LILA MEADE VALENTINE (Feb. 4, 1865-July 14, 1921)
Born in Richmond into one of the FFV, Lila Valentine instituted pioneering changes in the state's educational system, health care, and women's rights. In 1900 she founded the Richmond Education Association to promote interest in public education, from which developed the Kindergarten Training School to train the first specialized kindergarten teachers in the state. The Instructive Visiting Nurse Association was formed in 1902 with Valentine becoming president in 1904. This association sent the first nurses into the public schools and successfully battled a tuberculosis epidemic among school children, landmark efforts in public health care in Virginia. Valentine was one of the three founders and the only woman on the Executive Committee of the Cooperative Education Association founded in 1904 to marshal the state's educational forces for universal education. In 1909, Lila Valentine became the first president of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia on whose behalf she worked tirelessly. According to Ellen Glasgow, "By the time success (suffrage) came, she was in her last illness, and the registrar carried the ballot books to her bedside, in order that her name might stand first on the list." Valentine is the only woman memorialized with a commemorative tablet in the State Capitol.

"Remember the Ladies" Project
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