

A Woman's Place in Early America

In early America, married women had no rights under law. They belonged to their husbands. Their voices were not heard in public. But with the War of Independence, women found a voice as patriots. They supported the rebellion with boycotts. During wartime, women spied on the enemy. They served as messengers. They tended the wounded. Some even served as soldiers. Women performed daring feats of bravery. And they proved they were capable of doing much more than 18-century society allowed them. Some women called for change. Abigail Adams asked that the laws of the new nation recognize legal and educational rights for women. Judith Sargent Murray called for educational reform. It would take several more decades before women took up the cause for their legal, educational, and political rights. But leaders of the movement would be able to look to 18th-century American women for inspiration.

ISBN: 9781422293485 Author: LeeAnne Gelletly Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest, an imprint of National Highlights Inc

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Series/Set: Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in U.S. Society

Dewey Number(s): 305.4

Grade Range: 3-5

America at War: Military Conflicts, Home and Abroad, and Daily Life in the 1800

ISBN: 9781422296929

Author: Matthew Strange

Format: Hosted eBook

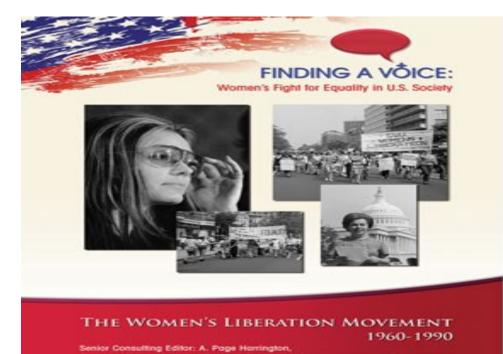
Publisher: National Highlights Inc.

Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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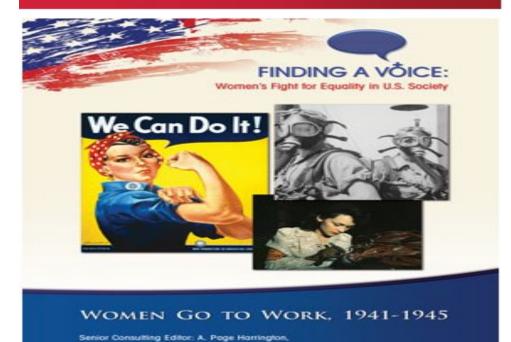
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Dewey Number(s): 355.009



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The Women's Liberation Movement, 1960-1990

You should be happy being a wife and mother! This was the message American women heard constantly until the early 1960s. But growing numbers of women felt that being a wife and mother was not fulfilling or stimulating enough. Something had to change. Women like Betty Freidan, Martha Griffiths, Pauli Murray, Esther Peterson, Gloria Steinem, Frances Beal, and Bella Abzug dedicated themselves to securing equal rights and opportunities for women in the workplace, in education, and under the law. The work of those involved with what became known as the "women's liberation movement" in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s permanently changed attitudes in American society.

ISBN: 9781422293515

Author: Terry Catasús Jennings

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest, an imprint of National Highlights Inc

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Series/Set: Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in U.S. Society

Dewey Number(s): 305.42

Grade Range: 3-5

Women Go to Work, 1941-45

The Second World War changed how the United States saw women's roles. Not only could women work, they could do work that men did. They could work in homes and hospitals, but they could also work in offices and factories. They could sew and cook, but they could also weld and rivet. As American men went to fight the war, American women even followed them into the service. They formed the WAC, the WAVES, and other women's groups to help win the war. "Women Go to Work 1941--1945" is the story of the women of World War II. Whether they stayed home and wrote letters while they tried to keep the farm going, or they marched off to the factory to make airplanes and bullets, their lives changed. They had to change because the world around them was changing, and they had to meet the challenge.

ISBN: 9781422293508
Author: Donna Roppelt
Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest, an imprint of National Highlights Inc

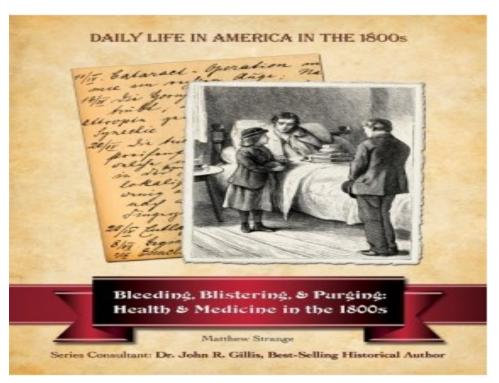
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Dewey Number(s): 331.409

Grade Range: 3-5

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Bleeding, Blistering, and Purging: Health and Medicine in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296950

Author: Matthew Strange

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Publisher: National Highlights Inc

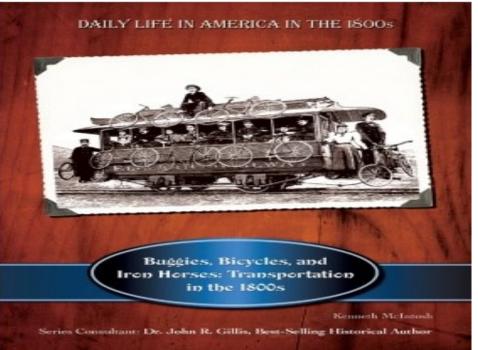
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Dewey Number(s): 610.973

Grade Range: 6-8



Buggies, Bicycles, and Iron Horses: Transportation in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296943

Author: Kenneth McIntosh

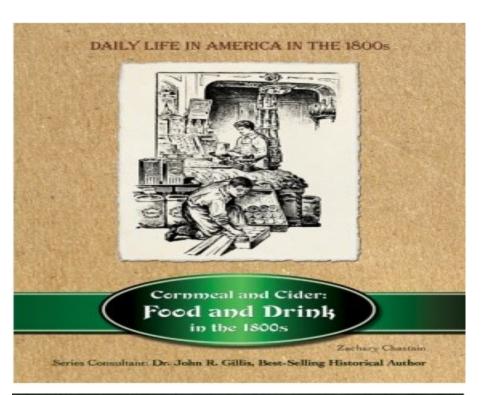
Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Dewey Number(s): 388.309





ISBN: 9781422296936

Author: Zachary Chastain

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

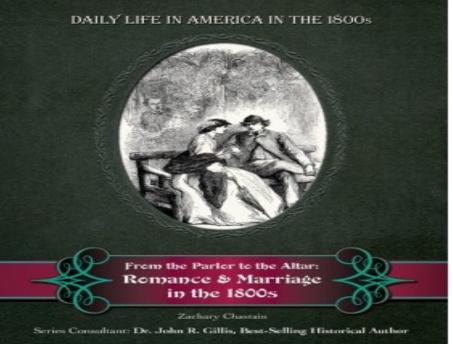
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Dewey Number(s): 394.1

Grade Range: 6-8



From the Parlor to the Altar: Romance and Marriage in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296912

Author: Zachary Chastain

Format: Hosted eBook

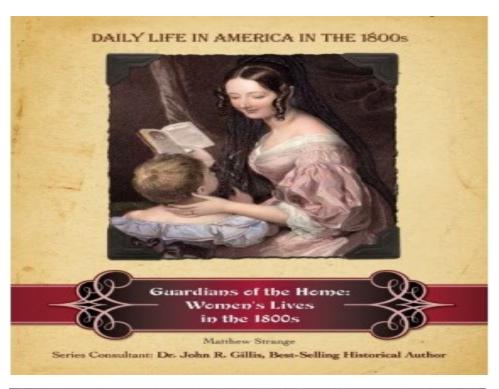
Publisher: National Highlights Inc Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest Fabilishe

Copyright: 2011

Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 306.81



Guardians of the Home: Women's Lives in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296905

Author: Matthew Strange

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

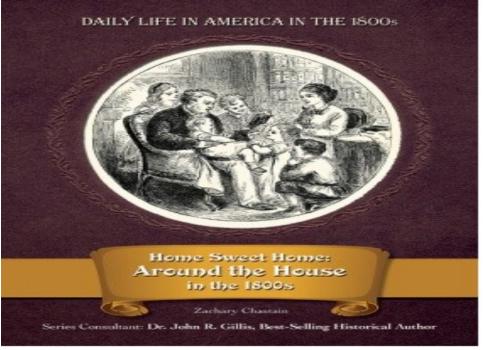
Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 305.409

Grade Range: 6-8



Home Sweet Home: Around the House in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296899

Author: Zachary Chastain

Format: Hosted eBook

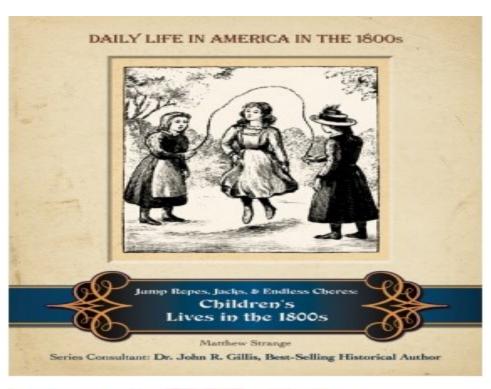
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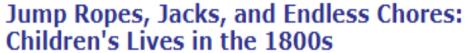
Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 392.3





ISBN: 9781422296882

Author: Matthew Strange

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

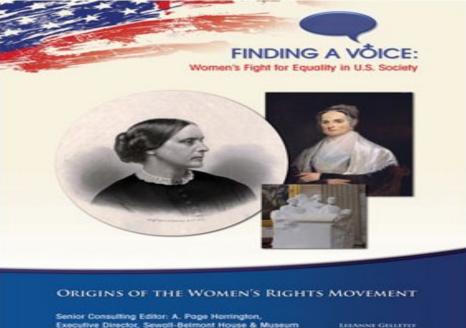
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Dewey Number(s): 305.23

Grade Range: 6-8



Origins of the Women's Rights Movement

In the 1800s, women were second-class citizens. By law, married women were owned by their husbands. Women had no political rights. They could not vote. They could not hold office. By custom, women did not dare speak before men in public. But some women refused to be silenced. They saw wrongs in the world that needed fixing. The injustice of slavery led women like Lucretia Mott, Angelina Grimké, and Lucy Stone to step outside traditional roles. As women abolitionists, they lectured, circulated petitions, and lobbied lawmakers. But female reformers soon became frustrated. Men-only groups prevented women from speaking. Their help was often rejected. This led a determined few to call for equal rights for women. Among the movement's early leaders were Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Along with many other women activists, they would fight for a woman's right to be a true citizen of the United States.

ISBN: 9781422293461
Author: LeeAnne Gelletly
Format: Hosted eBook

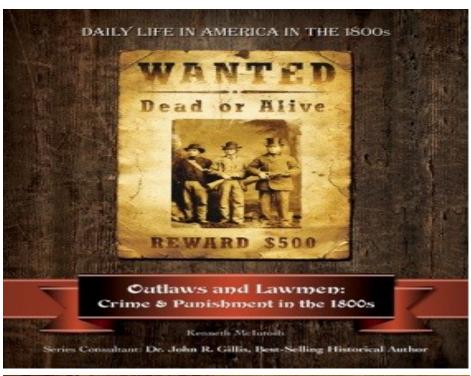
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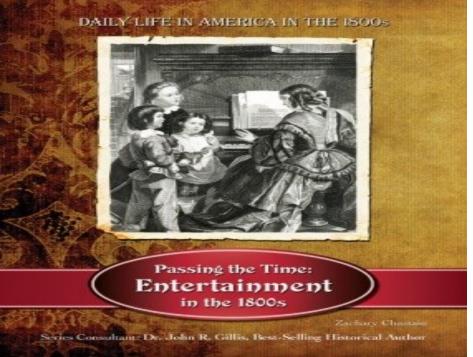
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Dewey Number(s): 323.3





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ISBN: 9781422296868

Author: Kenneth McIntosh

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 973.5

Grade Range: 6-8

Passing the Time: Entertainment in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296851

Author: Zachary Chastain

Format: Hosted eBook

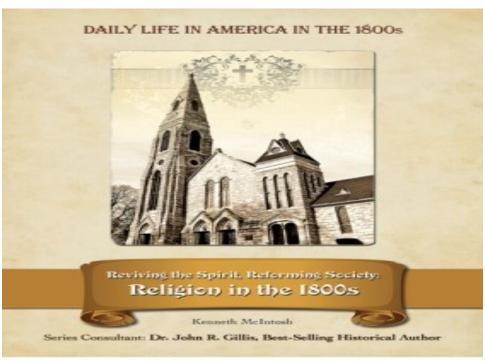
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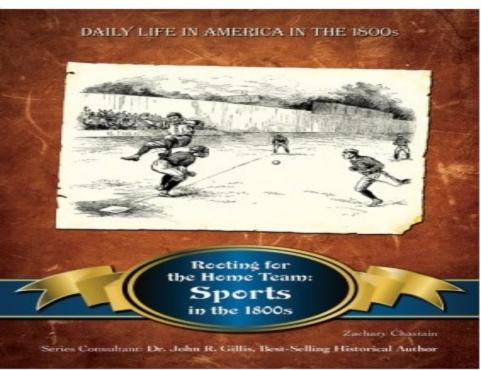
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Dewey Number(s): 790.097





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ISBN: 9781422296875

Author: Kenneth McIntosh

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

Copyright: 2011

Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 201.0

Grade Range: 6-8

Rooting for the Home Team: Sports in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296844

Author: Zachary Chastain

Format: Hosted eBook

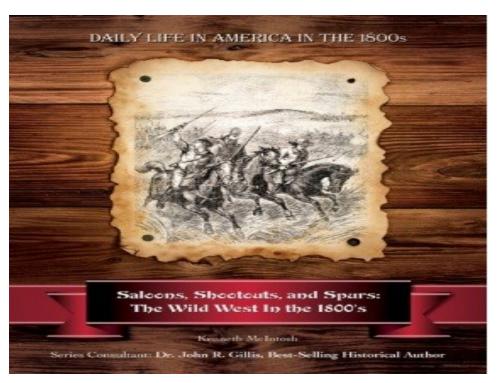
Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 796.097



Saloons, Shootouts, and Spurs: The Wild West In the 1800's

ISBN: 9781422296813

Author: Kenneth McIntosh

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

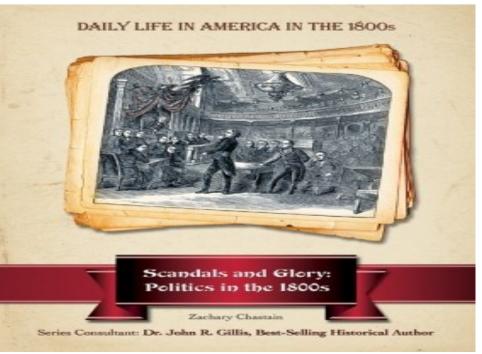
Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 978.0

Grade Range: 6-8



Scandals and Glory: Politics in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296837

Author: Zachary Chastain

Format: Hosted eBook

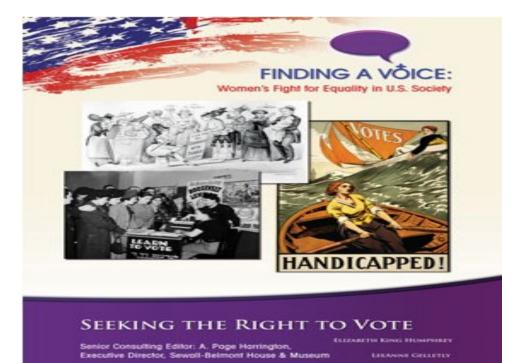
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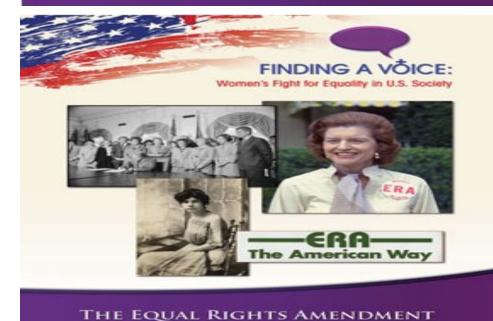
Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Series/Set: Daily Life in America in the 1800s

Dewey Number(s): 973.5





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Seeking the Right to Vote

It was women who first picketed the White House for a political cause. In 1917, they held banners and signs calling for suffrage for women. They wanted the right to vote. These suffragists were continuing a protest that had begun in 1848. Elizabeth Cady Stanton helped found the suffrage movement. Her friend Susan B. Anthony shaped it. They would both live long enough to see women gain the vote in a few states. But it would take another generation to finish the campaign. Among those activists were Carrie Chapman Catt, who took a disciplined and moderate approach, and Alice Paul, whose confrontational style led to picketing the White House. The fight to achieve the vote was long and hard. Suffragists followed both moderate and militant paths. But they shared the belief that women were citizens of the United States. And that meant they had a right to vote.

ISBN: 9781422293478

Author: LeeAnne Gelletly

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest, an imprint of National Highlights Inc

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Series/Set: Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in U.S. Society

Dewey Number(s): 324.6

Grade Range: 3-5

The Equal Rights Amendment

It took decades, and a Constitutional amendment, for all American women to get the right to vote. But the legal right to vote did not guarantee equality under the law. Suffrage leader Alice Paul believed another amendment was needed. In 1923, she wrote the Equal Rights Amendment. It was introduced in Congress. And the national debate over the ERA began. The major principle of the Equal Rights Amendment is that gender should not determine any legal rights of citizens. Supporters believed the ERA would keep women from being denied equal rights under federal, state, or local law. The ERA had many opponents in the 1920s. And it had even more in the 1970s, after Congress passed the measure. Although it failed to pass by its 1982 ratification deadline, some people believe the ERA is still alive. They are continuing the effort to put equality for women in the U.S. Constitution.

ISBN: 9781422293447 Author: LeeAnne Gelletly Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

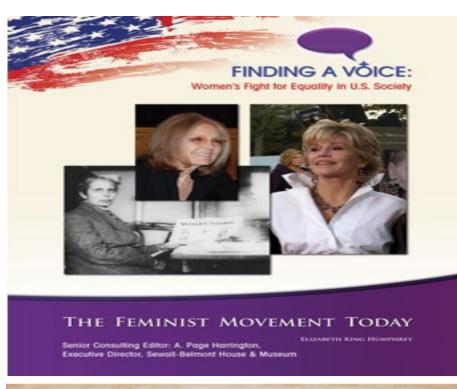
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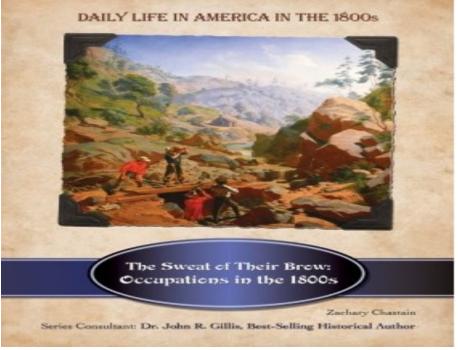
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Dewey Number(s): 305.42





The Feminist Movement of Today

For American women, the struggle to win equality has been long and difficult. And the struggle continues. But incredible progress has been made. Much of the credit goes to feminists who refused to accept second-class status because of their gender. This book examines the three historical waves of the American feminist movement. It details the goals and achievements of each wave. It also profiles some of the pioneering women who shattered stereotypes and found success through talent, hard work, and determination.

ISBN: 9781422293454

Author: Elizabeth King Humphrey

Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest, an imprint of National Highlights Inc

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Series/Set: Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in U.S. Society

Dewey Number(s): 305.42

Grade Range: 3-5

The Sweat of Their Brow: Occupations in the 1800s

ISBN: 9781422296820

Author: Zachary Chastain

Format: Hosted eBook

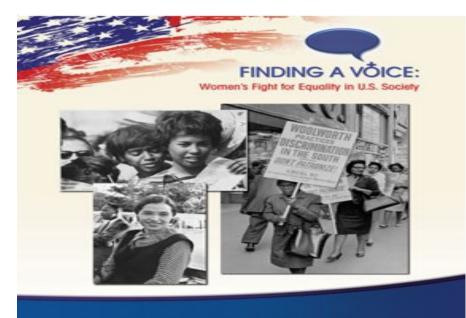
Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest Publishers Inc

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Dewey Number(s): 331.7





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WOMEN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



WOMEN'S RIGHTS ON THE FRONTIER

Senior Consulting Editor: A. Page Harrington, Executive Director, Sewall-Belmont House & Museum

THURSDE DRANGEUS

BUDY L. BLANDAR

Women in the Civil Rights Movement

African-American women played a major role in bringing about social change during the civil rights movement. They participated in sit-ins and marches. They helped plan demonstrations and boycotts. And they were arrested for civil disobedience. Many women worked behind the scene, helping to organize protest efforts. Some women took on leadership roles. One was NAACP activist Rosa Parks, who is best known for inspiring the Montgomery bus boycott. She worked alongside Ella Baker, who later helped organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). SNCC founding member Diane Nash directed sit-ins and Freedom Rides. Fannie Lou Hamer took on the political machine of Mississippi in a demand for black voter representation. These women and many others of the civil rights movement helped ensure that the United States government guaranteed equal rights for all Americans, black and white.

ISBN: 9781422293492 Author: Judy Hasday Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc

Imprint: Mason Crest, an imprint of National Highlights Inc

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Series/Set: Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in U.S. Society

Dewey Number(s): 323.119

Grade Range: 3-5

Women's Rights on the Frontier

The story of the women's suffrage movement in the American West is one of expansion, courage, and struggle. It begins in 1869, when Wyoming Territory recognized full and equal voting rights for a population of just 1,000 women. As the demand for equality spread throughout the country, the West became a symbol of the equality and opportunity women sought. Discover what drove the women's rights movement in the West, and how the battles women fought on the frontiers of America made them pioneers not only of geography, but also of history.

ISBN: 9781422293522
Author: Therese DeAngelis
Format: Hosted eBook

Publisher: National Highlights Inc.

Imprint: Mason Crest, an imprint of National Highlights Inc

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Series/Set: Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in U.S. Society

Dewey Number(s): 323.3