

# Female Historical Figures and Historical Topics

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The Georgia Historical Society offers educational materials for teachers to use as resources in the classroom. Explore this document to find highlighted materials related to Georgia and women's history on the GHS website. In this document, explore the Georgia Historical Society's educational materials in two sections: Female Historical Figures and Historical Topics. Both sections highlight some of the same materials that can be used for more than one classroom standard or topic.

## Female Historical Figures

There are many women in Georgia history that the Georgia Historical Society features that can be incorporated in the classroom. Explore the readily-available resources below about female figures in Georgia history and discover how to incorporate them into lessons through the standards.

### Abigail Minis

**SS8H2** Analyze the colonial period of Georgia's history. a. Explain the importance of the Charter of 1732, including the reasons for settlement (philanthropy, economics, and defense). c. Evaluate the role of diverse groups (Jews, Salzburgers, Highland Scots, and Malcontents) in settling Georgia during the Trustee Period. e. Give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced and traded in colonial Georgia.

- What group of settlers did the Minis family belong to, and how did this contribute to the settling of Georgia in the Trustee Period?
- How did Abigail Minis and her family contribute to the colony of Georgia economically? What services and goods did they supply to the market?

**SS8H3** Analyze the role of Georgia in the American Revolutionary Era. c. Analyze the significance of the Loyalists and Patriots as a part of Georgia's role in the Revolutionary War; include the Battle of Kettle Creek and Siege of Savannah.

- How were citizens in Savannah, like Abigail Minis, affected by the Siege of Savannah?

Sources:

1. [Featured Historical Figure: Abigail Minis](#)
2. [Sophia's Schoolhouse: Episode 50](#)
3. [A Legacy of Leadership: Abigail Minis, Family Leader and Businesswoman](#)

4. [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Eighteenth Century, Georgia and the American Revolution\)](#)
5. [Primary Source Set \(Set 03: Georgia in the American Revolutionary Era\)](#)

## Mary Musgrove

**SS8H2** Analyze the colonial period of Georgia’s history. b. Analyze the relationship between James Oglethorpe, Tomochichi, and Mary Musgrove in establishing the city of Savannah at Yamacraw Bluff.

Sources:

1. [Encounter and Exchange \(Early Georgia Encounters, Encounter and Exchange in a New Colony\)](#)
2. [Featured Historical Figure: Mary Musgrove](#)

## Mary Telfair

**SS8H4** Explain significant factors that affected westward expansion in Georgia between 1789 and 1840.

Sources:

1. [Today in Georgia History \(January 28\)](#)
2. [Featured Historical Figure: Mary Telfair](#)
3. [A History of Urban and Architectural Innovation in Savannah](#)
4. [Hidden Histories: Telfair Hospital for Females](#)

## Mother Mathilda Beasley

**SS8H6** Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia.

Sources:

1. [Featured Historical Figure: Mother Mathilda Beasley](#)
2. [St. Benedict The Moor Catholic Church, Historical Marker](#)
3. [#MarkerMonday: Mother Mathilda Beasley](#)

## Alice Woodby McKane

**SS8H7** Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era. b. Analyze how rights were denied to African Americans or Blacks through Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence, including the 1906 Atlanta Riot.

- In what ways did Dr. McKane aid African-Americans in the New South Era? Why was it difficult for African-Americans to get quality healthcare during the New South Era?

Sources:

1. [Featured Historical Figure: Alice Woodby McKane](#)
2. [A Legacy of Leadership: Dr. Alice Woodby McKane and Pioneering Healthcare in Georgia](#)
3. [Hidden Histories: Charity Hospital and Training School for Nurses](#)

## Juliette Gordon Low

**SS8H7** Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era.

**SS8H8** Analyze Georgia's participation in important events that occurred from World War I through the Great Depression.

Sources:

1. [Featured Historical Figures: Juliette Gordon Low](#)
2. [Sophia's Schoolhouse: Episode 001](#)
3. [Sophia's Schoolhouse: Episode 002](#)
4. [A Legacy of Leadership: Juliette Gordon Low, Persevering Founder of the Girl Scouts](#)
5. [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Social Movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century\)](#)
6. [Today in Georgia History \(October 31\)](#)
7. [Featured Historical Topic: Juliette Gordon Low](#)
8. [Hidden Histories: Birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low](#)

## Ethel Hyer

**SS8H11** Evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement.

Sources:

1. [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Social Movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century\)](#)
2. [Primary Source Sets for Georgia History \(Set 11: Georgia's Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement\)](#)

## Flannery O'Connor

**SS8H8** Analyze Georgia's participation in important events that occurred from World War I through the Great Depression.

Sources:

1. [Today in Georgia History \(March 25\)](#)
2. [Featured Historical Figure: Flannery O'Connor](#)
3. [Featured Historical Topic: Flannery O'Connor](#)

## Leah Ward Sears

**SS8H12** Explain the importance of developments in Georgia since the late 20th century.

**SS8CG4** Analyze the role of the judicial branch in Georgia state government.

Sources:

1. [Today in Georgia History \(March 2\)](#)
2. [A Legacy of Leadership: Leah Ward Sears and Leading from a Young Age](#)
3. [From the Collection: Leah Ward Sears](#)

## Historical Topics

Topics in Georgia history can cover a multitude of people, and the Georgia Historical Society offers many resources teachers can use to discuss these topics using women as examples. Explore the highlighted topics below that can be used to help students conquer standards and understand specific historical topics.

### Women and Military History

**SS8H8** Analyze Georgia's participation in important events that occurred from World War I through the Great Depression. a. Describe Georgia's contributions to World War I.

**SS8H9** Describe the role of Georgia in WWII.

- What kind of roles did women fill during World War I?
- What kind of roles did women fill during World War II?
- Discuss how the role of women during wartime has changed over the centuries. How did women contribute to warfare before the world wars? During the two world wars? How did women become more involved in the military and military efforts during and after World War II, through to the present day?

Sources:

1. American Revolution:
  - a. [From the Collection: Drawing of Nancy Hart](#)
  - b. Abigail Minis, American Revolution:
    - i. [Featured Historical Figure: Abigail Minis](#)
    - ii. [Sophia's Schoolhouse: Episode 50](#)
    - iii. [A Legacy of Leadership: Abigail Minis, Family Leader and Businesswoman](#)
    - iv. [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Eighteenth Century, Georgia and the American Revolution\)](#)
    - v. [Primary Source Sets in Georgia History \(Set 03: Georgia in the American Revolutionary Era\)](#)
2. Eleanor "Nelly" Lytle Kinzie, Spanish-American War (War of 1898): [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Nineteenth Century, Struggles of the Late nineteenth Century\)](#)
3. World War I
  - a. Helen Douglas Mankin: [Today in Georgia History \(September 11\)](#)
  - b. Nellie Peters: [Today in Georgia History \(August 4\)](#),
4. World War II
  - a. Sarah Alexander Cunningham: [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Global Conflict\)](#)
  - b. Lois Dozier Norvell: [Sophia's Schoolhouse: Episode 40 \(Primary Source Spotlight: Victory Mail In The Lois Dozier Norvell Papers\)](#)
  - c. Celestine Sibley: [Today in Georgia History \(May 23\)](#)
  - d. World War II and Georgia: [Today in Georgia History \(December 31\)](#)

## Women and the Civil Rights Movement

**SS8H11** Evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement. b. Describe the role of individuals (Martin Luther King, Jr. and John Lewis), groups (SNCC and SCLC) and, events (Albany Movement and March on Washington) in the Civil Rights Movement.

- How did Martin Luther King, Jr.'s wife, Coretta Scott King, also contribute to the Civil Rights Movement?
- In what ways did Ethel Hyer and Lucy Craft Laney lead their communities during the modern Civil Rights Movement?

Sources:

1. Ethel Hyer

- a. [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Social Movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century\)](#)
- b. [Primary Source Sets for Georgia History \(Set 11: Georgia’s Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement\)](#)
2. Coretta Scott King: [Today in Georgia History \(April 27\)](#)
3. Lucy Craft Laney: [Today in Georgia History \(April 13\)](#)
4. Bernice Johnson Reagon: [Today in Georgia History \(October 4\)](#)

## Women in Sports and Entertainment

**SS8H12** Explain the importance of developments in Georgia since the late 20th century. d. Analyze Georgia’s role in the national and global economy of the 21st Century, with regard to tourism, Savannah port expansion, and the film industry.

- To lead up to this standard, what major figures in Georgia have played a role in entertainment?

Sources:

1. Joanne Woodward, *Gone With the Wind*: [Today in Georgia History \(February 27\)](#)
2. Butterfly McQueen, *Gone With the Wind*: [Today in Georgia History \(January 8\)](#)
3. Louise Suggs: [Today in Georgia History \(September 7\)](#)
4. Brenda Lee: [Today in Georgia History \(December 11\)](#)
5. Bernice Johnson Reagon: [Today in Georgia History \(October 4\)](#)
6. Cheryl Haworth: [Today in Georgia History \(April 18\)](#)
7. Wyomia Tyus: [Today in Georgia History \(August 29\)](#)

## Female Georgia Writers

**SS8H7** Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era.

**SS8H8** Analyze Georgia’s participation in important events that occurred from World War I through the Great Depression.

Sources:

1. Margaret Mitchell, *Gone With the Wind*: [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Georgia in the 1930s\)](#)
2. Ida B. Wells-Barnett “Lynch Law in Georgia”: [Primary Source Sets for Georgia History \(07: Political, Social, and Economic Changes in Georgia During the New South Era\)](#)

3. Flannery O'Connor
  - a. [Featured Historical Figure: Flannery O'Connor](#)
  - b. [Today in Georgia History \(March 25\)](#)
  - c. [Featured Historical Topic: Flannery O'Connor](#)
4. Celestine Sibley: [Today in Georgia History \(May 23\)](#)
5. Caroline Miller: [Today in Georgia History \(August 26\)](#)
6. Olive Ann Burns: [Today in Georgia History \(July 17\)](#)
7. Alice Walker: [Today in Georgia History \(February 9\)](#)

## Women's Suffrage

**SS8CG1** Describe the foundations of Georgia's government. f. List voting qualifications for elections in Georgia.

- How has voting rights in Georgia changed over time to include women?

Sources:

1. Women's Suffrage Movement: [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Social Movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century\)](#)
2. Sarah Alexander Cunningham: [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Global Conflict\)](#)
3. Rebecca Latimer Felton: [Today in Georgia History \(November 21\)](#)
4. Mary Latimer McLendon: [Today in Georgia History \(June 24\)](#)
5. Georgia Women Gain Vote: [Today in Georgia History \(August 13\)](#)

## Women in Government

**SS8CG2** Analyze the role of the legislative branch in Georgia. a. Explain the qualifications for members of the General Assembly and its role as the lawmaking body of Georgia. b. Describe the purpose of the committee system within the Georgia General Assembly. c. Explain the process for making a law in Georgia. d. Describe how state government is funded and how spending decisions are made.

**SS8CG4** Analyze the role of the judicial branch in Georgia state government. a. Describe the ways that judges are selected in Georgia. b. Analyze the dual purpose of the judicial branch: to interpret the laws of Georgia and administer justice in our legal system. c. Explain the difference between criminal law and civil law.

- What women have served in the legislative branch in Georgia? Use these women as examples to explain the General Assembly and its role as the lawmaking body of Georgia, its committee system, the process for making law, and operating a budget.

- Use Leah Ward Sears as an example to explain the judicial branch in the Georgia state government. How was she elected? How did she become Chief Justice, and why?

Sources:

1. Viola Ross Napier and Bessie Kempton Crowell, first women elected to the General Assembly: [Today in Georgia History \(September 13\)](#)
2. Helen Douglas Mankin, first woman elected to Congress from Georgia: [Today in Georgia History \(September 11\)](#)
3. Rebecca Latimer Felton, first woman in the U.S. Senate was from Georgia: [Today in Georgia History \(November 21\)](#)
4. Grace Towns Hamilton, first African-American woman elected to the Georgia Legislature: [Today in Georgia History \(June 17\)](#)
5. Cynthia McKinney, first African-American woman elected to Congress from Georgia: [Today in Georgia History \(November 3\)](#)
6. Leah Ward Sears, Georgia Lawyer and Georgia Supreme Court and Chief Justice
  - a. [Today in Georgia History \(March 2\)](#)
  - b. [A Legacy of Leadership: Leah Ward Sears and Leading from a Young Age](#)
  - c. [From the Collection: Leah Ward Sears](#)

## Women in Medicine

**SS8H7** Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era.

Sources:

1. Mary Telfair:
  - a. [Today in Georgia History \(January 28\)](#)
  - b. [Hidden Histories: Telfair Hospital for Females](#)
2. Alice Woodby McKane:
  - a. [Featured Historical Figure: Alice Woodby McKane](#)
  - b. [A Legacy of Leadership: Dr. Alice Woodby McKane and Pioneering Healthcare in Georgia](#)
3. Nellie Peters: [Today in Georgia History \(August 4\)](#)
4. Leila Denmark: [Today in Georgia History \(February 1\)](#)

## Women's Education

**SS8H7** Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era.



Sources:

1. [Hidden Histories: Beach Institute](#)
2. Eliza Frances Andrews: [Today in Georgia History \(January 21\)](#)
3. Martha Berry: [Today in Georgia History \(October 7\)](#)
4. Lucy Craft Laney: [Today in Georgia History \(April 13\)](#)
5. Wesleyan College: [Today in Georgia History \(December 23\)](#)
6. Agnes Scott College: [Today in Georgia History \(September 24\)](#)

## The Temperance Movement

**SS8H7** Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era.

1. Mary Latimer McLendon: [Today in Georgia History \(June 24\)](#)

## Women as Advocates

### *Advocate for Healthcare*

**SS8H4** Explain significant factors that affected westward expansion in Georgia between 1789 and 1840.

1. Mary Telfair
  - a. [Featured Historical Figure: Mary Telfair](#)
  - b. [Today in Georgia History \(January 28\)](#)
  - c. [Hidden Histories: Telfair Hospital for Females](#)
2. Alice Woodby McKane
  - a. [A Legacy of Leadership: Dr. Alice Woodby McKane and Pioneering Healthcare in Georgia](#)
  - b. [Featured Historical Figure: Alice Woodby McKane](#)
  - c. [Hidden Histories: Charity Hospital and Training School for Nurses](#)
3. Nellie Peters: [Today in Georgia History \(August 4\)](#)

### *Advocate for Education*

**SS8H6** Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia.

1. Mother Mathilda Beasley
  - a. [Featured Historical Figure: Mother Mathilda Beasley](#)

- b. [Primary Source Sets for Georgia History \(06: Impact of Reconstruction on Georgia\)](#)
  - c. [#MarkerMonday: Mother Mathilda Beasley](#)
  - d. [St. Benedict The Moor Catholic Church, Historical Marker](#)
2. Martha Berry: [Today in Georgia History \(October 7\)](#)
  3. Lucy Craft Laney: [Today in Georgia History \(April13\)](#)
  4. Nellie Peters: [Today in Georgia History \(August 4\)](#)
  5. [Hidden Histories: Nina Anderson Pape](#)

### *Advocate for Civil Rights*

**SS8H11** Evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement.

1. Fanny Kemble, abolitionist:
  - a. [Today in Georgia History \(November 27\)](#)
  - b. [Hidden Histories: Butler Island Plantation](#)
2. Ida B. Wells-Barnett “Lynch Law in Georgia”: [Primary Source Sets for Georgia History \(07: Political, Social, and Economic Changes in Georgia During the New South Era\)](#)
3. Lillian Smith, anti-segregationist: [Today in Georgia History \(December 12\)](#)
4. Grace Towns Hamilton, improve African-American voting rights: [Today in Georgia History \(June 17\)](#)
5. Ethel Hyers, modern Civil Rights Movement
  - a. [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Social Movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century\)](#)
  - b. [Primary Source Sets for Georgia History \(Set 11: Georgia’s Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement\)](#)
6. Coretta Scott King, modern Civil Rights Movement: [Today in Georgia History \(April 27\)](#)
7. Lucy Craft Laney, modern Civil Rights Movement: [Today in Georgia History \(April13\)](#)
8. Bernice Johnson Reagon, modern Civil Rights Movement: [Today in Georgia History \(October 4\)](#)
9. [Hidden Histories: The Georgia Civil Rights Trial, The Savannah Protest Movement](#)

### *Advocate for Women’s Voting Rights*

**SS8H7** Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era.

**SS8CG1** Describe the foundations of Georgia's government.

1. Georgia Women Gain Vote: [Today in Georgia History \(August 13\)](#)
2. Women's Suffrage Movement: [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Social Movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century\)](#)
3. Sarah Alexander Cunningham: [Three Centuries of Georgia History \(Twentieth Century, Global Conflict\)](#)
4. Rebecca Latimer Felton: [Today in Georgia History \(November 21\)](#)
5. Mary Latimer McLendon: [Today in Georgia History \(June 24\)](#)