



**DOROTHY VAUGHAN (nee JOHNSON)**

**Biographical Data:** Born 1910 in Kansas City

**Education:** Graduated Wilberforce University in 1929

**NACA/NASA Experience:** Employed 1943-1971; Computer, West Area Computers; Head Computer, 1958; Computer Programmer; Scout Project; involved in research in flight paths

Dorothy Vaughan's career at Langley spanned twenty-eight years. Hired in 1943 and assigned to the West Area Computers, she moved into the area of electronic computing when the first (non-human) computers were introduced at NACA. Vaughan did computer programming, becoming proficient in coding languages such as FORTRAN, and also contributed to the space program through her work on the Scout Project. In a 1994 interview, she recalled that working at Langley during the Space Age felt like being on "the cutting edge of something very exciting." Vaughan raised a family while working at Langley, and one of her children went on to also be employed at NASA.

**Sources:**

Beverly Golemba, *Human Computers: The Women in Aeronautical Research*, unpublished manuscript 1994, NASA Langley Archives.

"Computers Help Compile Handbook," Langley [\*Air Scoop\* newsletter, Aug. 17, 1951](#)