

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Action Agenda
Item No. IV-C

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
Meeting Date: March 8, 1993

SUBJECT: Proclamation of
Women's History Month

DEPARTMENT:
Commission for Women

PUBLIC HEARING: Yes No

ATTACHMENT(S):
. Proclamation
. March 1993 Events

INFORMATION CONTACT:
Lucy Lewis, ext 2251

TELEPHONE NUMBER:
Hillsborough - 732-8181
Chapel Hill - 968-4501
Durham - 688-7331
Mebane - 227-2031

PURPOSE: To officially recognize March, 1993, as Women's History Month in Orange County.

BACKGROUND: The celebration of this event is one of the Commission's objectives for 1992/1993. This is a fitting opportunity to acknowledge the contributions women have made to our community, state and nation.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends that the Board of Commissioners proclaim March, 1993, as Women's History Month.



Orange County Commission for Women

Box 8181 • 110 North Churton Street • Hillsborough, NC 27278

THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING
PROCLAMATION TO THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

WHEREAS American women of every race, class, and ethnic
background have made historic contributions to the growth
and strength of our Nation;

WHEREAS American women have played and continue to play a
critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere
of the life of the Nation;

WHEREAS American women served as early leaders in the
forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

WHEREAS, these contributions have been historically
overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and
study of American history; and

WHEREAS, women in Orange County have made and continue
to make significant historical contributions to our
community, state, and nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, do we, the Commissioners of Orange County,
proclaim the month of March, 1993, as

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

and commend this observance to Orange County citizens.

Moses Carey, Jr., Chairman

PAF 3/8/93
IV-C 3



Orange County Commission for Women

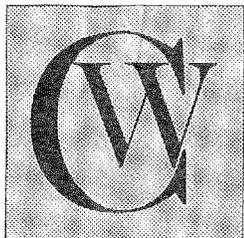
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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
March, 1993

Activities and Events in Orange County

1. Ask the County Commissioners to proclaim March as Women's History Month at the March 8th Board of Commissioners meeting.
2. Co-sponsor educational displays about Orange County women who have been first in a significant area of achievement at the Chapel Hill and Orange County public libraries, with Orange County Extension Homemakers Association, Orange County Rape Crisis Center, Orange County Women's Center, Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women.
3. Co-sponsor a reception honoring Orange County women who have been first in a significant area of achievement, on Sunday, March 28, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the County Government Services Building, with Orange County Extension Homemakers Association, Orange County Rape Crisis Center, Orange County Women's Center, Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women.

PAF 3-8-93
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THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION TO THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

WHEREAS American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation;

WHEREAS American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation;

WHEREAS American women served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

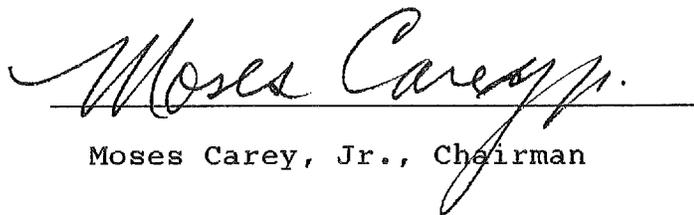
WHEREAS, these contributions have been historically overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, women in Orange County have made and continue to make significant historical contributions to our community, state, and nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, do we, the Commissioners of Orange County, proclaim the month of March, 1993, as

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

and commend this observance to Orange County citizens.


Moses Carey, Jr., Chairman

3-8-93 IV C
IV-C

First Women of Orange County

1993



Woman's History Month Project

We would like to thank the many people that so kindly took the time to search records, their memories and even college records for information. Special thanks go to the wonderfully helpful public servants in Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Orange County, and the two School Systems' offices. We could not have made this list without their help.

Some of this information came from memory, which is fallible, and from available resources. If you know of any corrections and especially if you have any additions for future displays, please contact the Orange County Commission for Women office at 732-8181.

The Women listed above will be honored at a Reception on Sunday, March 28, 1993, at the the New County Government Services Building in Hillsborough. All Orange County citizens are invited to attend. Please contact the Orange County Commission for Women at 732-8181 if you would like to attend. We hope to see you there!

Special thanks to Peachy Wicker for her hours of research and to Linda Carver for her help with the display.

THE ORANGE COUNTY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH COMMITTEE included:

The Orange County Commission for Women
The Orange County Rape Crisis Center
The Orange County Women's Center
The Orange-Durham Coalition for Battered Women
N.C. Cooperative Extension-Homemakers Association

First Women in Orange County Government

The first Woman to serve on the Orange County Criminal Court jury was

Edith Baker Giduz in 1947

Roland Giduz, her son, " My mother was very proud of this. She took it seriously. "

The first Woman elected Orange County Official was

Betty June Hayes register of Deeds in December 1945 to the present time.

The first Woman on the Orange County Board of Elections was

Elaine Wallace in 1968 to 1972.

"There was no Board of Elections office when I came on the board in February 1968. We met at the sheriff's office and discussed our business there; sometimes in the hall. "

The first Woman to represent Orange County in the General Assembly was

Patricia Stanford (Hunt Love) appointed in 1970; elected in 1972 and served till 1981.

The first Woman Supervisor of the Board of Elections was
Bobbie Strickland 1969 to the present time.

The first Woman Orange County Commissioner was

Flora (Flo) Garrett in December 1972 to December 1974

The first Woman Chairman of the Board of Orange County Commissioners was

Flora (Flo) Garrett in December 1974 to December 1976.

The first Woman Deputy Sheriff in Orange County was
Joan Childers in January 1979.

The first Woman of color Deputy Sheriff in Orange County was

Cynthia Mebane in October of 1979.

The first Woman on the Orange County Board of Elections was

Lillian Lee in 1977.

The first Woman District Court Judge for Orange County was
Patricia Stanford Hunt in November 1981 to the present.

The first Woman Clerk of the Court was

Jean Connerat appointed in October 1985.

The first Woman elected Clerk of Court was

Shirley James in 1986 to the present.

The first Woman Chief District Court Judge in North Carolina was

Patricia Stanford Hunt in November 1989.

The first President of the District Court Judge's Conference was

Patricia Stanford Hunt in 1992 to 1993.

First Women in Municipal Government

Carrboro

The first Woman on the Carrboro Board of Alderman was
Mary Riggsbee in May 1979 to Decamber 1975.

The first woman Mayor of the City of Carrboro
was
Ruth West in December 1975 to December 1977.

The first woman in Law Enforcement was
Phyllis Coates in February 1981.

The first woman in the Fire Department was
Doris Sanders in December 1981.

Chapel Hill

The first woman elected to the Board of Aldermen (now the
Town Council) was

Adelaide Walters on May 10, 1957 to May 10, 1965.
Eliska Chanlett : "She was my role model."

The first woman of color on the Chapel Hill Public
Recreation Commission was

Rebecca Clark in the late 50's or early 60's.

The first woman in Law Enforcement was
Dene Eller in 1974.

The first woman firefighter was
Caprice Mellar in 1990.

The first woman of color on the Town Council was
Barbara Powell appointed on November 9, 1992.

Hillsborough

The first woman of color to serve on the Planning Board
was
Josephine Holman Long

The first Woman to serve on the Board of Elections was
Elaine Wallace before 1970.

The first Woman to serve on the Planning Board was
Marilyn Riddle in April of 1975.

The first Woman and the first Woman of color to serve in
Law Enforcement was
Judy Jacobs on September 15, 1978 to the present.

The first Woman to serve on the Town Council was
Rachel Stevens in the early 80's, for four years.

First Women in Orange County Schools

Chapel Hill- Carrboro Public Schools

The first woman on the Board of Education was
Mrs. W. D. Toy in 1927 to 1929.

Gladys Coates: "Mrs. Toy was a woman of considerable presence. She had a good, gentle wit."

The first Special Education Teacher (and the first woman of color) was

Francis Hargraves in 1956.

Francis Hargraves: "When I came there was so much excitement; the concept was so new. I was suppose to be a miracle teacher."

The first woman High School Principal was
May Marshbanks in 1958 to 1970.

The first woman Superintendent of Schools was
Pamela Mayer in 1981 to 1985.

Orange County Schools

The first woman Principal was
Virgil Warren at Aycock High School in 1927.

The first woman on the Board of Education was
Emma Sue Loftin on December 4, 1972 to 1980.

The first woman Chairman of the Board of Education was
Kay Singer in July 1988 to June 1990.

Private Schools

The first woman to open a school in Hillsborough for girls
and boys was

Mary W. Burke possibly as early as 1812.

The first Women
U.N.C. - Chapel Hill

The first Woman granted an earned degree was
Sally Stockard in 1898.

The first Woman to earn a Law Degree was
Margaret Berry (Street) LLB, 1915.

The first Woman admitted to the Medical School (then a 2
year program) was
Cora Corpening in 1915.

The first Woman to graduate from the School of Pharmacy
was
Addie Lee Bradshaw (Pegram) in 1922.

The first Woman on the faculty of the School of Education
was
Sallie B. Marks in 1927.

The first Woman on the faculty of the Medical School was
Margaret Swanton, M.D. in 1948. She continued
through the ranks to full professor in 1968.

The first Woman Editor of the Daily Tar Heel was
Glenn Harden in 1950.

The first Women to earn M.D. degrees from the 4 year
Medical School were
**Sara Ann Lippard (Hoyte) and
Barbara Maynard Moore (Jordan) in 1954.**

The first Woman graduate of the Dental School was
Zyba Kathryn Massey in 1954.

The first Woman appointed to the Law School faculty was
Mary W. Oliver in July 1955.

The first Woman to graduate with a degree in Physical
Therapy was

Shirley Cloninger (Fisher) in 1959.
*Shirley Fisher; " I was accompanied to my classes by the
Department Head, to see what I was being taught. "*

The first Woman on the faculty of the School of Pharmacy
was

Margaret Ann Shaw in 1961.

The first and only woman of color ever to be appointed to
administrative level of Clinical Nurse Coordinator (for
Neuropsychiatric Hospital) anywhere in UNC Hospitals was
Carolyn B. Jefferson, R.N. in 1969 to 1990.

The first Director of the Women's Studies Program was
Mary Turner Lane for a half-time position in 1977 to
1979.

The first Woman to graduate with a degree in Women's
Studies was

Sandra Jo Martin in 1979.

The first Woman Dean of the Law School was
Judith Wegner in 1990.

The first Women in Careers, Honors and Other

The first Public Health Nurse in Orange County (a woman of color) was

Adelia Compton, R. N. in 1924 to 1960.

She was employed to work mainly in the black community, and was paid from the proceeds of the Christmas seals sales by the Chapel Hill Community Club, by the Red Cross, and contributions from the community she served.

Francis Hargraves: "She provided not only nursing care, but saw to other needs as well. "

Rebecca Clark: " I remember she came to check on me every day after my last child was born in 1936, to see that everything was alright. "

The first (and only) Orange County Woman to win the United States Golf Association's Women's Amateur Championship was

Estelle Lawson Page in 1937.

Joe Page, her brother-in-law: "She was the most famous women's athlete in North Carolina. "

The first Woman physician in private practice in Chapel Hill was

Marina Henry in 1939.

Several Chapel Hillians, including, Bootsie Patterson and Mary Arthur Stoudemire remember her. Her practice was in the little building next to the former Institute of Government Building on West Franklin

The first Woman Director of the U.N.C. Press was
Kate D. Torrey in 1992.

The first Woman full-time Realtor and first to be a partner in a real estate company was
Sarah D. Olsen in 1954.

The first recognized art therapist, using fingerpainting as therapy, in Orange County was

Ruth Faison Shaw in 1956 to 1968.

Martha Whittinghill: " She originated finger-painting. She was in Rome, Italy, when she developed it, and used it when she came to Chapel Hill. "

The first Woman licensed attorney to open an office for the private practice of law in Orange County was

Katherine Wright and

Karen L. Henderson in 1969.

Katherine Wright : " Karen Henderson is now a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia. She is a Republican, and if Bush had been re-elected, I think she would have had a shot at the Supreme Court. "

The first Woman to serve as National Democratic Committeewoman in Orange County was

Martha McKay in 1960.

The first Woman Physical Therapist in Orange County , to open an office for the private practice of Physical Therapy, was

Shirley Cloninger Fisher in 1976.

The first Woman of color licensed attorney in Orange County to open an office for the private practice of law was
Emma Jean Levi in November of 1977.

The first Woman in Orange County licensed as a building contractor was

Carol Ann Zinn of Cazwell Inc. in 1978.

The first Woman Chiropractic Physician to open a private practice was

Wanda N. Neville in May of 1979 to the present.

The first Woman architect to open a private practice in Orange County was

Lucy Carroll Davis in 1983 to the present.

The first Orange County Woman (and only Woman of color) to win the Juanita Bryant Citizenship Award for the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs was

Francis Hargraves in 1987.

The first Orange County Woman to win the Nobel Prize was
Gertrude Elion in 1988.

The first Woman and the first Woman of color from Orange County to serve as Deputy Commissioner of Insurance in the North Carolina Department of Insurance was

Armetta McPherson

The first Woman to be a Home Agent for the N.C. Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was
Grace Holcomb in 1935 for part time and in 1936 full time.

The first Woman to be a County Council President of the Orange County, N.C. Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was
Mrs. E. C. Compton in 1936.

The first Woman from Orange County to be State President of the N. C. Organization of Home Demonstration Clubs was
Mildred "Billie" Walker in 1966.
The black and white Home Demonstration Clubs merged during her term and organization was renamed the North Carolina Extension Homemaker's Association, Inc.

The first Woman of color to serve on the Orange County Planning Board was
Hazel Lunsford in 1977.

