

Impact of National Events on Life in Virginia

Many events in the United States during the 20th century greatly impacted the lives of United States citizens, including Virginians.

During the 19th century, many women in the United States began to fight for the right to vote. People wanted to change the laws in our country in order to provide women with the right to vote. Amendments to the United States Constitution were introduced twice, once in 1878 and again in 1914, in favor of women's suffrage, but both failed to pass. Suffrage is the right to vote in political elections. Maggie L. Walker was an African American leader from Virginia who supported equal rights for women. Finally, in 1920, the United States Constitution was amended, or altered, to give women the right to vote.

The Great Depression was a period of harsh economic conditions worldwide which began in 1929 and lasted until 1939. It was particularly difficult for the United States. Many Virginians lost their jobs, farms, homes, and businesses. The federal government established New Deal programs to provide employment and ease many hardships faced by the citizens of the United States. The New Deal led to increased involvement of the federal government in the lives of US citizens.