



NWHM ACQUIRES ITS FIRST COLLECTION

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The Women's History Museum on Wheels was a mobile women's history museum developed by Jeanne and Robert Schramm of West Liberty, WV. The Schramm's collected artifacts, documents and genuine memorabilia from more than 20 historic women -- social reformers and pioneers from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Display panels and cases were built to fit into a modified school bus and the Schramm's traveled the country taking women's history to town fairs and other public events.

Some of the women highlighted in

the collection: Clara Barton, Mary Harris "Mother Jones", Helen Keller and Polly Thompson, Florence Nightingale, Margaret Sanger and Maria Mitchell.

In mid 2008, NWHM became aware of the Schramm's desire to "go out of the museum business." Until this time, NWHM had borrowed artifacts for temporary exhibits but avoided accepting collections that would entail extensive care. A series of events caused NWHM to take a closer look at the Museum on Wheels collection. It seemed to be an opportunity not to be missed -- to get a complete exhibit already mounted on panels and other items in lighted cases. Some creative staff and Board members helped figure out that the exhibit could be displayed within our offices until it can be moved into our permanent home. Preparations are underway for the exhibit to be open to the public and NWHM will soon announce its opening.

The Schramm's describe the beginning of their exhibit:

The origin of this museum stretches back to 1979 when the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin was put into circulation. Jeanne Schramm was a librarian at a small



college in West Virginia and she became interested in learning more about this woman whose likeness graced the nation's currency.

Inspired by her life story, Jeanne created a dramatic portrayal of Anthony. Later, she created portrayals of other reformers from the 19th and early 20th centuries. She also began collecting memorabilia associated with these and other activists and pioneers.

As the collection grew, she enlisted the assistance of her husband Robert, a physics professor and college archivist with museum experience. Robert already had noted that women in the science fields got little recognition. With his skills in photography, construction and preservation, the couple was able to convert an old school bus into a museum.

Beginning in 1990, they took their museum "on the road" to spread the word about women's history far beyond the hills of their home in rural West Virginia. This converted bus became the world's first mobile women's history museum. It was also the first independently owned and operated museum (unaffiliated with any other organization) dedicated to women's history.

The dominant theme that unites the women in this exhibit is that each experienced situations or conditions that they felt were intolerable. Despite the odds, the obstacles, the dangers and the ridicule, they set about to change things.

NWHM commends the Schramm's for their efforts in preserving women's history and reaching out to spread the word of women's contributions. They dedicated more than 18 years of their lives to this endeavor. NWHM is honored to be the recipient of their exhibit and to take up their cause. So many women have taken a stand saying, "This isn't right. I'm going to do something about it," as the Schramm's often describe. This exhibit explores a few. NWHM is dedicated to ensuring that the women who have taken such a stand are recognized.

(See page two for exhibit highlights.)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislation will soon be introduced in the U.S. House and Senate that would allow NWHM to purchase the vacant lot next to the National Mall. We will send out bill numbers as they are available. More shortly!

NWHM UNVEILS NEW CYBEREXHIBIT ON FEMALE STATE LEGISLATORS



From the first in Colorado in 1894 to the last in Louisiana in 1932, it took 38 years for every state to elect women as lawmakers. In contrast, 72 years passed between the first petition for the vote, in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, and the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment.

In November, NWHM launched its newest CyberExhibit, entitled *Women Wielding Power: Pioneer Female State Legislators*. The exhibit was launched in celebration of the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) 70th anniversary. It was unveiled at NFWL's annual meeting in Sarasota, FL by President Joan Wages and historian Doris Weatherford.

The exhibit highlights pioneer legislators from every state, including Colorado's Clara Cressingham, Carrie Clyde Holly, and Frances Klock, the first women to be elected to the legislature in 1894, 26 years before most American women got the vote in 1920. Utah voters elected the first female state senator, Martha Hughes Cannon, in 1896 -- and in an at-large electoral system, she defeated her husband.

By 1920, when most American women finally got the vote, every western state

(except New Mexico) not only had enfranchised women, but also elected them to their legislatures. In Oregon alone, ten women won legislative seats between 1912 and 1920; California elected four women only two years before women got the vote nationally.

Connecticut's Emily Sophie Brown won in 1921 and lived to age 103 -- ending arguments about whether women could stand the strains of political life. Mississippi elected Nellie Nugent Somerville in 1922 -- and her daughter, Lucy Somerville Howorth in 1932. Pennsylvania has the distinction of electing the first African American woman to its legislature; Crystal Bird Fauset won in 1938.

Doris Weatherford, author and editor of several books on women's history stated: "Many of the first women state legislators were trained as teachers. This is not surprising because that was one of the few early professions that women could enter." Ms. Weatherford went on to point out that these pioneers included a variety of statuses in terms of marriage and personal wealth, as well as diverse geography.

Ms. Weatherford curated the exhibit with the assistance of NWHM Program Director Nikki Emser and NWHM interns Will Geiger, Kristen Lundquist, and Claire Love. Members of NFWL also nominated several women featured in the exhibit, including North Dakota's Brynhild Haugland, the nation's longest-serving female legislator, having been consistently re-elected for 52 years. By the time she retired in 1990, she was 85 years old and had cast over 22,000 votes on bills.

ON EXHIBIT: WOMEN CHANGING HISTORY

The recently acquired exhibit spans over 100 years -- from the abolition of slavery to the Progressive Era to the mid-twentieth century -- and features documents and artifacts from over twenty women who made enormous contributions. The oldest items are from Elizabeth Frye, a Quaker and prison reformer in England. She died in 1845, and the artifacts include a London prison pass signed by her. Also from this era, we have a copy of *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*, the famous American abolitionist and feminist. Best known for her 1851 speech, "Ain't I a Woman?", she never became literate, but Olive Gilbert wrote the book for her in 1850, and Truth supported her causes with its sales for decades. Our copy is a fifth edition, published in 1881.



May 12, 1870 copy of "The Revolution."

Lydia Maria Child was one of the earliest abolitionists and the author of dozens of books during her long life. We have her prescient "Human Rights Sentiment," written and signed in 1880. Also from the anti-slavery era is an antique photograph of Harriet Beecher Stowe -- which includes a poem written and signed by the esteemed author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and other works.

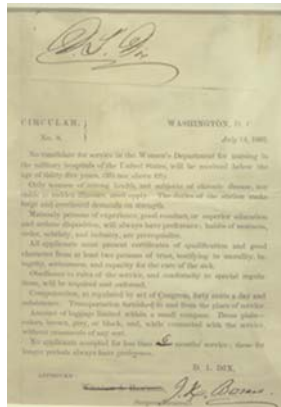
Regulations for Civil War Nurses is signed by Dorothea Dix: although she is known as a pioneer of mental health, Dix was appointed superintendent of nurses for the Union in 1862. Dix's artifacts also

include a copy of her 1843 "memorial" to the Massachusetts legislature, in which she revealed the horrible conditions of the mentally ill.

Several items relate to the Civil War's Clara Barton. Her long life ended at Glen Echo, Maryland, and an old-fashioned "lantern slide" shows her home there. The most valuable of her artifacts may be a letter on stationery of the American Association of the Red Cross, written and signed by her in 1882, the year the Senate ratified the treaty bringing the U.S. into the International Red Cross.

Julia Ward Howe also became known in the Civil War, and the Schramm's donated a manuscript page with her signature. Mary Livermore was much more famous at the time: her memoir, *My Story of the War*, was a best seller. The wife of a Boston clergyman, Livermore later was president of the American Woman Suffrage Association, and we have an antique photo of her.

Gaining the vote for American women was the single largest extension of democracy in our nation's history, and it is fitting that this collection highlights founders Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. We have Mott's signature on an equal rights proclamation, Anthony's and Stanton's calling cards, and three items from the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company that Anthony and Stanton headed.

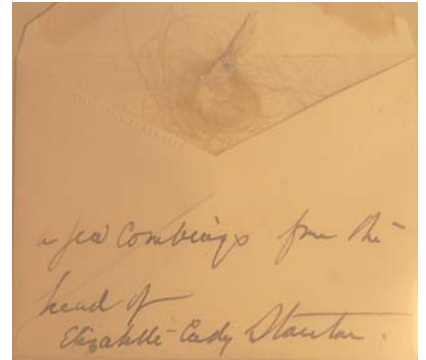


Dorothea Dix's 1843 memorial.

This part of the collection also features a May 12, 1870 copy of Anthony and Stanton's brief-lived newspaper, "The Revolution" -- along with an 1878 letter from Lucy Stone on the stationery of "Woman's Journal," a publication that lasted for decades. The most interesting thing, however, may be Elizabeth Cady Stanton's last work, her 1898 *Eighty Years and More, Reminiscences*. It is signed by her daughter, Harriot Stanton Blatch, also a feminist leader -- and includes an envelope containing a "few combings from the head of Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

Also from the Progressive Era, the collection has items autographed by social reformer Jane Addams, the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, as well as a First-Day issue of the 1940 postal stamp that honored her. Other late nineteenth-century items are from Frances Willard, founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and a carte-de-visite of Britain's Florence Nightingale, who pioneered nursing standards. "Mother" Mary Jones was a less well-behaved progressive, but the famed labor leader lived an extremely long life, from 1830-1930. We have her autograph, as well as a first edition of her 1925 autobiography.

In many ways the twentieth century truly began with World War I, and women's participation in it is shown with identification badges, a field sack, and nurses' headgear used by the Red Cross. Women's support of the war helped Carrie Chapman Catt, then president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, to win the 19th Amendment in 1920; it finally granted voting rights to all American women, and two artifacts commemorate Catt. Alice Stone Blackwell published a biography of her mother, *Lucy Stone, Pioneer of Woman's Rights*, in 1930, and the collection has an autographed copy of it.



Envelope containing Elizabeth Cady Stanton's hair.

Handwritten notes by Eleanor Roosevelt highlight the mid-twentieth century, which also features the 1948 postal stamp for the centennial of the 1848 women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York. Postmarked from Seneca Falls, the envelope was signed by Lucretia Mott's great-granddaughter. Several items in the collection belonged to Helen Keller; in one of the photos, she poses with Dwight D. Eisenhower. The newest document is nonetheless more than a half-century old: it is Margaret Sanger's signature on a pamphlet from International Planned Parenthood, which was formed in 1952.

The Museum On Wheels collection captures the spirit of American women's history. This is only the beginning. There is so much more to learn about the road women have traveled.

Article by Doris Weatherford, NWHM Historical Consultant and Author and NWHM Program Director Nikki Emser.

WOMEN STILL MISSING



Two national institutions recently have seen major changes. The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History re-opened after renovation, and a new Visitor Center in the Capitol was unveiled in December.

The American History Museum has more about women than before, including Julia Child's actual kitchen and Clara Barton's medical wagon. The latter, unfortunately, does not mention that Barton established the world's first system for identifying the missing and dead, nor even that she founded the American Red Cross.

The popular exhibit of first ladies' inaugural gowns is back, as well as the magnificent flag that inspired the Star Spangled Banner, almost two centuries after Baltimore's Mary Pickersgill produced it. There's a new exhibit about women at home. Some significant women are acknowledged in an exhibit on science, but much remains missing. When historians and curators simply take a broader view, women easily can be incorporated into every era and area of American history.

The Visitor Center in the Capitol is brand new: built underground, it was designed for better security, as well as to educate the public. It, too, reflects a greater awareness of women's history than in the past, especially in terms of statuary. Four statues of women (and the Capitol only has nine total) now grace the Visitor Center's main hall.

"Lady Freedom," a 19-ft. high plaster mold that was used to make the iconic figure on the Capitol Dome, separates the hall from a section of more detailed exhibits. Featuring the history of the House and Senate, they are arranged by time periods that also reflect what was happening outside of the Capitol -- but disappointingly few women appear.

The first era, for example, is "Founding Republic," but there's no mention of Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, or even Dolley Madison -- who stayed in the White House when the army abandoned it to the torches of British troops in the War of 1812. Women's appreciable roles in the Civil War also are ignored. Nor is there any attention to admission to colleges and the professions or the right to divorce or to custody of the children she bore or other burning topics of the time.

Seemingly redundant, Jeannette Rankin, the first woman in Congress, appears three times, as do depictions of immigrant women and "Rosie the Riveter." The huge issue of the right to vote, which lasted from 1848 to 1920, is "covered" with two photos of parades in 1912 and 1913.

The final era, from 1945 to the present, also misses many opportunities to depict real women. Generic ones are included, but no attention is given to women in the military, the Equal Rights Amendment, affirmative action, or many other issues much more hotly debated in the Capitol.

Neither the new addition, nor the renovated American History Museum, in any way, negate the need for NWHM and our mission to have a women's history museum on or near the National Mall. NWHM is the only museum in Washington, DC, whose mission it is to reclaim the missing half of our nation's history. There have been at least four other attempts to document women's roles in the past 600 years. This time we plan to succeed.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



On a regular basis we learn of women's history being left out or inaccurately told. Recently, one particular incident hit close to home. A NWHM Board member was told that a tour guide at the U.S Capitol credited the move of the Suffrage Statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott to the efforts of a young girl from Arizona. The story was that she learned of the statue being in the basement, wrote her congressman and raised the money to get it moved up into the Rotunda.

That is only a small part of the story. NWHM lobbied Congress for almost two years and raised over \$125,000 to pay for the move into the Rotunda -- we have the cancelled check to prove it! The story being told diminishes the effort that it took when women's groups had been trying to get the statue moved for 76 years.

In a similar case, a NWHM member wrote to tell us of her visit to the Capitol. When someone in her group asked what Elizabeth Cady Stanton did of significance, the guide had no idea. Our member stepped forward to enlighten the other tourists.

In another instance, a good friend mentioned over the holidays that she read an

article in a high-profile magazine known for doing extensive research that stated no right ever conferred on a group of Americans has been taken away. Again, not so!

Few know that women had the right to vote in New Jersey from 1790-1807 when its all-male legislature took it away. Later in the 19th century, women in Utah and Washington won the vote and then lost it. The political complexity of women's struggle for civil rights is routinely understated.

Another case involves misstatements on a radio talk show. One of our Advisors emailed to correct them. The least amount of research would have corrected these errors.

So many, even in the media, know so little of women's history -- they don't know what they don't know and it doesn't enter their minds to ask. NWHM has contacted the head of the U.S. Capitol guides asking for better training on the women portrayed in the Suffrage Statue -- a good place to start.

We certainly have our work cut out for us. With your continued support, we will make women's history available, known and part of our national story.

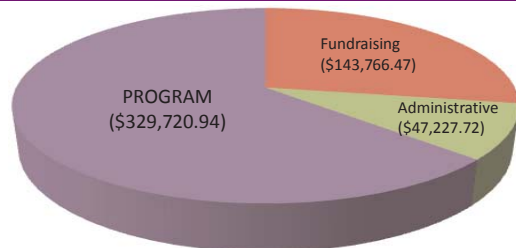
Passionately determined,

Joan Wages

NWHM 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Partial Donation Listing as of Dec. 31, 2008

The challenges, and luckily, the opportunities continued in 2008. The NWHM website is now used by over 9,000 other websites as an educational resource. Your support has made this possible. Thank you for helping to light the path for future generations of women.



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We must be ready to hit the ground running once our legislation is passed! Your tax-deductible donation today would be a tremendous help towards our efforts for a permanent home and to help keep our on-going programs moving forward.

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SPOTLIGHT ON NWHM BOARD MEMBER LINDA DENNY



Linda J. Denny is President of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), where she is developing marketing programs to attract women business owners and decision makers. Ms. Denny has had a special interest in women's retirement issues and guided Aetna in addressing these needs. In 1997, as Corporate Vice President for New York Life, she created and led the New York Life Women's Initiative, a nationwide program to encourage more women to pursue careers as agents and sales managers.

A nationally-recognized expert in the field of women's business development, Ms. Denny draws upon her experience from the corporate, financial services, and entrepreneurial arenas to support the development and growth of women-owned businesses and to address the financial needs of women.

Ms. Denny is a member of the Women's Leadership Board sponsored by the Kennedy School of Harvard University, a member of the Advisory Board of the IBM World Bank, and is a founding member of the board for the Association of Women's Business Development Centers.

She says, "Few Americans realize that the civil rights legislation impacted more women than it did minority citizens. As women we would not have many of the "equal rights" that we enjoy without this important change in the law. How women came to be included in this legislation is one of the great stories that the National Women's History Museum must tell. I love to share this story with anyone who will listen, because it is important for everyone to understand how women won our constitutional right to vote and the legislation that has given us the opportunities we take for granted today. As citizens we must protect these rights or face a possibility of seeing them disappear some day. If a "right" can be legislated in, it can be legislated out, simple as that. Please join me in making sure this and other important stories are told by supporting the National Women's History Museum."

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Volume X, Issue IV



CELEBRATE THESE WOMEN BORN IN THE WINTER



"Portrait of a Woman", 1818, by Anna Claypoole Peale.

Anna Claypoole Peale whose birthday is March 6, 1791, was born into an artistic family. One of the six children of James Peale and Mary Claypoole, and was trained by her father and famous uncle, Charles Willson Peale. Rightfully considered a professional artist when she was very young, Anna Peale sold her first paintings at age fourteen.

She is best known for her miniature portraits, a medium used by all of her family, but in which she excelled. Her first major exhibition was in 1811, when she was just 20 years old, and was featured at the first exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 1824, she and her sister, Sarah Miriam Peale, were the first women to be elected members of the Pennsylvania Academy.

She never was financially dependent on her family; although she lived primarily in Philadelphia and Baltimore, she also worked successfully in New York and Boston. She remained in demand throughout her career and had very famous sitters, including two presidents, Andrew Jackson and James Monroe.

Anna Claypoole Peale left a great mark on the artistic world, and after her death on December 25, 1878, her artwork remained valuable. Her miniatures and portraits of both famous and ordinary people have been collected by curators around the world, and her work and life inspire artists and non-artists alike.



Author **Amy Tan** was born on February 19, 1952 to Chinese immigrant parents in Oakland California. Against her mother's wishes, Tan focused on a career as a writer after obtaining both her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from San Jose State University. Her works often explore mother-daughter relationships. Her best-known novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, was adapted for film in 1993.

She has written four other novels, a memoir, and two children's books, one of which was turned into an Emmy-nominated television series. Her work has been translated into over 30 languages, including Arabic and Finnish. Tan currently serves

as the literary editor for "West", a publication of the Los Angeles Times. Along with fellow authors Stephen King and Dave Berry, Tan tours with the band *Rock Bottom Reminders*, which has raised over one million dollars for literacy programs in the United States.



Lydia Estes Pinkham, born on February 9, 1819, was an innovator in the health field and in marketing: indeed, hers was the first female name to be nationally recognized because of a product. When the nation's economy collapsed in 1873, the Pinkham family was close to poverty. As was the case with a number of other women, the hard economic times gave Lydia Pinkham, then in her mid-fifties, societal permission to use the business acumen that she clearly possessed.

For years she had experimented with herbal mixtures designed to improve health. Pinkham's vegetable compound proved popular with friends, who credited it with easing the "female complaints" that they were embarrassed to

explain to physicians. Turning her home into a factory in 1875, she ran production in the basement. Her daughter and her oldest son provided the capital for bottling materials, while her two other sons became the sales department.

They soon discovered that newspaper advertising reached more people faster than door-to-door sales, and in 1879, Lydia Pinkham posed for a photograph to be used in advertisements, showing her to be the perfect picture of mature health. Adding her image to ads made an astonishing difference in sales, and less than a year later, the Pinkham's turned down a \$100,000 offer for their trademark.

The grandmotherly image also served to soften Pinkham's uncommonly candid references to gynecological problems, and she became adept at writing ad copy. She soon added a "Department of Advice" and began responding to hundreds of poignant letters from women who were absolutely ignorant of how their bodies functioned. Beyond her medication, she also prescribed cleanliness, a balanced diet, rest, and other basics of modern health that were not necessarily followed in the nineteenth century.

Pinkham's notebooks were full of other pharmacological compounds to solve other problems, and she was planning an expanded line of products when two of her sons developed tuberculosis. The cause and cure of that disease would not be known for many decades, and with great anxiety, she watched them both weaken and die in 1881. The following year she suffered a paralyzing stroke and died the following spring, at age 64. Her surviving daughter and son continued to be successful with their mother's famous product and the company reached a sales peak of \$3 million in 1925.

To read full biographies of these and other amazing women, log on to www.nwhm.org and click on Biographies, under the Educational Resources tab.