett Talbert



Mary Church Terrell



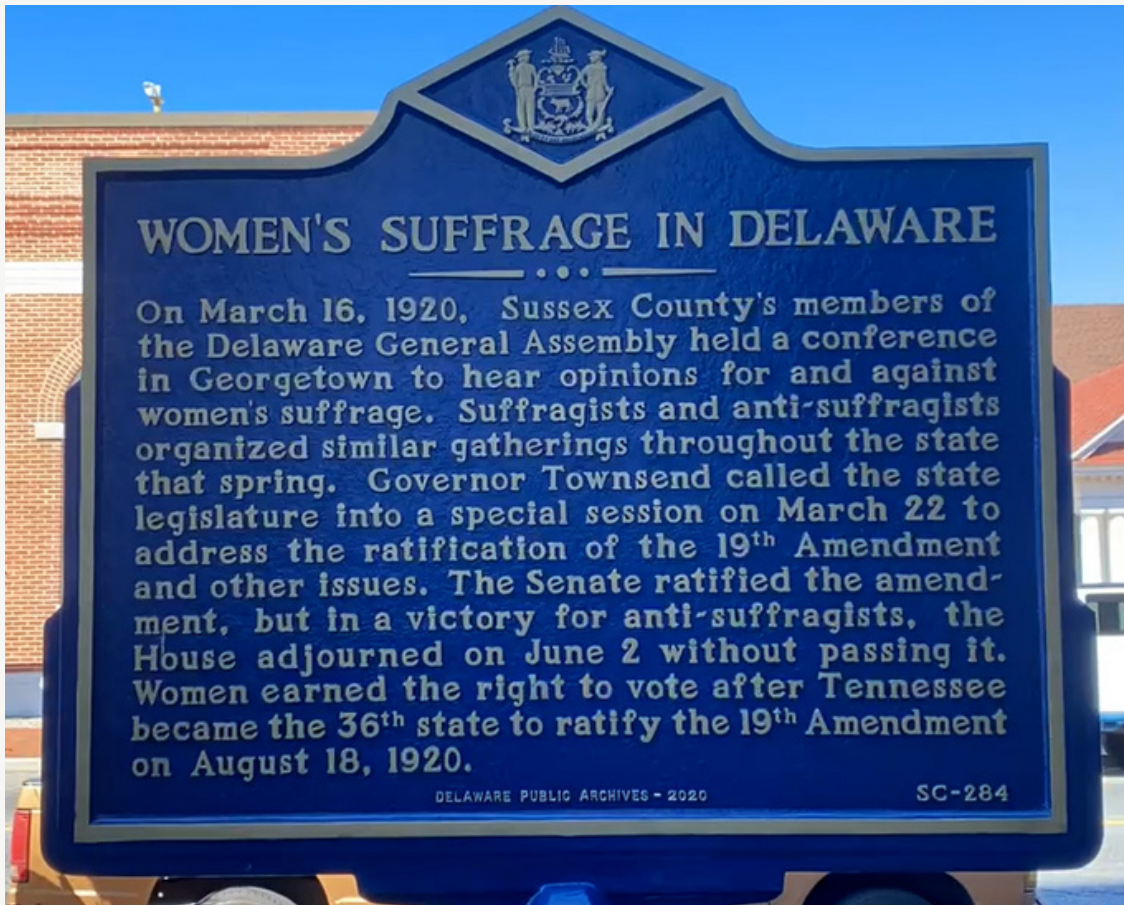
Fannie Barrier Williams



Sojourner Truth



Mary Ann Shadd Cary



Delaware Public Archives Dedicates Women's Suffrage Historical Marker

Delaware Public Archives | Date Posted: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

The Delaware Public Archives is happy to present the installation of a NEW Delaware Historical Marker, "Women's Suffrage in Delaware." This Marker remembers the 1920 conference that was held by Sussex County's members of the General Assembly that heard opinions in support of and against women's suffrage.

This Delaware Historical Marker, the third of four Historical Markers celebrating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for women's suffrage, is located near the intersection of S. Bedford Street and The Circle, outside of the Sussex County Courthouse in Georgetown, Delaware.

Courtesy of Delaware Public Archives <https://news.delaware.gov/2021/10/06/delaware-public-archives-dedicates-womens-suffrage-historical-marker/>



For Immediate Release September 1, 2021

Wilmington, DE – In commemoration of the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women’s right to vote, the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites (NCWHS) and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation have partnered to launch a historic marker program identifying individuals and events connected to the history of women’s suffrage. Historic markers awarded through the Pomeroy Foundation’s grant program highlight sites on the National Votes for Women Trail (nwwt.org), a project of the NCWHS. Eight markers have been awarded in Delaware.

On Tuesday, September 28—National Voter Registration Day—four of the Pomeroy markers will be dedicated in Wilmington. The event will take place at 3 pm on the grounds of St. Michael’s Day Nursery, 7th and Walnut. Mayor Mike Purzycki and Delaware Attorney General Kathleen Jennings will attend and make some remarks. The event will observe all Covid-19 protocols in effect on the dedication date.

About the 4 Wilmington Pomeroy Suffrage Markers:

- Site of the Thomas Garrett Settlement House, 7th and Walnut Streets. Meetings of the African American Equal Suffrage Study Club and occasional integrated suffrage events were held here, 1914-1920.
- 10th & Market Streets. Site of the 1914 suffrage parade and rally for “Votes for Women.” The parade started at the train station and ended here.
- Home of Blanche Williams Stubbs, 827 N. Tatnall Street. Blanche Stubbs, an advocate for civil rights and voting rights, led the African American Equal Suffrage Study Club in the 1914 parade.
- Home of Alice Dunbar-Nelson, 1310 N. French Street. Author, poet, journalist, teacher, and advocate for racial and gender equity, Dunbar-Nelson was the first president of the Equal Suffrage Study Club, 1914.

About the Pomeroy Foundation

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is a private, grant-making foundation established in 2005. The Foundation is committed to supporting the celebration and preservation of community history; and to raising awareness, supporting research and improving the quality of care for patients and their families who are facing a blood cancer diagnosis. To date, the Foundation has awarded over 1,100 roadside markers and plaques nationwide.

Visit: www.wpgfoundation.org About the NCWHS

The National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites is a non-profit organization established to support and promote the preservation and interpretation of sites and locales that bear witness to women’s participation in American history. NCWHS is dedicated to making women’s contributions to history visible so all women’s experiences and potential are fully valued. Visit: www.ncwhs.org ###

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

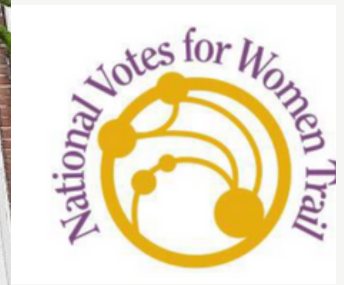
Delaware Pomeroy Marker Committee:

Anne M. Boylan, Professor of History, Emerita, University of Delaware
aboylan@udel.edu

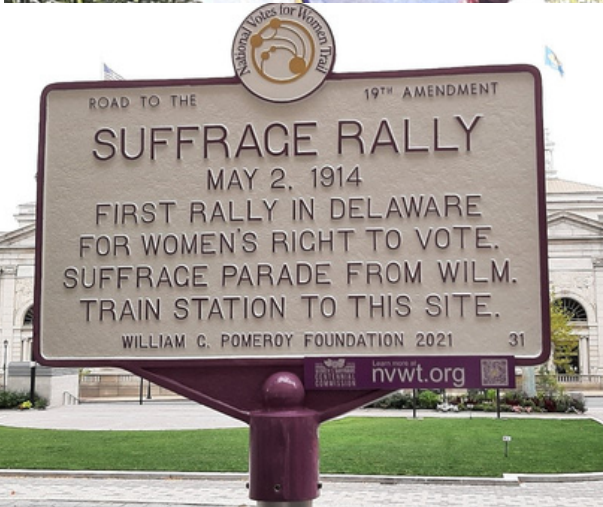
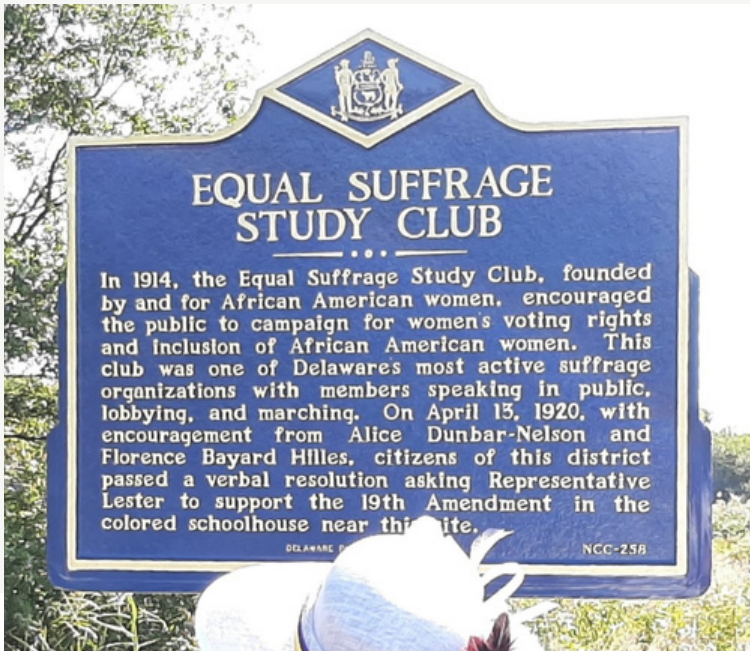
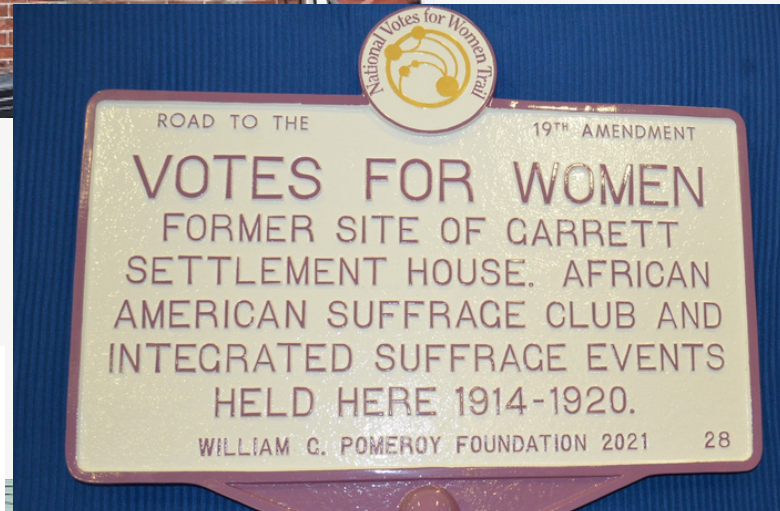
Judge Susan Del Pesco, Delaware Superior Court (retired)

Marsha White, Esquire, Deputy Attorney General (retired)





The dedication event was filmed by the local access TV station, WITN
 Here is a link to the video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQ6iQqUHg0It>



Carol A. Scott, Student, University of Delaware, did the biographical research enabling the nomination of Blanche Williams Stubbs for this marker and induction into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame in 2019.



We are seeking contributors to **Let the Truth Be Told**. We invite you to submit narratives, essays, biographies, poems, art work, etc. Please submit what you want to say and you will be given support which will lead to your voice being heard. **Let the Truth Be Told!**

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