Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson



Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson was born in White Sulphur Springs, WV, on August 26, 1918. She was a very curious child, started school at 4, graduated from high school at 14. She graduated from West Virginia State College (now University) at the age of 18, summa cum laude, with majors in mathematics and French. Her intense curiosity and brilliance with numbers, as noticed during her college years by her favorite math professor, Dr. W.W.S. Claytor, led her to a distinguished career – for over 30 years with NASA and its predecessor, NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Johnson calculated the trajectory for Alan Shepard's Freedom 7 mission in 1961.