

61 VERY SHORT STORIES

AS TOLD BY

# Historic Markers OF LYNCHBURG VIRGINIA



VISIT  
**LYH**  
LYNCHBURG, VA

[lynchburgva.org](http://lynchburgva.org)

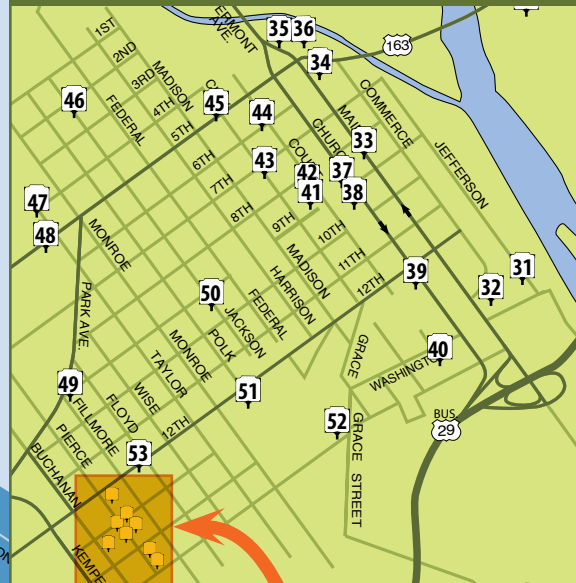
## LYNCHBURG KEY

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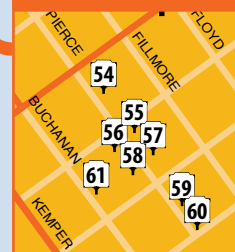
## CATEGORIES

- Sports
- Arts and Entertainment
- Lynchburg History
- African American History
- Women
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## DOWNTOWN



## PIERCE STREET



## PIERCE STREET KEY

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## 61 very short stories of the history of Lynchburg, as told through historic markers approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Here is a fun way to learn more about Lynchburg's storied past. Lynchburg has an unusually large number of Virginia historical highway markers—those familiar silver-and-black signs on posts, installed near busy streets and on many highways. Each tells a story in 50 to 100 words about a person, place, or event significant to Lynchburg's history.

These markers are the result of private citizens or groups in an effort to preserve the precious moments of history important to the fabric of the community in which they live. These advocates conducted all research and provided all documentation of their subject necessary for approval by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.\* These individuals or groups paid for their marker's fabrication and installation.

Other important guidelines for historic markers include: the person, place, or event must have reached its period of significance at least 50 years ago. In addition, the significance must reach beyond Central Virginia or have made an impact statewide or nationally. Having only local importance is not sufficient to qualify for a marker.

The markers assembled in this brochure can be divided into categories of interest: Sports, Civil War History, Arts and Entertainment, General Lynchburg History, African American History, and Women. Some subjects fit comfortably into more than one category.

Have fun as you explore our city and learn more about the citizens and special places that have helped make Lynchburg the vibrant city it is today.

\*For additional information about Virginia's Historic Marker program, contact:  
The Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221  
(804) 482-6089

At present there are more than 2,700 historic markers in Virginia. When the program began in 1927 it identified sites associated with the Civil War, Revolutionary War, and America's Founding Fathers. Today, the Commonwealth of Virginia has moved toward a more inclusive program by recognizing important American Indian, African American, and female individuals, thus reflecting a more diverse view of Virginia history. Lynchburg is a good example of this diversity and has been recognized statewide for its leadership.

### The Lynchburg markers in this booklet have identifying color codes:

- **Women:** Markers revealing the accomplishments of Lynchburg women in a variety of fields such as entertainment and the arts, social and humanitarian work, education, and service to our country.
- **African American History:** Markers reflecting the accomplishments of African Americans in the fields of education, the arts and social activism. Of particular interest are markers on the three blocks of Pierce Street from 12th to 15th Streets, which is also designated as the "Pierce Street Renaissance Historic District," where there are more markers concentrated than any other town or city in Virginia.
- **Sports Accomplishments:** Markers noting significant accomplishments in football, tennis, and golf, with exceptional coaches and the athletes sharing the spotlight.
- **Civil War History:** Markers showing the lines of defenses during the war when Union troops were threatening to invade the city. Most revolve around the hospital system that evolved to care for the numerous soldiers, sick and wounded, who were brought here by railroad from battles elsewhere in the state. These were some of the first markers to be erected in Lynchburg.
- **Arts and Entertainment:** Markers revealing the people in those fields and the newly restored historic Academy of Music Theatre at the Academy Center of the Arts.
- **General Lynchburg History:** Markers for the many people, places, or events that do not fit into any of the other category. These can be community leaders, places where something important happened, or a site that is a visitor destination today in its own right.

*A number of markers fit into more than one category and thus have a multicolored dot beside the title.*

“The living owe it to those who no longer  
can speak to tell their story for them.”

—Czesław Miłosz





## 1 Shoeless Wonders Football Team

Peakland Place at Linden Avenue

The nearby Presbyterian Orphans Home fielded its first football team by 1922. The players, boys under the age of 18, received minimal coaching, wore second hand uniforms, and soon began competing without shoes, except for a boot used during kickoffs. In 1926, news reports about the Shoeless Wonders propelled the team to national fame. The New York Times, Universal pictures newsreels and a Ripley's Believe It or Not cartoon featured the squad, which was undefeated for at least six straight seasons before 1931 and held opponents scoreless for at least five of those years. Later teams won consistently in the city league and against opponents from other Virginia localities. **Q-6-48**



## 3 Defense Works

Rivermont Ave. & Langhorne Rd.

On the crest of the hill just to the south was a redoubt forming part of the defenses thrown up by General D. H. Hill, June, 1864. These works were held by General Imboden's cavalry. A military road was constructed to connect this point with Fort McCausland. Signs of this road may still be seen in old Rivermont Park. **Q-6-5**

## 2 Morris Stanley Alexander (1891 – 1977)

3409 Rivermont Avenue

Morris Alexander was the first caddy master and a longtime golf professional at Oakwood Country Club, which opened here in 1914. For more than 50 years, this African American golfer taught fundamentals and golf etiquette at the club which was all white during the segregation era. Alexander tied the course record in 1928, earning national attention in the black press. The Morris Alexander Junior Golf Tournament attracted young golfers to the course during the 1950s; four of Alexander's students later won Virginia state championships and two were United States and British Amateur Champions. **Q-6-52**



## 4 Randolph-Macon Woman's College 2500 Rivermont Avenue

Founded by Dr. William Waugh Smith in 1891 and opened in 1893 as a member of the Randolph-Macon System of Educational Institutions, this Liberal Arts College has been recognized from its opening year for its high standards of scholarship. The scenic campus of 100 acres extends to the James River. **Q-6-14**



## 5 Pearl S. Buck

2615 Rivermont Ave.

Internationally known author and humanitarian Pearl Sydenstricker Buck (1892-1973) graduated in 1914 from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, where she wrote for the college's literary magazine. She was the author of more than 70 books, many of which were best sellers. In 1932, Buck received the Pulitzer Prize for the widely read novel *The Good Earth*. In 1938 she became the first United States woman to receive the Nobel Prize for literature. At the time of Buck's death, she was one of the most widely translated United States writers. In 1941, Buck was a founder of the East and West Association, dedicated to cultural exchange between the United States and Asia. **Q-6-22**



## 7 Miller-Claytor House

2200 Miller Claytor Lane

This building formerly stood at Eighth and Church streets. It now stands one block north. It was built by John Miller about 1791. Thomas Wiatt bought the house, long known as the "Mansion House." Samuel Claytor purchased it in 1825. For many years doctors' offices were here. For ninety years the house was owned by the Page family. The Lynchburg Historical Society moved and restored it. **Q-6-10**

## 6 Safe Haven in Lynchburg: Project Y Rivermont Ave. & Quinlan St.

In 1951, the National Gallery of Art established a secret emergency repository (Code named Project Y) for its distinguished collection of art on the campus of Randolph-Macon Woman's College. The specially designed reinforced concrete building, situated at the end of Quinlan Street, was built for use in the event of national crisis during the Cold War. In exchange for ownership and use of the facility, the college made it available to the National Gallery for 50 years for emergency purposes. The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust financed its construction. The building is now the home of the college's Maier Museum of Art. **Q-6-24**



## 8 Inner Defenses 1864

Rivermont Ave., north of Byrd St.

A line of shallow entrenchments extended from near this point along the crest of the hill to the east. These works were occupied by the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute, who had marched here with General Breckinridge after the Institute at Lexington was burned by General Hunter. **Q-6-7**



9 **James Rives Childs (1893-1987)**

911 Rivermont Ave.



Diplomat and author J. Rives Childs lived here in his youth. During World War I, he served in the U. S. Army as a code breaker in France. After working for the American Relief Administration in the Balkans and the Soviet Union, he began a 30 year diplomatic career in 1923. During World War II, as chargé d'affaires at the American Legation in Tangier, Morocco, Childs helped 1,200 Hungarian Jews obtain entry visas for Spanish Morocco and escape the Holocaust. He received the Medal of Freedom in 1946. Childs was later U. S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia. He wrote the textbook American Foreign Service (1948) and was an authority on 18th-century scholar and adventurer Giacomo Casanova. **Q-6-47**



10 **Point of Honor**

Rivermont & Victoria Ave.

Point of Honor stands half a mile to the northeast. Built for Dr. George Cabell Sr. in 1815, this refined Federal-style house is stylistically linked to dwellings in Richmond such as the Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House. According to local tradition, duels were fought on the property. Cabell owned the 750-acre plantation on which the house stands, as well as a nearby tobacco warehouse. Point of Honor retains most of its original architectural features and after its restoration the house was opened to the public as a museum in 1977.

**L-23**



11 **Locust Thicket**

2627 Old Forest Road

Maj. Samuel Scott (1754-1822), a Revolutionary War officer, bought land here in 1786 and established Locust Thicket, one of several plantations he owned nearby. About 30 enslaved African Americans labored on his properties. The existing house was likely built in the 1830s. During the Battle of Lynchburg, 17-18 June 1864, Union cavalry under Brig. Gen. Alfred Duffié engaged Confederates under Brig. Gen. John McCausland near here, leaving the house scarred. Among those buried in the Locust Thicket cemetery are Maj. Samuel Scott and his wife, Ann, their son Beverly Roy Scott, who served in the War of 1812, a Union cavalryman killed during the Battle of Lynchburg, and a Confederate veteran. **Q-6-45**

12 **Fort McCausland**

Langhorne Rd. between Clifton & Hill Sts.

The fort on the hill here was constructed by General J. A. Early to protect the approach to Lynchburg from the west. Union cavalry skirmished with the Confederates along the road immediately west of the fort. The Unionists, driven back by General McCausland, were unable to enter the city from this direction. **Q-6-2**



**13 Lucille Chaffin Kent (1908-1997)**

2211 Memorial Ave.

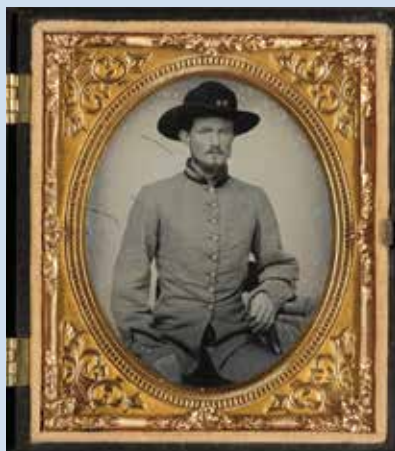
Lucille Kent, born near here, was among the first Virginia women to earn an instructor's rating in aeronautics. In 1939 she began teaching meteorology, navigation, and civil air regulations at E. C. Glass High School. During World War II, she was ground school director for the Civilian Pilot Training Program (later War Training Service) in Lynchburg and instructed about 2,000 future military pilots at Lynchburg College, in commandeered facilities at the Miller Home for Girls, and at Preston Glenn Airport. After qualifying as an instructor on the Link Trainer, a flight simulator, Kent taught pilots how to navigate using instruments. She later wrote a comprehensive aeronautics manual. **Q-6-37**



**14 Mustered and Disbanded 1861-1865**

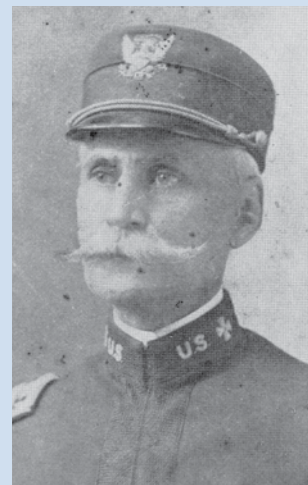
Park Ave. at Park La.

At this point the Second Virginia Cavalry was mustered into service, May 10, 1861. At the same place the remnant of this regiment was disbanded, April 10, 1865, completing a service of four years lacking one month. The regiment participated in many campaigns and engagements. **Q-6-6**



**15 Dr. Robert Withers Morgan (1844-1904)** 1900 Memorial Ave.

Dental innovator Dr. Robert W. Morgan lived here. Troubled by the lack of dental care for soldiers while he served in the Confederate army, he studied dentistry after the war. During the 1880s he formulated dental hygiene products including Dental Chewing Gum, Dental Chewing Tobacco, and Dental Scotch Snuff, which were manufactured in Lynchburg. Working with Rep. Peter Otey, Morgan drafted preliminary legislation that was the basis for congressional approval in 1901 of the first contract dentists to serve the U.S. Army. He was one of three members appointed to the Army's first Board of Dental Examiners. **Q-6-32**



**16 Georgia Weston Morgan (1869-1951)** 1900 Memorial Ave.

Artist and educator Georgia Morgan studied painting at Randolph-Macon Woman's College and at the Académie Julian in Paris. She was a co-founder of the Lynchburg Civic Art League in 1932 and helped establish the city's Federal Art Gallery, a Works Progress Administration project, in 1936. Both groups promoted arts education and exhibition for people of all socio-economic backgrounds. She chaired the art department at Lynchburg College for 30 years and was elected to the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors. Her work, primarily miniatures and landscapes, was exhibited at the Paris Salon and in galleries from Maine to Florida. **Q-6-33**







## 17 **Lynchburg College** Lakeside Dr. between Hopwood and College Dr.

Lynchburg College was founded in 1903 as Virginia Christian College by Dr. Josephus Hopwood and a group of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) clergymen and lay leaders. It is one of the earliest colleges in Virginia to be founded as a coeducational institution. Its name was changed to Lynchburg College in 1919. The former Westover Hotel served as the college's original building. Renamed Westover Hall, it was dismantled in 1970. Hopwood Hall, designed in the Classical Revival style by architect Edward G. Frye and completed in 1909, is the oldest classroom building on campus and is still in use. **Q-6-13**

## 18 **Fort Early** 3511 Memorial Avenue

Named for Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early, this roughly square earthen redoubt served as a part of the outer line of defense for Lynchburg in June 1864. Fort Early and the outer fortifications were constructed to provide additional protection for the vital railroad facilities in Lynchburg threatened by Union Maj. Gen. David Hunter's troops after Early arrived on 17 June. On 18 June, Hunter advanced his troops towards Confederate positions, while Union artillery bombarded Fort Early and other Confederate fortifications. After a number of unsuccessful assaults during the day, Hunter ordered a retreat that night. His troops withdrew to the southwest toward present-day Roanoke. **Q-6-1**



## 19 **Helen Pesci Wood (1911-1964)**

3766 Fort Ave.

Helen Pesci Wood, operatic soprano and arts educator, was born in Chicago and lived near here for many years. She began performing professionally in the 1940s. Over the next two decades, she appeared at Carnegie Hall and the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, Her Majesty's Theatre in Montreal, and on the Chicago



Theater of the Air. From 1950 to 1964 she was a soloist at the Colonial Williamsburg Governor's Palace Candlelight Concerts. Wood taught voice at Lynchburg College and, in 1952, she organized the Virginia Grass Roots Opera, a troupe that traveled thousands of miles and brought the art form to communities throughout Virginia. **Q-6-42**



## 20 **Sandusky (757 Sandusky Drive)**

5810 Fort Ave.

To the northwest is Sandusky, built by Charles Johnston about 1808. He named it after a place in Ohio where Indians had held him prisoner in 1790. The two-story structure was one of the Lynchburg area's first houses to display the details and refinement of high-style Federal architecture. In 1864, during the Battle of Lynchburg, Sandusky served as headquarters for Union Maj. Gen. David Hunter. Future presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley served on Hunter's staff. Hunter had been a West Point classmate of Confederate Maj. George C. Hutter, who owned Sandusky at the time of the Union occupation. **L-22**



## 21 Quaker Meeting House

5810 Fort Ave.

In the mid-18th century, members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) settled in the Lynchburg area, initially worshiping in one another's houses. According to local tradition, the first meetinghouse was constructed here of logs in 1757 and enlarged in 1763. In 1768 it burned and the next year a frame church was built. It stood until 1792, when construction began on a stone meetinghouse completed in 1798. It deteriorated after 1835 as many Quakers, who opposed slavery, emigrated from Lynchburg and Virginia to free states. The meetinghouse was restored in the 20th

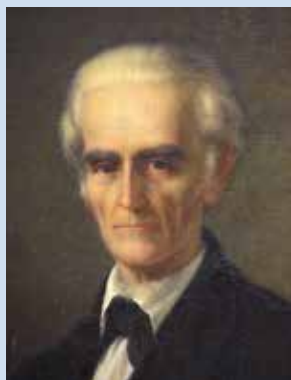


century as the Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church. John Lynch, the founder of Lynchburg, and his mother, Sarah Lynch, are buried in the adjacent cemetery. **L-20**

## 22 Samuel Miller (1792-1869)

Richland Dr. near Brookville La.

Samuel Miller, born in poverty in Albemarle County, became a successful Lynchburg tobacco merchant as a young adult. Investments in land, bonds, banks, and railroads later made him one of antebellum Virginia's wealthiest men. Though reclusive and frugal in his personal life, he was a generous philanthropist. Among his beneficiaries were the University of Virginia, the City of Lynchburg, the Miller Home of Lynchburg for Girls, and the Miller School of Albemarle. In June 1864 Union forces ransacked his nearby home looking for valuables. That residence is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. **Q-6-34**



## 23 Ota Benga (ca. 1885-1916)

Garfield Ave. at Dewitt St.

Mbye Otabenga, later known as Ota Benga, was born in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 1904 the Rev. Samuel P. Verner, adventurer and former Presbyterian missionary, brought Benga and eight other Congolese purported to be "Pygmies" to be displayed at the St. Louis World's Fair.



Two years later the Bronx Zoo in New York exhibited Benga in its "Monkey House" alongside an orangutan. Outraged African American ministers secured his release from the zoo and placed him in an orphanage in Brooklyn. In 1910 Benga was brought to Lynchburg to attend the Virginia Theological Seminary and College. Despondent over his inability to return to Africa, he committed suicide in 1916. **Q-6-39**

## 24 Virginia University of Lynchburg

Dewitt St. at Garfield Ave.

In 1886 the Virginia Baptist State Convention founded the Lynchburg Baptist Seminary as an institution of "self-reliance," "racial pride," and "faith". It first offered classes in 1890 as the renamed Virginia Seminary. Under the direction of Gregory Willis Hayes, the second president of the college who served from 1891 to 1906, the school became a pioneer in the field of African American education. In 1900 the school was reincorporated as the Virginia Theological Seminary and College and in 1962 became the Virginia Seminary and College. The college was renamed and incorporated as Virginia University of Lynchburg in 1996. Among its graduates was the poet Anne Spencer. **Q-6-15**



25 **Desmond Thomas Doss (1919-2006)** Campbell Ave. at Mosby St.

Lynchburg native Desmond T. Doss grew up nearby in the Fairview Heights neighborhood. A member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and a pacifist, Doss was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II but refused to bear arms. Though officially labeled a conscientious objector, he considered himself a "conscientious cooperator." Doss served as a medic with the 77th Infantry Division on Okinawa in the spring of 1945. On 5 May, under intense fire, he saved about 75 wounded men by lowering each one down a cliff. Later in May he was badly wounded but gave up his place on a litter to another soldier. In Oct. 1945 Doss became the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor. **Q-6-40**



27 **Chestnut Hill**

Nearby stood Chestnut Hill, the home of Charles Lynch, Sr. He was the father of John Lynch, the founder of Lynchburg, and of Charles Lynch, Jr., a Revolutionary officer. Charles Lynch, Sr., died in 1753 and is believed to be buried at Chestnut Hill. The wooden house was later owned by Judge Edmond Winston and then by Henry Langhorne, during whose occupancy it burned. Members of the Lynch family were among the first Quaker settlers in the area. **K-146**

Campbell Ave. at Martin St.



28 **Lynchburg Defenses** Rte. 501, northbound, at Rte. 460 east

The earthwork on the hilltop, two hundred yards to the east, was thrown up as a part of the system of defenses for Lynchburg, 1861-65. The city was an important supply base and railroad center. **M-60**

26 **Virginia Collegiate and Industrial Institute**

Seabury Ave. at Bass School

The Virginia Collegiate and Industrial Institute opened here in 1893 as a branch of Morgan College in Baltimore, Maryland. The school offered college preparation, industrial education, and teacher training to African American students. Jackson Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Lynchburg purchased land for the campus and provided additional financial support. The Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church contributed funds for operating expenses. African American educator Frank Trigg was the institute's first principal. After a fire destroyed the main building in Dec. 1917, the school closed and its students were transferred to Morgan College in Baltimore. **Q-6-38**



Diving board was built into the side of the fort. All has now been demolished for highway interchange.





## 29 Megginson Rosenwald School

136 Spinoza Cirde

● The Megginson School was built here ca. 1923 for African American students in the Pleasant Valley community, then part of Campbell County. Albert Megginson (1831-1923), formerly enslaved, purchased land in this area after the Civil War and later donated two acres for the school. The two-classroom building was constructed with financial support from local African Americans, the county, and the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which helped build more than 5,000 schools and supporting structures for black students in the rural South between 1917 and 1932. African American resident Wiley Gaines purchased school buses that transported students to this and other local segregated schools. **Q-6-46**



## 30 Montview

Liberty University Dr., at University Blvd.

● Montview was constructed in 1923 as the home of Senator and former Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, Carter Glass. Glass served in the House of Representatives and Senate from 1902 to 1946 and was known as the "Father of the Federal Reserve System" in recognition of which his likeness appears on the \$50,000 Treasury note. Glass was a co-sponsor of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933. In 1941, he was sworn in as President Pro-Tem of the U.S. Senate on the sun porch of Montview. **L-21**



## 31 Luke Jordan, Blues Pioneer

Jefferson St. at Horseford Rd.

● Singer-guitarist Luke Jordan (1892-1952) was a familiar presence on the streets of Lynchburg from the 1920s until World War II. Jordan and other African American musicians in the Southeast merged blues with an existing repertoire of ballads, ragtime, and tent-show songs, creating a syncopated and upbeat style now called Piedmont or East Coast Blues. The Victor Record Company, seeking blues artists to satisfy popular demand, recorded Jordan in 1927 and 1929, issuing classics such as "Church Bell Blues" and "Pick Poor Robin Clean." The Great Depression hurt sales and ended Jordan's career, but he remained an important and widely imitated Virginia blues musician. **Q-6-21**



## 32 Lucile Barrow Turner (1895-1979) near 1312 Commerce St.

● 'Cile Turner, a Southside Virginia native who resided near Lynchburg, championed African American folk music during her 50-year career as a composer, folklorist, and performer. A white, affluent, married woman, she transcended social norms as she traveled throughout the South to perform and learn work songs, dance tunes, lullabies, and spirituals. In 1930 she gained national recognition as star of the Craddock-Terry Shoe Company's weekly radio program on NBC. She later promoted African American folk music through studio recordings and television appearances. Her casual, engaging manner and her respectful treatment of the music won praise from both black and white audiences.

**Q-6-36**







### 33 Nuclear Ship Savannah

800 Main St.

The NS *Savannah* was the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship. Authorized in 1956 during Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace initiative, its purpose was to demonstrate to the world the safe and peaceful use of atomic power. The Babcock & Wilcox Company designed Savannah's nuclear propulsion system at its Kemper Street office nearby and built the system at its Mount Athos facility four miles east of here. The ship's first crew trained at Lynchburg College. From 1962 to 1970, Savannah traveled more than 450,000 miles, stopped at 45 foreign and 32 domestic ports, and received more than 1.5 million visitors. The ship was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1991. **Q-6-51**

### 34 The Academy of Music (1905-1958)

Main at Fifth St.

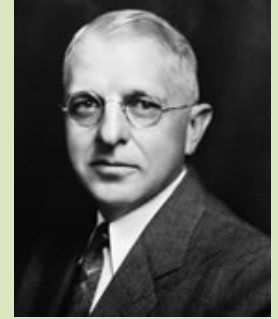
The Academy of Music was a regional center of entertainment early in the 20th century. Its neo-classical facade and elaborate interior date from the rebuilding following a fire in 1911. The theater featured local talent, vaudeville acts, and performances by national and international luminaries such as Maude Adams, Sarah Bernhardt, Eubie Blake, George M. Cohan, W. C. Handy, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Anna Pavlova, Will Rogers, and John Philip Sousa. Primarily a movie house after 1928, the Academy closed in 1958 and was vacant for decades. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and, after restoration, reopened in 2018 as the theater of the Academy Center of the Arts. **Q-6-49**



### 35 Allen Weir Freeman, M.D. (1881-1954)

400 Main St.

Born at 416 Main Street, Allen W. Freeman, brother of editor and historian Douglas Southall Freeman, was a pioneer in public health administration and education. He was educated at the University of Richmond and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md. He served as medical inspector of the Richmond City Health Department; first assistant commissioner of health for Virginia; epidemiologist, U.S. Public Health Service; commissioner of health for Ohio; professor and dean, Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health; president, American Public Health Association; and consultant to several foreign governments in developing public health programs. **Q-6-16**



### 36 Douglas Southall Freeman

400 Main St.

Born at 416 Main Street on 16 May 1886, the son of a Confederate veteran, Douglas Southall Freeman moved with his family to Richmond three years later. He graduated from the University of Richmond in 1904 and earned a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in 1908. Freeman subsequently held several posts as an educator and editor, but he is best known as the editor of the *Richmond News Leader* (1915-1949) and as the author of Pulitzer Prize-winning biographies of Robert E. Lee and George Washington. Freeman died in Richmond on 13 June 1953. **Q-6-17**



### 37 Carter Glass

- Born January 4, 1858, in a house which stood on this site. Newspaper publisher; member of the State Senate and Delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1901-1902; member of the United States House of Representatives, 1902-1918, and principal author of the Federal Reserve Act; Secretary of the Treasury, 1918-1920; member of the United States Senate from 1920 until his death in 1946. **Q-6-12**

829 Church St.



### 38 Lynchburg

Church St. at Ninth St.

- (Marker front) In 1757 John Lynch opened a ferry here; in 1765 a church was built. In 1786 Lynchburg was established by act of assembly; in 1791 the first tobacco warehouse was built. Lynchburg was incorporated as a town in 1805. In 1840 the James River and Kanawha Canal, from Richmond to Lynchburg, was opened; the section to Buchanan, in 1851. Lynchburg became a city in 1852. (Marker back) Trains began running on the first railroad, the Virginia and Tennessee, in 1852. Lynchburg was a main military supply center, 1862-65. Here the Confederates under General Early defeated the Union General Hunter, June 18, 1864. In 1893 Randolph-Macon Woman's College opened; in 1903, Lynchburg College. In 1920 the council manager form of government was adopted. **Q-6-11**



### 39 Federal Transient Bureau Fire

Twelfth Street between Main and Church

- The deadliest fire in Lynchburg history occurred here at a Federal Transient Bureau shelter on 24 March 1934. The Bureau, opened by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration as part of the New Deal, housed out-of-work men passing through town during the Great Depression. The two-story building was overcrowded when an early morning kitchen fire spread rapidly and claimed the lives of at least 19 inhabitants; about 70 others were injured. The federal government returned many bodies to their families, but seven were buried locally in the Old City Cemetery. National attention was focused on Lynchburg, and federal guidelines for homeless shelters were improved as a result of this disaster. **Q-6-44**

Current location of Lynchburg Visitor Center



### 40 Cary Devall Langhorne (1873-1948)

313 Washington St

- Lynchburg native Cary D. Langhorne spent his early years here. A surgeon in the U.S. Navy, he was wounded in the Philippine-American War (1899-1902). During the Mexican Revolution, the U.S. government disputed the legitimacy of Mexican Pres. Victoriano Huerta. Clashes over a German arms shipment and the detention of American sailors led Pres. Woodrow Wilson to order American vessels, including Langhorne's ship USS Vermont, to seize the port of Veracruz. On 22 Apr. 1914, during the ensuing battle, Langhorne carried a wounded man to safety under heavy fire, for which he received the Medal of Honor. He later served aboard a hospital ship during World War I.



**Q-6-43**



41 **Samuel D. Rockenbach (1869-1952)**

● **Brigadier General, U.S. Army Cavalry** Madison and 8th Sts.



Nearby at 805 Madison Street is the birthplace of General Rockenbach, "Father of the U.S. Army Tank Corps." He began his education in Lynchburg schools and was an honor graduate of Virginia Military Institute in 1889. As first chief of the Army's tank corps in 1917,

he pioneered training schools and field organization for tank warfare in World War I. **Q-6-18**

42 **John Daniel's Home**

702 Court Street

● This Federal-style mansion was built by John Marshall Warwick in 1826. It was the birthplace of John Warwick Daniel, grandson of the builder, whose father was Judge William Daniel, resident of nearby Point of Honor. John W. Daniel was known as the "Lame Lion of Lynchburg" due to extensive wounds suffered in the Civil War. He later served in the Virginia Assembly as both delegate and senator and for sixteen years in the United States Congress as congressman and senator. **K-142**



43 **Rosalie Slaughter Morton, M.D. (1872-1968)**

Seventh and Clay Streets



The childhood home of Rosalie S. Morton, surgeon and public health advocate, stood on the present site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Morton graduated from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1897 and trained in Europe and Asia. She led a nationwide public-health initiative for the American Medical Association beginning in 1909. During World War I, Morton worked in field hospitals on the Salonika Front and was a founder of the American Women's Hospitals service, which opened its first hospital in 1918 in France. She established the International Serbian Educational Committee in 1919. Morton received decorations for distinguished service from the governments of France and Serbia. **Q-6-50**



44 **Court Street Baptist Church**

Sixth and Court Streets



The congregation was organized in 1843, when Lynchburg's African American Baptists were separated from First Baptist Church. The new African Baptist Church of Lynchburg met in a converted theater. It was demolished in 1879, after the deaths of eight people during a panic caused by fear of structural collapse. Church members provided all the money to buy land at Sixth and Court Street for a new building. Local architect Robert C. Burkholder designed the church, combining the Romanesque Revival and Second Empire styles. It was the largest church building with the tallest spire in the city in 1880. **Q-18**





**45 Abram Frederick Biggers & Biggers School** 501 Fifth St.

Abram Frederick Biggers (1838–1879), a lawyer by profession, was appointed the first superintendent of the Lynchburg and Campbell County schools in 1870. As a part of his effort to build a strong system, Biggers toured northern states to study their schools. He is credited with building one of the best school systems in the state. The Lynchburg schools opened to more than 700 students segregated by race in nine rented buildings. Biggers School, designed by August Forsburg, was the largest in Lynchburg when it opened in 1881 with a

capacity for 305 students. The school served the community until its demolition in the autumn of 1967. **Q-6-19**



**46 Jacob E. Yoder** Jackson St. at Second St.

Jacob Eschbach Yoder (22 Feb. 1838–15 Apr. 1905), reared a Mennonite in Pennsylvania, came to Lynchburg after the Civil War to teach former slaves in the Freedmen's Bureau's Camp Davis School. Following Reconstruction, Yoder served as supervising principal of Lynchburg's African American schools for more than 25 years and helped start the College Hill Baptist Church Sunday school. When he died, black teachers declared that "he had devoted his life unselfishly, and unstintingly to our race, and wore himself out in service to us." In 1911, the Lynchburg School Board named the new Yoder School for blacks, which stood here, after this public school pioneer. **Q-13**



**47 Old City Cemetery** 401 Taylor Street

Old City Cemetery, also known as the Methodist Cemetery, was established as a public burial ground in 1806 on land donated by John Lynch, founder of Lynchburg. Mayors and other prominent civic leaders, along with the city's indigent and "strangers," are among the estimated 20,000 people buried here. Three quarters of those interred here are of African descent, both enslaved and free. The cemetery's Confederate section contains the graves of more than 2,200 soldiers from 14 states. Museums on the property interpret the diverse history of this rehabilitated graveyard and its inhabitants. The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. **Q-6-25**



**48 Inner Defences** Fifth St. between Wise and Taylor Sts.

Near here ran the line of inner defences located by Gen. D. H. Hill, June, 1864. He had been sent from Petersburg by Gen. Beauregard to assist Gen. Breckinridge then in command. On Gen. Early's arrival, troops were moved to the outer works. Error: Note that the name and the first sentence of the marker are incorrect, and should read: Q-6-9 Inner Defenses Near here ran the line of inner defenses located by Gen. D. H. Hill, June, 1864. **Q-6-9**

**49 Inner Defenses** Ninth St. at Park Ave.

Here, facing west, ran the inner defenses of the city, located by General D. H. Hill. They were constructed by convalescents and home guards. General Early, after an inspection of the system, moved most of the men to the outer works well to the westward. **Q-6-8**



## 50 Virginia Teachers Association

901 Jackson St.



African American educators organized the Virginia Teachers' Reading Circle here at the Jackson Street Methodist Episcopal Church on 13 Aug. 1887. Established during a ses-

sion of the Peabody Normal Institute, a summer course for teachers from across the state, the Reading Circle provided professional development for teachers of black students in Virginia's public schools. James Hugo Johnston, second president of what is now Virginia State University, was elected to lead the organization. Later known as the Virginia Teachers Association, the group served black educators until it merged with the Virginia Education Association on 1 Jan. 1967. **Q-6-41**

## 51 Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

1200 Polk St

African American community leaders petitioned Lynchburg's school board for a new high school to serve black students early in the 1920s. Named for poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, the school opened here in 1923. Shop, home economics, and administration buildings were later constructed. Clarence W. Seay, principal from 1938 to 1968, recruited a dedicated faculty and expanded the curriculum. Counselor Pauline Weeden Maloney guided many graduates to major universities. The school's cultural, literary, and athletic programs made it a focal point for the African American community. Dunbar became a junior high school in 1970-71, and the original building was demolished in 1979. **Q-6-35**



## 52 Diamond Hill Baptist Church

1415 East Grace St.

Diamond Hill Baptist Church was established in 1872, seven years after slavery was abolished. The current church, a Gothic Revival-style building, was completed in 1886. Under the pastorate and leadership of the Rev. Dr. Virgil A. Wood from 1958 to 1963, the church became central to the Civil Rights movement in the Lynchburg area as the base of operations for demonstrations, sit-ins, and rallies seeking to end segregation. The church also hosted speeches by notable figures in the national Civil Rights movement. Efforts to achieve racial equality continued under the 1964-2000 pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Haywood Robinson Jr. **Q-7**



## 53 Inner Defenses 1864

Twelfth St. near Floyd St.

Here ran the inner line of Lynchburg defenses thrown up by General D. H. Hill in June, 1864. General John C. Breckinridge, confronting General Hunter in the Shenandoah Valley, made a forced march to forestall Hunter. Hill constructed a shallow line of trenches, occupied by Breckinridge, and hospital convalescents and home guards. It became a reserve line when General Early arrived. **Q-6-3**





## 54 Camp Davis

Pierce St. between 12th and 13th Sts.



Camp Davis, a Civil War mustering ground for Confederate troops from Virginia under the command of Col. Jubal A. Early, once occupied this area. At least 130 Southern soldiers died at the camp's own Pratt Hospital and were buried in Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery. The neighborhood's historically African American identity took shape during Reconstruction, when Camp Davis became an important refuge for freed slaves. Before being annexed by the city in 1870, it was the site of Federal military headquarters, the Freedmen's Bureau's Camp Davis School, headed by Jacob Eschbach Yoder, and a black Methodist Episcopal church. **Q-6-29**

## 55 C. W. Seay (1900-1982)

1300 Pierce St.

Clarence William "Dick" Seay, who lived here, was principal of Dunbar High School, Lynchburg's secondary school for African Americans. A pioneer in the struggle for equal opportunities for blacks, for 30 years Seay shaped Dunbar High School into a school of academic excellence, holding that a "successful school and its community are inseparable." He later became the first high school principal elected to the presidency of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. After his retirement in 1968, Seay taught at Lynchburg College and served two terms as Lynchburg's first black city council member since the 1880s and the first black vice mayor. **Q-6-28**



## 56 Amelia Perry Pride's Dorchester Home

1305 Pierce St.

Near this spot stood a small frame house known as Dorchester Home or Old Folks Home for impoverished former slave women. Established in 1897 by Hampton Institute graduate and Lynchburg public school principal Amelia Perry Pride (1857-1932), it provided shelter, fuel, clothing, and food for its residents until their deaths. Following Hampton Institute's principle of uplifting her race through self-help, Pride was a passionate advocate of African American and Virginia Indian education. In Lynchburg, she provided scholarships for many young women seeking higher education and established sewing and cooking schools for women and men entering vocational fields. **Q-6-30**



COURTESY OF HAMPTON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## 57 Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr.

1306 Pierce St.



Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr., aviation pioneer and Civil Rights activist was born in Lynchburg on 5 Nov. 1906, the son of poet Anne Spencer. He moved to Chicago and by 1934 began pursuing his pilot's license. As a charter member of the National Airmen's Association of America, he and Dale L. White

in 1939 made an aeronautical tour from Chicago to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the inclusion of African Americans in the Army Air Corps. This included meeting Senator Harry S Truman. Spencer also worked for the U.S. Air Force and was a public servant in Michigan and California. He lived here from 1977 until his death on 21 Aug. 2002. **Q-6-23**



58 **The Anne Spencer House**

1313 Pierce St.



This was the home of Edward Alexander and Anne Bannister Spencer from 1903 until her death on July 25, 1975. Born on February 6, 1882, in Henry County, Va. Anne Spencer was to receive national and international recognition as a poet. Published extensively between 1920 and

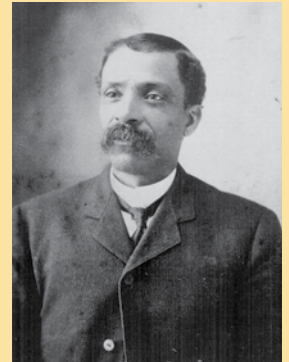
1935, she belonged to the Harlem Renaissance school of writers. **Q-6-20**

60 **Professor Frank Trigg (1850-1933)**

1422 Pierce St.



Frank Trigg was a leading black educator in Virginia. He was born into slavery in Richmond while his parents were personal servants of Virginia Governor John B. Floyd. After the Civil War he attended Hampton Institute, and began teaching in Abingdon before moving to Lynchburg in 1880. He was a teacher and principal

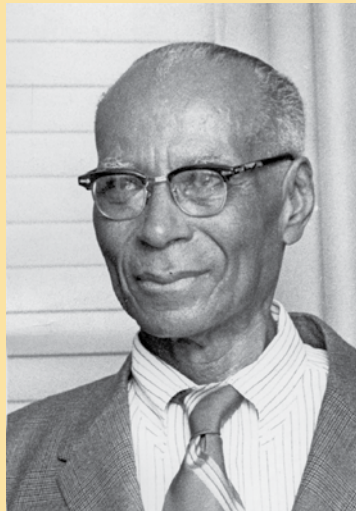


here for 22 years and became the first black supervisor of Lynchburg's black public schools. He was co-founder of the Virginia Teachers' Association, and later was president of colleges in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. In 1926 he retired to Lynchburg and resided here. He is buried in Old City Cemetery. **Q-6-26**

59 **Dr. Robert Walter Johnson (1899-1971)** near 1422 Pierce St.



The desegregation of tennis was due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Robert W. "Whirlwind" Johnson. The first African American to earn staff privileges at Lynchburg General Hospital, he also worked to overcome barriers keeping young African Americans out of tennis. As founder of the



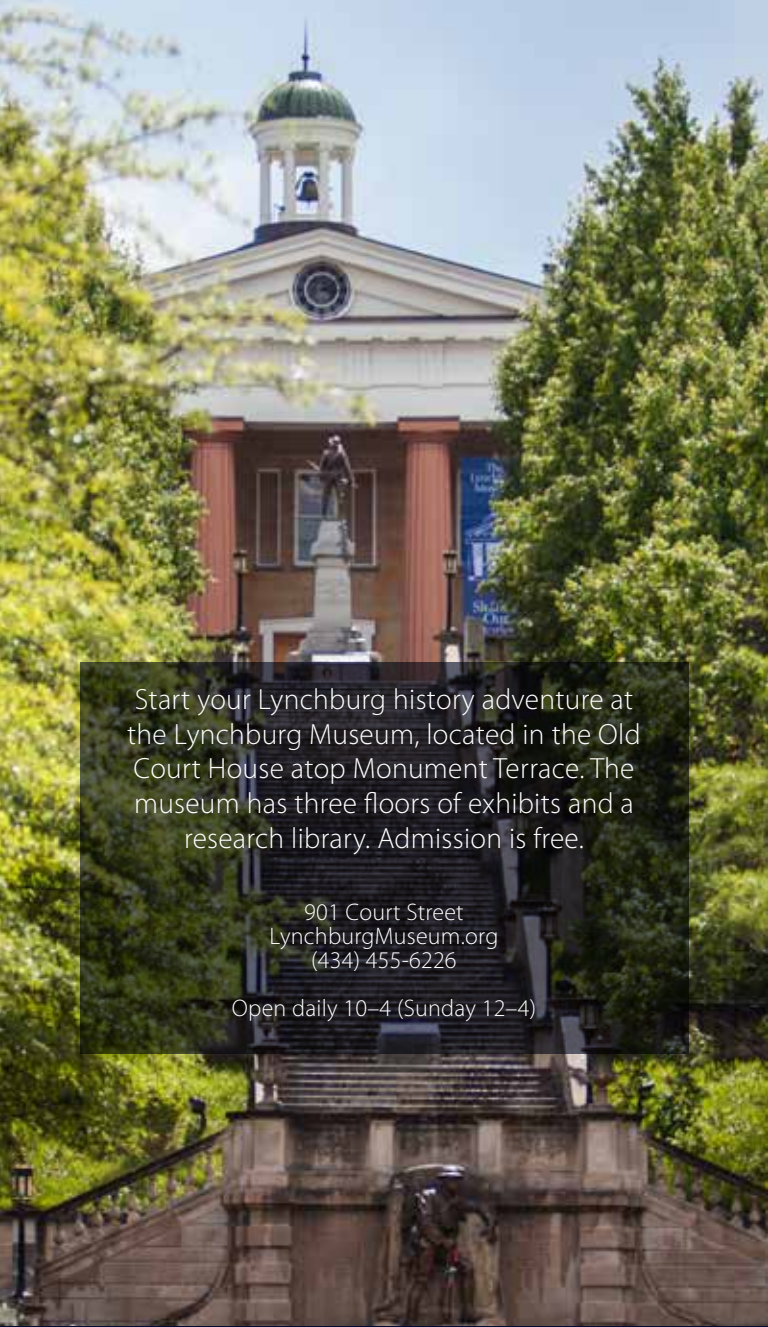
Junior Development Program of the American Tennis Association, Johnson sponsored African-American players from across the country in tournaments, and coached and mentored them on backyard courts here at his home. Among those he trained were Wimbledon Champions Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe. Johnson was posthumously inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2009. **Q-6-27**

61 **Pauline Weeden Maloney (1904-1987)** 1316 Buchanan St.



Here lived Pauline Maloney, known as Lynchburg's "first lady of education." A graduate of Howard University, she worked in Lynchburg public schools from 1937 to 1970, most notably as a guidance counselor

and administrator at the all-black Dunbar High School. During the 1970s she was elected the first black president of both the Virginia School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association Southern Region. In 1977 Maloney became the first woman rector of Norfolk State University. She served as national president of The Links, Inc., a civic organization of African American women, and she founded the Lynchburg chapter in 1950. **Q-6-31**



Start your Lynchburg history adventure at the Lynchburg Museum, located in the Old Court House atop Monument Terrace. The museum has three floors of exhibits and a research library. Admission is free.

901 Court Street  
LynchburgMuseum.org  
(434) 455-6226

Open daily 10–4 (Sunday 12–4)



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