

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 292 746

SO 019 075

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TITLE The Emergence of Women in West Virginia History: A Title IX Project for Social Studies.
INSTITUTION West Virginia State Dept. of Education, Charleston.
PUB DATE 87
NOTE 28p.
AVAILABLE FROM West Virginia Department of Education, Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 252, Charleston, WV 25302.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) (051) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)
EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Civil Rights; Females; Grade 8; Junior High Schools; Learning Activities; Resource Materials; Social Studies; *State History; United States History; *Womens Studies
IDENTIFIERS Title IX Education Amendments 1972; *West Virginia

ABSTRACT

This booklet was designed to be used as a supplemental social studies unit and is divided into four sections. Section 1 profiles famous women of West Virginia including Aracoma, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Mary Harris Jones, Susan Matilda Dew Hoff, Frances Benjamin Johnston, and Nancy Hart Douglas. Section 2, profiles contemporary women in West Virginia including Fannie Cobb Carter, Pearl Sydenstricker Buck Walsh, Mildred Bateman, Phyllis Smith Curtin Cook, Virginia Mae Brown, and Joanne LaCoque Haymes Ireland Pierose. Classroom activities for teaching about these women are outlined in section 3, along with sample tests. Resources for the study of famous women in West Virginia are also presented. Section 4 provides 1980 statistics on women in West Virginia, including female population characteristics, total degrees conferred by West Virginia institutions of higher education, percentage of degrees conferred by area, and annual median income by sex and race. A 14-item bibliography is included. (SM)

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**The Emergence Of
Women In West Virginia History**
A TITLE IX PROJECT FOR SOCIAL STUDIES



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THE EMERGENCE OF WOMEN IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY:

A TITLE IX PROJECT FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

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INTRODUCTION

Women in our society are expected to play many roles. Although people often disagree as to what these roles should be, there are some ideas about how an 'ideal woman' should look and behave that most people share. Many of these ideas come from the standards set for women in the South during the time when slavery was at its height. Any Southern woman, whether she was black or white, knew that the closer she came to being the 'ideal woman,' the more people would be pleased with her (Groves, 1980).

West Virginia has been the birthplace of numerous outstanding women. Some of the women have been adopted by our State because of their exceptional contributions. Women in West Virginia have assumed various roles, e.g., managing jobs as well as households and rearing children. They have worked on farms, in mills, in factories, in hospitals, in education and in state and local governments as well as in the private sector in West Virginia. They have made tremendous contributions to our State.

The Emergence of Women in West Virginia History project has been developed as a part of the FY 1986 Title IX Project for the Elimination of Sex Discrimination. It is imperative that all students learn what contributions women (past and present), as well as men, have made in developing our State's history from the early 1700's to the present time.

The romantic idea of treating woman as a clinging vine, and thus eliminating half the energies of humanity is rapidly disappearing and giving place to the idea that the strong are for the strong - the intellectually strong; that the evolution of the race will be complete only when men and women shall be associated in perfect unity of purpose, and shall, in fullest sympathy, collaborate for the attainment of the highest and the best. . . then will men and women for the first time fully supplement each other in their aspirations and endeavors and realize somewhat of the oneness of heart, and mind. . . The women's cause is man's; they rise or sink together, dwarfed or godlike, bond or free (Mozans, 1913).

The Emergence of Women in West Virginia History project has been developed in booklet form and is to be provided to eighth grade social studies teachers as a supplemental social studies unit. This unit has been developed to make teaching and learning about famous West Virginia women interesting and enjoyable, and it has been divided into four sections as follows: Profiles of Pioneer Women in West Virginia History, Profiles of Contemporary Women in West Virginia History, Teacher Information, and Current Statistics on Women in West Virginia. This unit provides some startling facts about frontier and contemporary women in West Virginia.

Tom McNeel
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education

I. Profiles Of Pioneer Women In West Virginia History

These profiles give accounts of women in West Virginia history from the early 1700's through the early part of the 1900's. The women were selected for the profiles based on their outstanding contributions (e.g., settler, labor organizer, educator, photojournalist and spy) to West Virginia History and because they were pioneers in nontraditional fields during that period of time.

ARACOMA (1740 - 1780)

Folklore has it that Aracoma was a courageous Indian princess, daughter of the famous Cornstalk (Shawnee Indian Chief who led his people against Colonel William Madison's Army at Point Pleasant Battle of 1774). Aracoma fell in love with Boling Baker (presumably a white, British Army deserter) who came to America with General Braddock's Army. Boling Baker was taken captive by Aracoma's tribe around 1775 during the Army's engagement with the French and Indians. They had an elaborate tribal wedding which led to a settlement of her people and Boling Baker on the Guyandotte River. A plague later wiped out most of their people including their two children (Comstock, 1974, pp. 6-9).

Around 1780 Aracoma was wounded in combat between the Virginians, led by Colonel William Madison, and her people. A few braves and a hunting party from her settlement managed to escape the massacre of Aracoma's people which took place at the present site of Logan High School. Since she was treated with compassion and respect by the Virginian soldiers after she was wounded, Aracoma warned Colonel Madison to take his men and leave before the survivors of her people returned because they would want to avenge her death. She also requested that he bury her alongside her people who had died from the plague and that he bury her so that she would be facing the setting sun where she could watch her people march to the "happy hunting grounds" (Comstock, 1974, p. 7).

On her death bed, Aracoma also related to Colonel Madison that her father had been killed by British soldiers. Colonel Arbuckle (the garrison commander at Fort Randolph, which is now Point Pleasant) was holding her father until he received a reply from the Governor of Virginia on Cornstalk's warning of the danger of hostile Indians in the area. The hostile Indians had been incited by the British to kill the whites during the American Revolution. Since two men were killed by the hostile Indians when they crossed the river to hunt, the soldiers were so enraged they killed Cornstalk and his two companions in revenge (Comstock, 1974, p. 7).

Aracoma was famous because she was courageous and was respected by whites and Shawnee Indians. She was so famous that not long after her death a town (Aracoma) was named in her honor. This legend, (based on fact), took place before West Virginia became a State (Comstock, 1974, pp. 7, 9 and 11).

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN (1783 - 1818)

"Nancy Hanks was born in 1784 on Mike's Run ...a tributary of Patterson's Creek in what is now Mineral County, West Virginia" (Comstock, 1974, p. 118). She was the daughter of Lucy Hanks. The Hanks family moved to Kentucky shortly after Nancy was born. Nancy's mother died in 1825, and Nancy went to live with her Aunt Betsy Hanks and Uncle Tom Sparrow (Comstock, 1974, pp. 109 and 139).

Nancy Hanks, Abraham Lincoln's mother, at the age of 22 married Thomas Lincoln in Beechland, Kentucky on February 9, 1807, and they moved to Elizabethtown, Kentucky the next day. Their first child was a girl, and they named her Sarah. Later they moved to a log cabin near Sinking Spring Farm where their second child, Abraham Lincoln, was born on February 12, 1809. The Lincolns finally moved to a farm in The Knob Creek Farm area, where the last child, Tom, was born and died. Four years later, the Lincoln family moved to Pigeon Creek, Indiana, and on October 5, 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln died (Comstock, 1974, pp. 139-140).

I. Profiles Of Pioneer Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

MARY HARRIS JONES

(1830 - 1930)

Mary Harris was born in Cork, Ireland, on May 1, 1830. Her father came to the United States in 1835. After he became an American citizen, he sent for his family. Mary taught school in Monroe, Michigan, after she attended high school. She did not teach long until she decided to open a dressmaking shop in Chicago. Later she went back to teaching, but this time in Memphis, Tennessee (**Dictionary of American Biography**, 1933, p. 195).

In Memphis, she married an Iron Molders' Union member named Jones, and they had four children. All of her children and her husband died of yellow fever in 1871. After these tragic events, Mary became involved with the Knights of Labor, a newly organized labor movement, and devoted herself totally to this movement. As an organizer, she used weapons of drama and humor, compelling others to listen to her (Cornstock, 1974, p. 195). If there were acute labor troubles anywhere in the country, Mother Jones (as she eventually was called) was there (e.g., she was at the riots in Pittsburgh in 1877; she was at the Haymarket tragedy in Chicago in 1886; and, she was at the American Railroad Union Strike in Birmingham in 1894) learning as much as she could about the laborers' problems. She also worked in the Southern cotton mills collecting data on the condition of the children working there to demonstrate the "evils of child labor" to President Roosevelt. At one point, she posed as an itinerant peddler when she was sent by the United Mine Workers to the coal fields of Colorado to collect information on the problems. The information she collected led to a strike in these coal fields. This strike was called off by President John Mitchell, leading to Mother Jones's denouncing him as well as the United Mine Workers. In 1911, Mother Jones once again became an organizer for the United Mine Workers in West Virginia and continued into the 1920's (**Dictionary of American Biography**, 1933, pp. 195-196).

During the Strike of 1912-13, she spoke at a series of mass meetings in various cities. Later she was convicted, by a military court set up by the state militia, of conspiracy to murder ... [sic] Shortly afterwards a senatorial investigation committee was appointed, [sic] ... her sentence to twenty years' imprisonment was set aside (**Dictionary of American Biography**, 1933, p. 196).

Mother Jones appeared at two other coal strikes in Colorado. She was deported from Trinidad, Colorado, a total of three times, after being detained on numerous other occasions.

On May 1, 1930 Mother Jones celebrated her 100th birthday. A reception was held to honor her at her home in Silver Springs, Maryland. She received many congratulatory telegrams "from labor unions, friends, and acquaintances throughout the country, including one from John D. Rockefeller, Jr." (**Dictionary of American Biography**, 1933, p. 196). She died six months after her 100th birthday and was buried at Mount Olive, Illinois, in the United Mine Workers Cemetery (**Dictionary of American Biography**, 1933, p. 196). She could be called West Virginia's adopted mother because she helped provide shorter working hours and better working conditions for miners as well as for children in the West Virginia labor force.

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I. Profiles Of Pioneer Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

SUSAN MATILDA DEW HOFF (1842 - 1933)

Susan Matilda Dew was the first woman to become a licensed physician in the State of West Virginia. Her father, William Harrison Dew, was a doctor, and her mother, Jane Davis Dew, was Confederate President Jefferson Davis's cousin. Her father practiced medicine in 1859 in what is now Hampshire County (Matz and Craig, 1983, p.2). "From the time Susan was about eight years old, she spent much of her time in her father's office watching with interest as he mended broken bones and bodies" (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 3). At times she assisted him with bandages and instruments. Her father talked at great lengths with her, explaining the procedures he was using with each patient (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 3).

At the age of 27, Susan Dew married James Hoff on October 7, 1869, and they had five children. When Susan's father died on May 30, 1883, Susan dreamed her father had asked her to finish his work. She decided to ask permission to take the State Board of Health Examinations. If she passed these examinations, she would have to enter an apprenticeship under a doctor for several years. Dr. Rush Dew, her brother, attempted to discourage her from taking the examinations suggesting she use her skills instead for mid-wifery. However, Susan was determined to become a doctor (Matz and Craig, 1983, pp. 3-4).

To prepare herself for the State Board Examinations, Susan studied the medical books from her father's library. As soon as she thought she was prepared to take the examinations, she requested permission from the State Board to take the physician's test. She told the State Board examiners that although she had not attended medical school, her brother and father, both doctors, had assisted her with preparation to become a doctor. Susan took the written and oral examinations on April 18-19, 1889, along with five men (one of whom failed the test), and she scored the highest of all the examinees on both examinations. When the president of the Examining Board, Dr. Myers, congratulated her on her success, she related to him that "...she just wanted to prove to herself she could do it. Doctor Myers replied that it would be a crime for one so well prepared and qualified as she [was] not to use her ability to help people" (Matz and Craig, 1983, pp. 4-5). When she stopped in Salem to tell her brother she had passed the examinations, he did not believe her. However, she finally did convince him she was not joking (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 5).

Back in West Milford, her home, Susan did not announce the opening of an office as her father had. "But with Susan's reputation as her father's assistant, she soon found herself practicing medicine" (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 5). Her father's patients kept coming so she gradually acquired a practice. Susan stated in an interview that "...she was one of the pioneers of her sex in a difficult field and the way of the pioneers is always hard" (Comstock, 1974, p. 160). When she was asked: "Did you do other work, too, about the house?" Dr. Susan Dew Hoff replied, "No, that she didn't do housework or sewing," but devoted her time to her profession (Comstock, 1974, p. 161).

I. Profiles Of Pioneer Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNSTON

(1864 - 1952)

Born on January 15, 1864, in Grafton, West Virginia, Frances Benjamin transcended both regional and national notions about women's place in the 19th century to become a pioneer in American photography and photojournalism and a crusader with her camera for historic preservation of the Old South. Through her active encouragement of women who wished to enter her chosen profession, she helped to transform women's 'sphere'. The photographic record she compiled in her more than fifty years as a working photographer continues to serve as a guide to the American past and to document her wide-ranging interests and achievements (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 21).

Before Frances Benjamin Johnston became a photographer, she studied art in Paris, France. She returned to the United States in 1885 to continue her studies in art in Washington at the Art Students' League. Frances became friends with George Eastman and began experimenting with his Kodak camera and decided photography would be her vocation. Many of her assignments took her to Washington where she sometimes reported on the official life of the Presidents (e.g., Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft) (Comstock, 1974, p. 175).

Frances Benjamin Johnston was the first American journalist to use her own photographs to illustrate the articles she wrote, and her first article, entitled, "Uncle Tom's Money," was published in the **Demorest's Family Magazine** in 1890. Frances rapidly gained recognition as a "pictorial photographer" (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 21). She photographed millionaires, their homes and their yachts and did a number of documentaries around the country (Comstock, 1974, pp. 175-176).

When she became an associate member of the Photo-Secession, photographs such as "The Critic" and "They Toil Not, Neither Do They Spin" were seen as fine art. Frances soon decided that she wanted to capture historical events and people. She preferred photographs to be in the black and white medium; however, she did photograph elegant gardens in color (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 22).

Frances was a trail blazer instead of a follower. She used techniques that were the most effective for her, and she did not mind violating standard procedures to achieve her best results. For example, unlike her contemporaries, she continued to use the developing agent, Eikonogen, to develop her pictures (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 22).

The independent streak that permitted her to find her own way as a photographer also made it possible for her to blaze a wide trail for other women to follow. And from the beginning of her career, Johnston identified with the aspirations of other women who defied convention as she had, by entering a profession dominated by men (Matz and Craig, 1983, p. 23).

At the Buffalo, New York, Pan American Exposition in September 1901, Frances took the last snapshot of President McKinley just 17 minutes before he was assassinated (Comstock, 1974, p. 179).

Frances Benjamin Johnston gave some of her papers and her negatives to the Library of Congress in 1948. After her death in 1952, other negatives, files and notebooks were purchased for this library. These papers and photographs are frequently exhibited to the public (Comstock, 1974, p. 179).

I. Profiles Of Pioneer Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

NANCY HART DOUGLAS

(dates unknown)

Nancy Hart served as a female guerrilla for the Confederacy. She was also a member of the "Moccasin Rangers" (Neal, 1979, p. 13) and a famous spy during the Civil War. Nancy befriended Marion Kerner who was a Union telegrapher. Kerner later betrayed Nancy, and she later was instrumental in sending him to prison (Comstock, 1974, pp. 146-147).

Marion Kerner was transferred from Gauley Bridge after the Ball's Bluff Battle of 1861 to the Ninth West Virginia regiment under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel William Starr (Comstock, 1974, p. 143). In 1862, along with "Colonel Starr, Captain Davis and me" (Comstock, 1974, p. 144), the Yankee party foraged for very scarce table food. That was when smoke was discovered by the foraging party. As the party neared the smoke, they discovered two young women preparing corn. As soon as the young women saw the men, they escaped into the cabin, bolting the door behind them. An elderly lady remarked, "The Yankees are upon us!" (Comstock, 1974, p. 144). The elderly woman would not answer Colonel Starr's knock. Colonel Starr finally convinced her that his party was friendly, and that he wanted to exchange salt for some of her vegetables. Before the foraging party departed, Colonel Starr looked at a description of Nancy Hart, whereupon, he returned to the cabin and said, "Well, Nancy, at last we've got you!" "My God," she replied, "I am not Nancy Hart! What are you going to do with me?" (Comstock, 1974, p. 144).

Nancy and the others were incarcerated in Summersville and were closely guarded. Because of the conditions in the jail, Marion Kerner asked Colonel Starr to let them stay in the vacant headquarter's attic which he felt would be more comfortable for Nancy and her companions. They were also given sewing supplies, papers with graphics and other dainty things that could be afforded. In this attic, the door was left open, and the guards were allowed to talk with the charges; however, they were not allowed inside the room. Nancy was able to win the confidence of one of the guards and secured his gun. As soon as she got the musket, she killed him and escaped to the barn whereupon she took Colonel Starr's horse and fled the camp while the Yankee soldiers slept (Comstock, 1974, pp. 144-146).

The next time Nancy was seen, she was heading the front of Jackson's Calvary of 500 men (Commanded by Major Bailey) which had surrounded the Ninth West Virginia regiment. Since Marion Kerner had befriended her and made her imprisonment more enjoyable, Nancy told Major Bailey that Marion was not a Yankee when the Yankee soldiers were lined up and he should release him. Marion Kerner was permitted to enter the house to get his belongings. When he picked up his belongings, he also picked up the telegraph, hid it in a blanket and retreated through the back of the house toward Gauley Bridge. He found a telegraph wire that he could use and was just about to report his capture when he was ordered by about six mounted men to stop. Major Bailey threatened to kill Marion Kerner when he discovered what had happened. Again, Nancy Hart came to his rescue, and he was placed under guard as the Confederate Army marched toward the South. At White Sulphur Springs, General Lovin'g was in charge. The prisoners were marched on to Christianburg and hurried onto a cattle train for transport to Lynchburg, where other telegraphers were imprisoned. In August 1862, they were sent to Belle Isle, then to Libby Prison until September 14, 1862 (Comstock, 1974, pp. 146-147).

A short time later, the telegraphers, including Marion Kerner, were paroled by General Winder. The parolees took a wagon to the James River, boarded the *New Yorker* and were taken to Annapolis. The War Department sent them home (Comstock, 1974, p. 148).

Nancy Hart was never seen again by Marion Kerner. Records show that she married Joshua Douglas after the Civil War. Nancy Hart Douglas is buried in Greenbrier County at Mannings Knob "where the Mannings family buried their slaves" (Comstock, 1974, p. 149).

II. Profiles Of Contemporary Women In West Virginia History

These profiles give accounts of women in West Virginia from the mid-1900's to the present. The criterion for selecting contemporary women in West Virginia for the profiles include the fact that they were the first women selected for these roles, jobs and/or awards (e.g., establishing a teacher training program, receiving a Nobel Prize for Literature, being appointed to the United States Interstate Commerce Commission, becoming a famous actress, becoming a famous opera singer, receiving the first Annual Citation from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania).

FANNIE COBB CARTER (1872 - 1973)

Fannie Cobb Carter was born in Charleston, West Virginia, in 1872. While her parents served as slaves to Joel and Diana Ruffner, Fannie's education began. Each Ruffner child was responsible for teaching her a skill (e.g., reading and arithmetic). Fannie's formal education began at a black school located on Quarrier Street. She lived with her maternal grandmother after Diana Ruffner died. Her grandmother worked for Charles Lewis at that time, and Fannie was allowed to be taught by the governess along with the Lewis children. Her uncle, A.H. Irving, helped raise money to send her to Storer College after she had completed her secondary education. She graduated from Storer College with a certificate in teaching in 1891. After graduation, she taught in the Charleston area. At the age of 23, Fannie Cobb received her first teaching appointment to Kanawha County Public School System making \$42 a month in 1895. Quite a commotion was caused by her appointment. Statements were made that she was too young and inexperienced. Superintendent of Charleston Schools, George S. Laidley, asked the protesters to give her an opportunity to prove herself. Fannie met the challenge and became an excellent teacher. Fannie spent her summers at such colleges as Hampton, Oberlin and Ohio State University expanding her teaching knowledge (Matz and Craig, 1983, pp. 41-42).

Superintendent Laidley released her from her contract in 1908 at the insistence of Thomas Miller, State Superintendent of Schools, to "establish a Teacher's Training Department" at West Virginia State College. She was the highest paid black teacher in the State, making \$700 a year, which included her room and board. During the times she was training teachers at State College (1911), Fannie was married to a Charleston lawyer, Emory R. Carter. They made their first home in South Hills, and Fannie commuted from State College on weekends (Matz and Craig, 1983, pp. 42-43).

When Fannie Cobb Carter learned that a woman was to be hanged in Fairmont, she called Governor Homer Holt and said: "Governor, a woman is going to be hanged. You know that a woman never has been hanged in West Virginia. You wouldn't want that to happen in your administration, would you?" (Comstock, 1974, p. 56). Because of Fannie's conversation with Governor Holt (who later became a life long friend), the woman instead was imprisoned for life (Comstock, 1974, p. 56).

II. Profiles Of Contemporary Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

PEARL SYDENSTICKER BUCK WALSH

(1892 - 1973)

Pearl Sydensticker was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia, in 1892. In 1932, her novel, *The Good Earth*, won her the Pulitzer Prize and in 1938 her literature won her the Nobel Prize. Pearl's parents were Presbyterian missionaries in China. She grew up and was educated in Shanghai, China (*The World Book Encyclopedia*, 1976, p. 551).

After completing high school, Pearl returned to the United States to continue her education at Randolph Macon College. She received membership in Kappa Delta Sorority in her second year of college and was made class president in her third year. Her talent came to the forefront in college when her stories were selected for publication in the monthly college paper. Pearl's favorite subjects in college were psychology and philosophy. Pearl was asked to return as a graduate to assist in the philosophy and psychology department following her graduation with honors in 1914. Before the assistantship was over, she returned to China due to her mother's ill health (Comstock, 1974, pp. 40, 42, 44 and 52).

In 1917, she married John Lossing Buck; they moved to Nansuchow, North China, where they lived for five years. The land there was rather barren compared to South China. The Chinese dialect was completely different in Nansuchow, but this was not a problem for Pearl. Even though those years were some of the most difficult for Pearl, she counted them the richest since she really got to know the Chinese women in Nansuchow (Comstock, 1974, p. 45).

Pearl returned to the United States for a number of operations and when she returned to China, she and her husband moved to Nanking, where Pearl taught English literature at the University of Nanking as well as Chung Yang University (Comstock, 1974, p. 45). Pearl's home was "the first one in Nanking to use a woman cook rather than a man. So successful was her experiment [for greater efficiency] that she later brought other women into her kitchen and trained several cooks for her friends" (Comstock, 1974, p. 47).

A poor Chinese woman, whom Pearl had befriended, hid the Bucks when hostile soldiers approached Nanking in 1927. All Americans were advised to retreat to a gunboat for safety, but Pearl felt it unnecessary to comply. The Bucks were rescued and went to Shanghai (Comstock, 1974, pp. 47-48).

The Bucks later returned to the United States for a four-month period. During that time Pearl was in the United States, the publisher accepted her first novel, *East Wind: West Wind*, and later *The Good Earth* was published, which made her famous. She did not want people to fuss over her but gained joy from writing (Comstock, 1974, p. 52).

After her divorce from John Buck, Pearl married Richard J. Walsh, a publisher. She and Richard moved to a farm in Pennsylvania where she continued to write. In 1935 she was given the Howells Medal, awarded to the person who wrote an outstanding American fictional piece published during a five-year period (Comstock, 1974, p. 52).

Pearl used several styles in her writing (e.g., scholarly Chinese, rough peasant and American). The peasants were her favorite writing subjects since "she felt they were voiceless people. She wanted Chinese intellectuals and all the world to know the philosophy of this silent and oppressed group. Pearl was a strong believer in racial equality" as well as equity for all people (Comstock, 1974, p. 53).

II. Profiles Of Contemporary Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

MILDRED BATEMAN

(1922 -)

Dr. Mildred Bateman was born on March 22, 1922 in Cordele, Georgia. Her father was a Presbyterian minister, and her mother was a public health nurse. "She graduated from Barber-Scotia College, Colcord, North Carolina, in 1941, at the age of 19, with a B.S. degree, and was appointed the same year as Dean of Women of the same school." She received her M.D. from the Women's Medical College in 1946 (Kerns, 1985, unnumbered page).

She came to West Virginia in 1947 to be the Clinical Director of the Lakin State Hospital. She interrupted her career at Lakin Hospital in 1953 to "complete a three-year psychiatric residency and fellowship at the Menninger School of Psychiatry at Topeka, Kansas" (Comstock, 1974, p. 19). She was hired as a supervisor for the Division of Professional Services, Department of Mental Health in 1960, and in 1962 became its Director. In 1964 the Menninger School Alumni Association presented her with the distinguished Alumna Award. The Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1967 presented her with its Annual Citation, the first award of its kind to be presented in this area (Comstock 1974, pp. 18-19). Mildred was appointed chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Marshall University Medical school in 1977 and is currently Professor of Psychiatry (Kerns, 1985, unnumbered page).

II. Profiles Of Contemporary Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

PHYLLIS SMITH CURTIN COOK

(1922 -)

Phyllis Smith, born in Clarksburg, West Virginia, became a world-famous opera singer. She is the daughter of Betty (Robinson) and Vernon Smith (*Who's Who in America*, 1968-69 p. 706). At the age of seven, Phyllis began violin lessons and continued her study of the violin for 10 years. She learned to play the piano at Monticello, a girls' school in Alton, Illinois. When she enrolled in political science at Wellesley, she became serious about studying voice. Although only music majors were permitted to study voice, an exception was made for Phyllis after she auditioned for Olga Averino. Phyllis studied with Averino for a number of years (Comstock, 1974, pp. 76-78).

After graduating from Wellesley in 1943, Phyllis studied voice at the New England Conservatory of Music. "She became a member of the Goidovsky Grand Opera Theatre and sang in its first production, **The Marriage of Figaro**, in the role of the Countess" (Comstock, 1974, p. 78).

In 1950, she debuted in New York at Town Hall. She was hired by the New York Opera Company in 1953 and a year later appeared as "Salome" in Richard Strauss's opera, *Salome*. She has been married twice, in 1946 to Phillip Curtin and in 1956 to Eugene Cook (Comstock, 1974, pp. 78-79).

Although often approached by Broadway [sic] producers, she turned down all offers to appear in musical comedies or plays. From 1953 to 1957 she was both performer and teacher at the Aspen (Colorado) Music Festival, and she has said that she would like to teach or become a character actress after she retires from singing. In 1961 the Associated Press named her 'one of the ten women of accomplishment of the year' for having made the 'debut of the year' at the Metropolitan Opera House (Moritz, 1964, p. 100).

Phyllis performed at the Metropolitan Opera Company in 1961. She has received many honors and awards for her performances throughout the world, and in 1968 the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* chose Phyllis as the West Virginia Woman of the Year (Comstock, 1974, p. 78).

II. Profiles Of Contemporary Women In West Virginia History (Cont'd)

VIRGINIA MAE BROWN

(1923 -)

Virginia Mae Brown was the first woman to be appointed to the United States Interstate Commerce Commission. She was appointed to this position by President Johnson in 1964 (Comstock, 1974, p. 39). She was the first woman to chair an independent regulatory agency in the Federal government (Statement by Virginia Mae Brown).

Virginia was born in Pliny (Putnam County), West Virginia. She was a graduate of Pt. Pleasant High School and began teaching at the age of 18 at Winfield High School (1943-44). After teaching for a year and a half, she decided to enter law school at West Virginia University, where in 1947 she received her law degree. Shortly after receiving her law degree, she went to work as a law clerk for the West Virginia Attorney General (Comstock, 1974, p. 39). After completing her work as a law clerk, Virginia became the first woman to become an assistant attorney general (1947-51) in the State of West Virginia (Statement by Virginia Mae Brown). She was the first woman to be appointed to the West Virginia Judicial Council as its Executive Secretary. In 1961, "she became legal council to the governor..., then was appointed as the State's first woman Insurance Commissioner" (Comstock, 1974, p. 39) and was the first in the United States. Virginia also served as the first woman on the West Virginia Public Service Commission (Statement by Virginia Mae Brown).

JOANNE LACOQUE HAYMES IRELAND PIEROSE

(1923 -)

Joanne LaCoque was born in Logan, West Virginia, in 1923. Jean (Frampton) and Ralph La Coque were her parents. After Joanne's father died, she moved to New York with her mother and her brother, Peter Marshall who eventually gained fame as the host of the television game show, "Hollywood Squares". At the beginning of her stage career, she adopted the stage name of Joanne Dru. She was hired by a modeling agency a short time after she moved to New York. The first acting part she landed was in an Al Jolson show. Later she played "Samba Siren" in a stage show with Dick Haymes (a singer) at the Paramount Theater. Joanne became a success after Howard Hawks persuaded her to be Rosemary Murphy in *Abie's Irish Rose* (Comstock, 1974, p. 91).

In 1949 Joanne and Dick were married (four months after they met) and they had three children. She later divorced Dick and married John Ireland, with whom she appeared in *All the King's Men*. Joanne and John had two children. Then, she divorced John and married George Pierose in 1963. She appeared in about 25 films between 1941 and 1965 including *She Wore A Yellow Ribbon* (1949), *The Pride of St. Louis* (1952), *Southwest Passage* (1954), and *September Storm* (1965) (Comstock, 1974, pp. 91-92).

III. Teacher Information

Included in this section are suggestions for using the Profiles on Women in West Virginia History provided in Sections I and II of this booklet. Written and oral activities, sample tests and related information for individual and group discussion are also provided.

A. Suggestions for Written and Oral Activities in Social Studies

Ask your students to:

- choose one woman from the profiles and write a radio or TV spot announcement about her. Have students pretend to be newscasters and follow-up by giving a spot announcement about this woman. This could be videotaped and played to the students if time permits and equipment is available.
- look up additional information about a pioneer woman listed in the profiles and write a one page report.
- design a poster depicting either pioneer or contemporary women. For example, sketches of the faces of women could be used along with an appropriate statement (e.g., "Women Do Become Physicians").
- trace their family roots and complete a statement about the culture in which they were reared. For example, if the students' ancestors were born in another country, give the reasons the family traveled to the United States.
- look at the profiles of pioneer and contemporary women in West Virginia and note what characteristics best describe them.
- prepare trivial pursuit type questions for a class game by researching the following questions:
 - When did women receive the right to vote in West Virginia?
 - When were they allowed to run for office?
 - Who was the first woman federal judge?
 - Who was the first woman county school superintendent?
 - Who was the first woman college president?

III. Teacher Information (Cont'd)

B. Sample Tests

Some sample tests have been developed (see the following three pages) to assist your students in learning about famous pioneer and famous contemporary women in West Virginia history. You have permission to reproduce these tests as published herein.

SAMPLE TEST #1

ANSWER THESE BIOGRAPHICAL QUESTIONS

Name of Pioneer or Contemporary Woman in West Virginia history _____
(Teacher Provides Names to Groups)

DIRECTIONS: Read the biography of the woman selected and answer the following questions:

Group I - Answer these questions:

1. What was the birthplace of this woman? When was she born?
2. This woman was involved in what field of work?
3. What specific contributions did this woman provide to West Virginia?
4. What important events took place in this woman's life when she was young?

Group II - Answer four of the questions below:

1. As you read about this woman's life, what did you like the most?
2. If you had the opportunity to meet this woman tomorrow, what would you want to ask her?

What were some of the barriers this woman had to overcome? If you were faced with similar barriers or problems, how would you solve them?

How would you describe this woman? For example, was she courageous? Give support for your descriptions as found in the materials you read.

If you could turn back the clock in this woman's life, what time would you choose? Why?

Adopted from materials developed for **Women in the Active Voice: The Changing Mosaic**, Maryland State Department of Education.

III. Teacher Information (Cont'd)

SAMPLE TEST #2

ROLES WOMEN PLAYED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

Directions: Find and circle the words that describe pioneer women's roles and that describe contemporary women's roles in West Virginia history, these words appear across, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally (see descriptive word list at bottom of page for words to solve the puzzle).

C R T O J R A R P J R L M E J E D U C A T O R S R S C K C O D
R O P Q D E R F M O T L E A C E F I K L C M N O A K C C D S J
R S L B R J T M O T H E R S K C D C D S O J S D P W A X E S T
D A D D C E I F L Z N M A C T R E S S P N O W I V E S R S D C
B B A P H Y S I C I A N T H S U N N A T F O U N D E W E L L S I
A J E O N B T T Y O U L W E A O L T H Y E B V E R T H A B C D
T S I L A N R U O J O T O H P E F G H I D K L E M N O P Q R S
W T C O U R A G E O U S U E V W X Y Z Z E A T E L E F C S J K
O I N D E P E N D E N T R F S I G H T E R S V S A I W M Z X O
M T C R R Z P I E J L A W Y E R E X T O A L U C V I S M O F T
A X O M C H R O M O S L N I T S F U N A T E A C H E R T M A B
N C F I L M O L T I R S A T T E P P Q R E J J P A B D V C R L
D M C N I O N S N E A C B D L F I J L K S M Q N P O L R Z W V
U Y Z T C M U G F F Y D I G E D O G G A P L M Q U I T X Z M R
S T T R O T E R O M F F Y Z R O N J E S Y E P M H Z X I O N N
M F A B B R Z O R D E E T K A D E C S S J J D M O P Q M Z X Y
A L S T L A B O R O R G A N I Z E R P H O T O G R A P H E R E
R Z Y X T V W U V M L O R A C O R X H U M A N I S T E A B A G
I D E E B L A P R E S I D E N T S M O T H E R K C D S C A T R

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Confederate Spy | 6. President's Mother | 11. Educator | 16. Humanist |
| 2. Opera Singer | 7. Settler | 12. Photographer | 17. Mothers |
| 3. Novelist | 8. Photojournalist | 13. Teacher | 18. Wives |
| 4. Physician | 9. Actress | 14. Pioneer | 19. Courageous |
| 5. Lawyer | 10. Labor Organizer | 15. Artist | 20. Independent |

Sample Test #2 was developed by Dee Butler, Coordinator, Elimination of Sex Discrimination Project, West Virginia Department of Education, June, 1986.

III. Teacher Information (Cont'd)

SAMPLE TEST #3

MATCHING

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Susan Dew Hoff | a. Famous opera singer |
| 2. Pearl Sydenstricker Buck Walsh | b. Appointed to U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission |
| 3. Nancy Hart Douglas | c. Famous photojournalist |
| 4. Fanny Cobb Carter | d. Started a teacher training program |
| 5. Aracoma (Corn Blossom) | e. First woman physician |
| 6. Phyllis Curtin | f. Outstanding actress |
| 7. Mary Harris Jones | g. Abraham Lincoln's mother |
| 8. Mildred Bateman | h. Confederate spy |
| 9. Nancy Hanks Lincoln | i. In charge of a settlement on the Guyandotte River |
| 10. Frances Benjamin Johnston | j. Won the Nobel Prize for literature |
| 11. Virginia Mae Brown | k. Made the highest score on a physician's examinations over five males who took tests |
| 12. Joanne LaCoque Haymes Ireland Pierose | l. Fought for shorter work day and against child labor |
| | m. First woman to be appointed to the WV Judicial Council |
| | n. Appointed Clinical Director of Lakin State Hospital in 1953. |
| | o. Outstanding educator |

Sample Test #3 was developed by Dee Butler, Coordinator, Elimination of Sex Discrimination Project, West Virginia Department of Education, June, 1986.

III. Teacher Information (Cont'd)

C. Resources on Famous Women in West Virginia*

Many resources on women can be found in the public and school libraries around the State. Additional books and information on West Virginia women can be found at the Archives and History Division of the Department of Culture and History (348-0230), the State Women's Commission (348-0070) and the State Department of Education (348-7864). These additional resources are available for loan or they may be purchased for a small fee at the places indicated:

1. **MISSING CHAPTERS: WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN IN HISTORY** (West Virginia Department of Education or you may buy it for \$4.95 from the Women's Commission),
2. **West Virginia Women** (West Virginia Department of Education, reference book at the Library Commission),
3. **Who's Who of American Women** (reference book at Kanawha County Library), and
4. **The Good Earth** (West Virginia State Department of Education).

D. Other Famous Women in West Virginia History

The following list of other famous pioneer and contemporary women in West Virginia history, not profiled in the book, will assist students in choosing women for their reports:

1. Susan Fisher (opera singer).
2. Maggie Ballard (first woman WVU graduate).
3. Clara Bender (midwife).
4. Hattie Hill (social worker).
5. Kathryn Bliss Enslow (journalist).
6. Alberta Pierson Hannum (author).
7. Eleanor Carroll Chilton (novelist).
8. Iva Dean Cook (educator).
9. Agnes Greer (business person).
10. Bess Johnson (radio actress).
11. Louise McVey Leonard (first woman to be elected to State Senate).
12. Ruth Ann Musick (folklorist).
13. Jackie Oblinger (radio and television announcer and producer).
14. Fannie Seiler (reporter and columnist).
15. Winifred Newman (first woman president of the Elementary School Principals Association of School Administrators, and first woman from West Virginia to serve on the Y.W.C.A. Board).
16. Ruth S. Norman (educator, national radio chair and 1975 West Virginia Mother of the Year).
17. Elizabeth Hallanan (first woman Federal judge from West Virginia), and
18. Elizabeth Goodall (first state woman school superintendent, Kanawha County Unit).

* See Bibliography for additional resources.

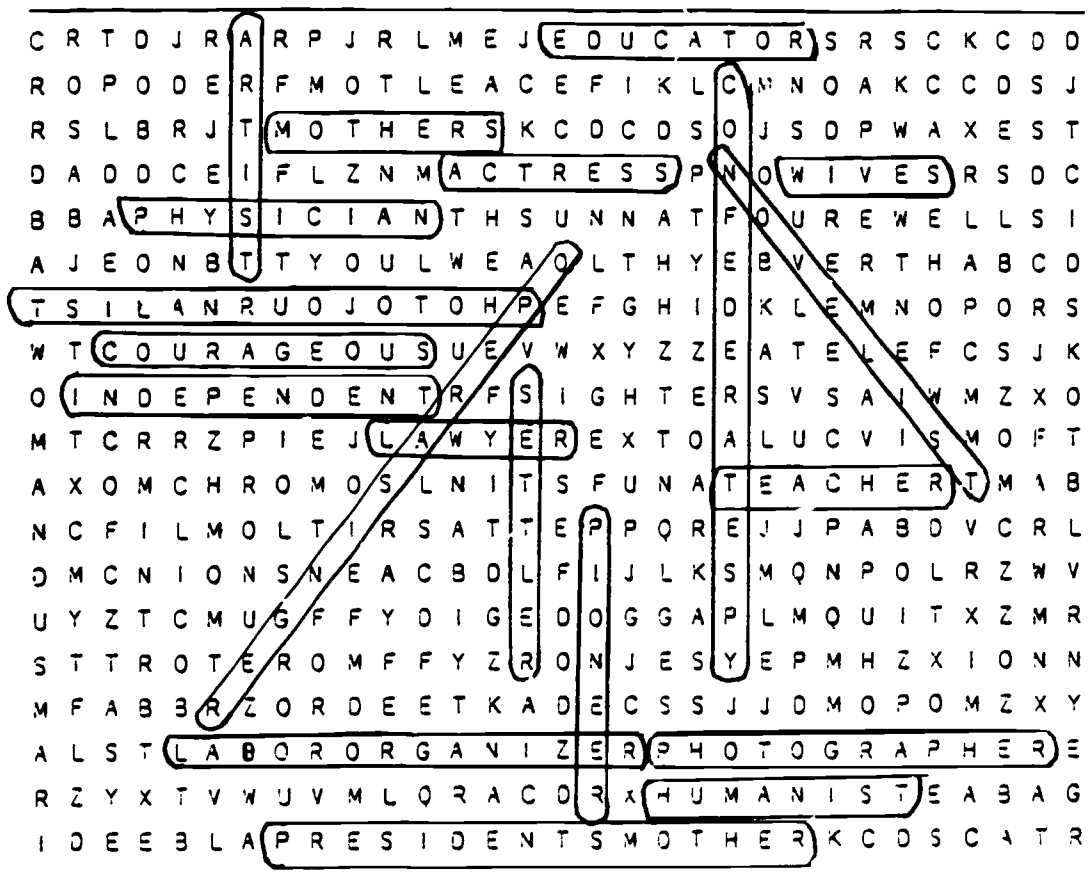
III. Teacher Information (Cont'd)

E. Answer Sheet

SAMPLE TEST #2 - ANSWER SHEET

ROLES WOMEN PLAYED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

Directions: Find and circle words that describe pioneer women's roles and that describe contemporary women's roles in West Virginia history, these words appear across, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally (see descriptive word list at bottom of page for words to solve the puzzle).



DESCRIPTIVE WORDS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Confederate Spy | 6. President's Mother | 11. Educator | 16. Humanist |
| 2. Opera Singer | 7. Settler | 12. Photographer | 17. Mothers |
| 3. Novelist | 8. Photojournalist | 13. Teacher | 18. Wives |
| 4. Physician | 9. Actress | 14. Pioneer | 19. Courageous |
| 5. Lawyer | 10. Labor Organizer | 15. Artist | 20. Independent |

SAMPLE TEST #3 - ANSWERS

1) e, k; 2) j; 3) h; 4) d, p; 5) i; 6) a; 7) l; 8) n; 9) g; 10) c; 11) b, m; and 12) f.

IV. 1980 Statistics On Women In West Virginia

The following tables (1, 2, 3 and 4) from **WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN: IN PERSPECTIVE, 1970-1985** provides statistics on the female population, degrees conferred, sex of graduates and the median annual income of women and men (based on the 1980 statistics, which is the latest information available). This information gives comparative data and could be used as a valuable tool for comparing the why and wherefore differences between the data on women and the data on men. **WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN: IN PERSPECTIVE, 1970-1985** is available from the Women's Commission at the Capitol Complex (Telephone 348-0070). This data could also be used as a class project.

Table 1

FEMALE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

	WEST VIRGINIA		UNITED STATES	
	1970	1980	1970	1980
Total Population	1,744,237	1,949,644	203,211,926	226,545,805
Total Number of Women and Girls	899,568	1,003,865	104,299,734	116,492,644
% of population	51.6	51.5	51.3	51.4
% of female population that is:				
White	95.8	96.0	87.3	83.0
Black	4.0	3.4	11.3	12.0
Other	.2	.1	—	—
Native American	ia.	.1	.4	.6
Eskimo	ia.	—	.9	.02
Aleutian	ia.	—	ia.	—
Asian and Pacific Islander and Other	ia.	.3	ia.	4.4
Spanish Origin	—	.6	—	6.3

Sources:

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. **United States Census of Population: 1970**. Vol. 1, **Characteristics of the Population**, pt. 50, West Virginia, Table 19, p. 30-39.

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. **United States Census of Population: 1980**. Vol. 1, Chapter C, **General Social and Economic Characteristics**, pt. 50, West Virginia, Table 58, p. 17.

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. **United States Census of Population 1980**. Vols. 1 and 2, **General Population Characteristics**, pt. 1, United States Summary, Tables 38-40, pp. 20-22.

Permission was given by Ms. Barbara Matz, Executive Director, Women's Commission, to duplicate this table from **WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN: IN PERSPECTIVE, 1970-1985**.

IV. 1980 Statistics On Women In West Virginia (Cont'd)

Table 2

TOTAL DEGREES CONFERRED BY WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING 1980

Degree Level	Male %	Female %	Total
Undergraduate			
Associate	38.2	61.8	2,160
Career Technical	36.2	63.8	1,829
Pre-Baccalaureate	49.2	50.8	331
Bachelor	51.9	48.1	7,381
Total Undergraduate	48.8	51.2	9,541

First Professional	81.5	18.5	351

Graduate			
Master's	47.2	52.8	2,148
Doctoral	69.7	30.3	145
Total Graduate	48.6	51.4	2,293
<hr/>			
Total All Levels	6,060	6,125	12,185
Percent of Total Degrees	49.7	50.3	100.0

Source:

West Virginia Board of Regents. Planning and Management Information Systems Section. Degrees Conferred by West Virginia Institutions of Higher Education 1979-80. 1980, p.21.

Permission was given by Ms. Barbara Matz, Executive Director, Women's Commission, to duplicate this table from **WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN: IN PERSPECTIVE, 1970-1985.**

IV. 1980 Statistics On Women In West Virginia (Cont'd)

Table 3

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY 1979-80, PERCENTAGE OF DEGREES CONFERRED BY AREA OF STUDY AND SEX OF GRADUATE

Area of Study	% Male	% Female	Total #
Agriculture	75.9	24.1	290
Architecture	73.3	26.7	45
Biological Sciences	71.3	28.7	108
Business and Management	72.2	27.8	719
Communications	43.3	56.7	150
Computer Sciences	53.8	46.2	39
Education	34.1	65.9	860
Elementary Education	8.4	91.6	263
Engineering	91.2	8.8	488
Engineering of Mines	97.1	2.9	68
Fine and Applied Arts	46.6	53.4	116
Foreign Language	26.1	73.9	23
Health Professions	36.8	63.2	500
Nursing	2.9	97.1	103
Dentistry	86.5	13.5	52
Medicine	81.5	18.5	92
Dental Hygiene	-	100.0	22
Medical Technology	6.9	93.1	29
Home Economics	1.5	98.5	136
Law	78.1	21.9	160
Letters	38.2	61.8	136
Mathematics	70.6	29.4	17
Physical Sciences	79.1	20.9	110
Psychology	40.0	60.0	125
Public Affairs and Services	40.3	59.7	253
Social Sciences	64.9	35.1	111
Interdisciplinary Studies	80.0	20.0	5
Regents B.A. Degree	65.0	35.0	80
TOTAL ALL ACADEMIC AREAS OF STUDY	55.4	44.6	100.0 4,471

Source:

West Virginia Board of Regents. Planning and Management Information Systems Section. Degrees Conferred by West Virginia Institutions of Higher Education 1979-80. 1980, pp. 36-38.

Permission was given by Ms. Barbara Matz, Executive Director, Women's Commission, to duplicate this table from WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN: IN PERSPECTIVE, 1970-1985.

IV. 1980 Statistics On Women In West Virginia (Cont'd)

Table 4

ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME BY SEX AND RACE OF PERSONS IN WEST VIRGINIA IN 1970 AND 1980

Total	Men	Women	Black Women
<u>1970</u>			
Number of Persons	545,514	613,983	22,976
Number of Persons with Income	515,016	351,561	15,751
Percentage with Income	94.4	57.3	68.6
Income Category	%	%	%
\$1-1,999 or less	21.0	55.3	66.4
\$2,000-3,999	17.8	23.0	21.2
\$4,000-5,999	14.8	12.0	7.3
\$6,000-9,999	30.5	8.1	4.4
\$10,000-14,999	11.7	1.1	.6
\$15,000-24,999	3.1	.3	.1
\$25,000-49,999	1.1	.1	—
\$50,000 or more	i.a.	i.a.	i.a.

<u>1980</u>			
Number of Persons	657,909	731,802	25,110
Number of Persons with Income	629,527	509,432	20,114
Percentage with Income	95.7	69.6	80.1
Income Category	%	%	%
\$1-1,999 or less	5.9	22.2	20.9
\$2,000-3,999	10.1	23.7	28.7
\$4,000-5,999	8.6	14.4	15.0
\$6,000-9,999	17.4	21.7	20.2
\$10,000-14,999	17.8	11.7	10.5
\$15,000-24,999	27.0	5.2	4.1
\$25,000-49,000	10.8	.8	.4
\$50,000 or more	1.4	.3	.2

Note: West Virginia data were collected for persons 18 years and older while United States data are based on persons 14 years and older in 1970 and 15 years and older in 1980.

Source:

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. **United States Census of Population: 1970**. Vol. 1, **Characteristics of the Population**, pt. 50, West Virginia, Table 197, p.605.

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. **United States Census of Population: 1980**. Vol. 1, Chapter D, **Detailed Population Characteristics**, pt. 50, West Virginia, Table 237, pp. 390, 392 and 400.

Permission was given by Ms. Barbara Matz, Executive Director, Women's Commission, to duplicate this table from **WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN: IN PERSPECTIVE, 1970-1985**.

Outstanding Women In West Virginia History



FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNSON
1864 - 1952

Photographer, photojournalist, and first American journalist to use her photographs to illustrate her articles



FANNIE COBB CARTER
1872-1973

Teacher and establisher of Teacher's Training Department at West Virginia State College



PEARL SYDENSTRICKER BUCK WALSH
1892 - 1973

Pulitzer Prize winner, winner of Nobel Prize for Literature and Howells Medal



NANCY HART DOUGLAS
Dates Unknown

Member of "Moccasin Rangers" and famous Confederate spy during the Civil War

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13. **Who's Who of American Women**. Fifth Ed., Chicago: The A.N. Marquis Company, 1968-1969, pp. 169 and 279.
14. **Women in the Active Voice: The Changing Mosaic**. Owing Mills: Maryland Department of Education, 1983, p. 93.