A guide for K-12 teachers who want to add women from every field to the curriculum.
“You must do the thing you think you cannot do.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

Without opportunities to learn about women who came before, girls grow up thinking their options are limited. They are less able to imagine all they are capable of or to embrace Mrs. Roosevelt’s plea.

**Women in the Hudson Valley: A Teaching Resource** is designed to help. It introduces readers to more than 50 remarkable women with ties to our region -- artists and athletes, lawyers and legislators, mapmakers and mathematicians. No matter what you teach, you’ll find a story to help students see women.

Nearly a century after U.S. women secured the right to vote, our stories are still too often eclipsed by those of men. Too many textbooks fail to adequately acknowledge women, the movements we created and sustained, or the ongoing struggle for equality. This resource will help fill the gaps.

Each section of **Women in the Hudson Valley** includes very short profiles followed by print and media resources, places to visit, and classroom activities. Sections are organized by topic, such as, STEM and The Arts. An index allows users to find women by county. There’s also a list of additional women.

Our aim is to stir interest, not to tell the women’s full stories or portray the complexity of their lives. We hope these mini-bios prompt you and your students to dig more deeply. We also hope you’ll scour your own communities for other women we know are out there waiting to be “found.”

**Women in the Hudson Valley** would not have been possible without patient friends who participated in lengthy phone calls, responded to meandering e-mails, and read rough drafts. On the next page, we thank some of the many individuals who provided assistance and support. All of them helped to make this resource more accurate and inclusive. Of course, any errors are our responsibility.

Sincerely,
Molly Scott, Marist College, 2017
Debi Duke, former THV coordinator
THANK YOU

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Additional Remarkable Hudson Valley Women
HUDSON VALLEY
WOMEN
COLONIAL & REVOLUTIONARY ERAS
Maria Van Cortlandt was born to a wealthy family in New Amsterdam, now Manhattan. In 1662, she married Jeremias Van Rensselaer and moved with him to Rensselaerswijck, 160 miles north. They lived in the settlement’s best home -- two cellars, two rooms, and an attic.

The next year Maria had a son. Following the birth, one of her legs was paralyzed for a time. That marked the beginning of lifelong weakness and pain that sometimes limited her movement.

In 1674, Jeremias van Rensselaer died leaving Maria with six children and an estate that included most of today’s Albany and Rensselaer counties along with parts of Columbia and Greene. She leased, bought, and sold land, wheat, and cattle. She supervised the maintenance of houses, barns, mills, and fences. Maria also entertained distinguished visitors, such as the governor.

Directing such a large estate was difficult, but Maria Van Rensselaer had help from servants and enslaved people. Still, she was as well-prepared as any woman of her time. Dutch women were among the most independent in Europe, and she was raised in that tradition. Like Maria, many 17th-century Dutch women were literate and trained to manage household accounts and family businesses.

A note about the land deed shown here: over time the Van Rensselaer and others "bought" most of the land where the Mohawks and other native peoples had lived for thousands of years. American Indians did not share European ideas about land and it is likely that the deeds had different meanings for each party. In addition, it is hard to determine how much coercion was involved in these land deals.
Mumbet, born in Claverack, Columbia County, was enslaved in New York and Massachusetts. By 1781 she was living in the Berkshires, and she and a friend initiated a court case that directly challenged the existence of slavery. They won the case, known as Brom & Bett v. Ashley, and became the first enslaved people freed under the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court used the case as precedent when it eventually abolished slavery in the state.

After the ruling, Mumbet took the name Elizabeth Freeman. For the rest of her life she worked as a healer, midwife, and nurse, as well as in the home of the attorney who won her case.

Civil rights leader and historian W. E. B. Du Bois claimed Freeman as a relative. Anecdotal evidence suggests she may have been his step-great-great-grandmother.
Janet Livingston was born into a prominent Hudson Valley family -- one of her brothers signed the Declaration of Independence -- and spent her childhood at Clermont in Columbia County.

In 1773, she married Richard Montgomery and moved to Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, where they bought land. They fenced, plowed, built a grain mill, and laid the foundation for a large home. Two years later, Montgomery joined the Continental Army and was soon killed in battle.

After her husband's death, Janet Livingston Montgomery took over the management of the property. She and her family accumulated and rented out land to tenant farmers to cultivate wheat on a commercial scale.

In 1802, she and her nephew bought another 434 acres, creating orchards and a nursery business; the orchards are still a thriving business today. They also built a large field stone house known as Montgomery Place.
Margaret Corbin was the first woman combatant in the Revolutionary War and the first woman to receive a U.S. military pension.

Like many women, Molly accompanied her husband, John, when he went to war. In Nov. 1776, dressed as a man, she joined him on the battlefield. When John was fatally wounded, she took over firing the canons.

After recovering from an injury sustained in the same battle, Corbin joined the Invalid Regiment at West Point. Until her discharge in 1783, she nursed the wounded.
Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man, using the name Robert Shurtleff, and joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. Arriving at West Point, in Orange County, she was assigned to scout neutral territory in what is now Westchester. Sampson was able to hide her sex for more than two years.

At one point, she was shot in the leg and removed the bullet herself to avoid detection. Her secret was finally discovered when she fell ill from an epidemic. She was honorably discharged in 1783, married, and lived a farming life in Massachusetts.

In January 1792, Sampson petitioned the Massachusetts State Legislature for pay which the army had withheld from her because she was a woman. The legislature granted her petition and Governor John Hancock signed it. The legislature awarded her 34 pounds plus interest back to her discharge in 1783. In 1802, she began a year-long lecture tour -- the first women to do so -- describing her military life.

On April 26, 1777, Sybil Ludington, age 16, rode more than 40 miles to alert rebel militias of approaching British forces. She rode in the rain from Putnam County, NY, to Danbury, CT, twice the distance ridden by Paul Revere. In 1935, New York State erected a number of historic markers along her route.

Sybil was born in Putnam, but her family soon moved to Dutchess County where they had a large farm. In 1784, she married Edmond Ogden and they moved to Catskill, Greene County where they farmed and ran a successful tavern near Catskill Creek.
LISTEN OR WATCH

Elizabeth Freeman (Mumbet): She Inspires, WMHT, Nov. 2017, one-minute video.


READ


VISIT

Bevier House Museum, Marbletown, Ulster. The home began as one room in the 1680s. In 1715 Louis Bevier and Maria Hasbrouck became the owners and it remained in the Bevier Family for the next 223 years as an income-producing farm.

Clermont State Historic Site and Friends of Clermont, Germantown, Columbia: student programs include History Comics Club and Harvesting History, a gardening experience. Trails, gardens, and grounds, open year-round; guided house tours, April-Dec.; events, exhibits, and activities, year-round. (Margaret Beekman Livingston.)
Constitution Island, Philipstown, Putnam, is on the east side of the Hudson facing West Point. It was the site of the Valley’s earliest Revolutionary War fortifications. Open: April-Oct. Guided tours may be available.

Historic Huguenot Street, New Paltz, Ulster: school programs for all ages, e.g., Colonial Kids (K-2); Learning & Leisure in the 18th Century (3-6); Life & Death in the 1700s (7-12).

John Jay Homestead State Historic Site and Friends of John Jay Homestead, Katonah, Westchester: a variety of school programs, including--by request--a house tour focused on six generations of Jay women. Tour sheds light on life in upper class homes in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Transportation grants available.

Knox’s Headquarters and New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Sites, Orange. Both Guided tours, educational services, views, gardens, special activities, and more.

Montgomery Place, Red Hook, Dutchess: grounds open daily dawn to dusk, free; house tours by appointment. Younger children may enjoy this free to download Montgomery Place Scavenger Hunt. (Janet Livingston Montgomery.)

Philipsburg and Van Cortlandt Manors, Sleepy Hollow and Croton, Westchester: programs available for K-12 school groups, e.g., Millers and Merchants and Crafts & Tasks. Also: materials for teaching and learning, online exhibits, and more.

St. Paul’s Church National Historic Site, Mount Vernon, Westchester: American Revolution Learning Station Program free for schools and youth groups. Also available: traveling trunks, ES workbook, and teachers’ guide, Coming of Age in America: Westchester from Colonial Settlement to President Washington.

Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site and Friends of Schuyler Mansion, Albany: tours highlight the lives of Albany’s wealthiest and most influential 18th century families. Multiple onsite and in-school programs are also available.

Sybil Ludington Statue: Lake Gleneida, Carmel, Putnam. Each April since 1979, on a hilly course approximating the route of Ludington’s historic ride and ending near the statue, the Taconic Road Runners have organized Sybil Ludington Races.

U. S. Military Academy and West Point Museum, Orange: Corbin and Sampson both spent time here, and there is a memorial to Corbin. Visitor’s center (guided bus tours leave here regularly) and museum are open free to the public. For more wide-ranging school and other group tours contact West Point Tours.

Van Wyck Homestead Museum, Fishkill, Dutchess: guided tours weekend afternoons, June-Oct.; self-guided tours daily; school groups may be arranged.

Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site, Newburgh, Orange: guided tours, museum, school programs, scenic views, special activities/events, and more. In 1782 and 1783, Martha Washington lived here with General Washington and his staff.
LESSON PLANS & OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES

The American Revolution in the Hudson River Valley, lesson plans available from the Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College, including

- Declaration of Independence (5)
- Economics of the Revolution (7-11)
- Geography of the Revolution (11)
- Loyalists in the Revolution (7-8)

Sybil Ludington (4)
Timeline of the Revolution (4)
Van Cortlandt Manor (4)
Women Rioters of the Revolution (HS)

Montgomery Place, lesson plan and PowerPoint (12 slides), grades 3-5; Jason Dubois, L. Hunker, M. Lillis, L. Mills, and S. Pettinicchi, Marist College. Bibliography.

From Teaching the Hudson Valley’s free online library

Colonial Albany: Everyday Evidence, grade 7, Stephen Linehan, Albany City Schools, and Erika Sanger, Albany Institute of History & Art: newspaper analysis, web searches, site visits with pre- and post-trip projects, and more.

Colonial Life in the Hudson Valley, grades 3-5, Andrea Boccio-Doran and Cindy Slayton, Krieger ES, Poughkeepsie CSD: four lessons and activities explore several sites listed above.

Diversity and Tolerance in the American Colonies, grades 7-11, Laura Dull and Maryann Fallek, SUNY New Paltz: 15 lessons and activities with group work, intro, etc.

Think Like an Historian: Westchester in the American Revolution, grade 4, Noel MacCarry, Pequenakonck ES, North Salem: seven lessons and activities plus a visit to St. Paul’s Church (see above), which was a hospital during the Revolution.

BACKGROUND READING


Catheryna Rombout has been called America's first female real estate tycoon. Born in Manhattan, she inherited 28,000 acres in Dutchess County. In 1708, she moved there with her husband, Roger Brett. In 1718, Roger Brett died. With three sons to raise, Madam Brett stayed on the land where she operated a mill and formed a trading cooperative.

In need of additional income, Madam Brett encouraged homesteaders, selling land to farmers and skilled tradesmen. She used innovative practices such as keeping the water rights on land she sold, prohibiting competing mills, using credit, and bringing lawsuits.

While Europeans of this period thought of Dutchess County as quite wild, it should be noted that American Indians almost certainly lived there for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. Details about how the Rombouts and other colonial families acquired land are not always easy to find. Madam Brett was undeniably creative and independent in her business dealings, but it's worth remembering that servants and enslaved people contributed to her success by working her land and helping with her businesses.

**DEFINE**

**Entrepreneur**

A person who organizes and operates a business, typically taking financial risks in hopes of earning more than the original investment.
1708 – 1787
Wyntje Hasbrouck

Wyntje Hasbrouck ran the family estate after her husband died. She became the wealthiest woman in 18th century New Paltz.

1830 – 1916
Eliza Ackert

Born in Poughkeepsie, Eliza Varick Silvernail Ackert became the the first woman editor of the "New Paltz Times" when her husband enlisted in the Civil War.

1775-1819
Cornelia VanWagenen

Cornelia Harp VanWagenen opened a successful women's hat shop in 1805. Her business was atypical in that she founded and ran it herself, rather than inheriting it from her husband.

1834 – 1919
Julia Dillon

Julia McEntee Dillon was raised in Kingston. She was a partner in her husband's business. After his death, she supported herself with her painting, which was showcased in many galleries. She often worked at the Vaux Studio owned by her cousin, Hudson River School painter, Jervis McEntee.
Margaret Beekman Livingston
Columbia County

Margaret Beekman was raised in Brooklyn by an aunt after the death of her mother. At 18 she married Judge Robert Livingston. They spent winters in New York City and summers at Clermont, the Livingston estate in Columbia County, pictured here. Margaret had 11 children in 22 years. Her oldest son, Robert R. Livingston, helped draft the Declaration of Independence. In 1775, Margaret's husband, father, and father-in-law all died in the span of seven months.

This left her the owner of Clermont and the Beekman Patent; the latter included more than 80,000 acres in Dutchess County. Women in Margaret's family were often involved in business and property management. Evidence suggests she shared the inclination and may have deliberately decided not to remarry so she could run the estates herself. A lawyer helped Margaret when the law did not permit a woman to act for herself. Her daughter, Janet Montgomery, also had a head for business and is also profiled in this guide.

In 1777, British troops moved north from New York to Albany burning the homes of rebellious colonists. Margaret escaped to Connecticut two days before they reached Clermont. Many of the buildings were lost along with household goods, but Margaret rebuilt. "The Poughkeepsie Journal" reported at the time that Margaret Beekman Livingston freed the enslaved people at Clermont on the day she died.

**DEFINE**

**Patent**

In this context, a *patent* is an exclusive land grant made by a ruler. The Beekman Patent was made by the British king.

Image: 2007, Dmadeo, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0.
Elizabeth was born in Westchester County and raised mainly by her grandfather in Peekskill. Peter Corne was loyal to the English, and Elizabeth grew up in a Loyalist social circle that included States Dyckman. In 1794, States and Elizabeth married despite an age difference of more than 20 years. The letters that survive suggest they were very much in love. Elizabeth had two children born in 1797 and 1799; one died as an infant.

In the early 1800s, States visited England and saw the original Boscobel where King Charles II hid after his loss to Oliver Cromwell in 1651. Some assume States chose the name for his future estate because he longed for his own refuge from legal battles to obtain money owed to him by the English. Work began on the house in 1803, but States died in 1806, and Elizabeth Dyckman oversaw the completion of Boscobel alone.

By 1808, the house was ready and she moved in and furnished it using States’ plans, which were far more elaborate and expensive than those of nearby mansions. Elizabeth was among Westchester’s wealthiest women with a few live-in servants (including, according to the 1810 census, four freed slaves) and farm laborers hired as needed. Elizabeth supervised the housework – fine furniture and accessories required constant care and attention. She also made sure the 250-acre farm and large gardens prospered and sometimes joined in the work herself.

Westchester County Parks acquired the property in 1923, but the house remained vacant. Throughout the 1940s and ’50s there were threats to demolish it. Finally, in 1956, a citizens’ group arranged for the house to be dismantled and moved piece-by-piece to Garrison (Putnam), where pieces were stored in barns and other vacant buildings. From 1957-60 the house was reconstructed and landscaped in Garrison.
Unusual for the times, Flavia Marinda Bristol owned and operated a dry goods business independently after the death of her brother. She established herself as a prominent member of her community, using her earnings to support local religious and service groups.

In her will, Bristol left $30,000 for the creation and ongoing support of a public library in the town of Hillsdale. The library (shown at left) opened in 1926. An obituary described Bristol as "one of the oldest residents of the village and...one of its firmest friends."

Images: Town of Hillsdale website.
Sarah Breedlove was the first of her parents' children to be born into freedom. Orphaned at seven, married at 14, and widowed at 20, she became a single mother earning $1.50 a day as a washerwoman. To supplement her income and cure her alopecia (a scalp disease caused by poor diet and stress) Breedlove sold "wonderful hair grower" for a company owned by Annie Turnbo Malone. Realizing the potential of such products, Breedlove took her daughter and savings to Denver, married her third husband, a newspaper sales agent named Charles Joseph Walker, and began promoting and selling her own hair-care product. Its popularity led her to develop, manufacture, and market an entire line of hair and beauty products as Madame C. J. Walker. In 1910 she moved her business to Indianapolis and traveled the country giving lectures and demonstrations.

Walker was one of the first American women to become a self-made millionaire. She was also known as an activist and philanthropist. She thought of herself as a southerner, but toward the end of her life she built an estate in Irvington-on-Hudson. It became a gathering place for the African-American community. Walker died there in 1919.

Madam C. J. Walker products are still sold at major cosmetic chains.
Katharine Meyer Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, led "The Washington Post" for more than two decades. Her wealthy New York family owned the paper as well as other businesses. She spent much of her childhood in Mount Kisco (Westchester) though the family owned several homes, and Graham attended boarding school in Virginia. She spent two years at Vassar College (Dutchess) before transferring to the University of Chicago.

In Chicago, Graham took an interest in labor issues and shared friendships with people from all walks of life. After graduating, she worked briefly at a San Francisco newspaper where, among other things, she helped cover a dock workers’ strike. In 1938, she began working at "The Post." In 1946, Graham’s father handed over the paper to her husband, Philip, a lawyer she had married in 1940.

In her Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography, "Personal History," Graham wrote, "Far from troubling me...it pleased me. In fact, it never crossed my mind that he [her father] might have viewed me as someone to take on an important job at the paper." Philip Graham chaired "The Post" until his death, adding television stations and "Newsweek" magazine to the business.

Katharine Graham became "The Post’s" publisher in 1963, but did not formally receive the title for several years. At the time, "The New York Times" was viewed as the country’s paper of record, but that was about to change. In 1971, "The Post" published the Pentagon Papers, and then aggressively covered the Watergate conspiracy that led to President Richard Nixon’s 1974 resignation. "The Post" began to be viewed as the equal of "The Times."

In 1972, Graham became the first female chief executive officer (CEO) of a Fortune 500 company. She had no role models and many of her male colleagues and employees did not treat her with respect. In her memoir she describes distrusting her own instincts and credits the women’s movement with bolstering her confidence and leading her to promote gender equality within the company.
ENTREPRENEURS

LISTEN OR WATCH

*Janet Livingston Montgomery*: Aristocrat and Estate Creator, 1-minute audio tape and 4 pp illustrated biography.


*Madam C. J. Walker in the National Archives*, 3+ minutes, National Archives, 2011. A great-great-granddaughter describes what she learned at the Archives.

*Meet the First Self-Made Female Millionaire*, 4+ minutes, Smithsonian Channel, 2016. This is a video about Madam C. J. Walker.

The Post, 1 hr. 57 min., Steven Spielberg, 2017. Meryl Streep portrays Katharine Graham. Available in multiple formats and on several streaming services. *How ‘The Post’ stood up to the power of the presidency*, 7+ min., PBS News Hour, 2018, is a commentary on and nice intro to the film. Older students may be interested in comparing The Post with the 1976 film, All the President’s Men. Katharine Graham is mentioned in the latter film, but never appears.

READ


*Flavia Marinda Bristol*, short biography from the Town of Hillsdale, NY.


**Visit**

General Richard Montgomery and [Janet Livingston House](#), Rhinebeck, Dutchess. The house is managed by the Chancellor Livingston Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Schedule a tour: lalandy371@gmail.com or 845-871-1777.

**Hillsdale Town Hall**, Columbia. Opened in 1926 as the Hillsdale Public Library with funds provided by Flavia Marinda Bristol. In 2004 a new library (the entrance road is Flavia Bristol Drive) was built; the old library became the town hall.

**Historic Huguenot Street**, New Paltz, Ulster. Tours, special events, exhibits, and school programs for all ages.


**Madam Brett Park**, Beacon, Dutchess. Madam Brett’s gristmill stood here on the Fishkill Creek. In the 1800s, the creek powered many hat factories (including the Tioronda Hat Works in the brick building adjacent to the park), earning Beacon the nickname, New York’s Hat-Making Capital. Trails, fishing, observation deck.

**Montgomery Place**, Red Hook, Dutchess County. The grounds are open daily dawn to dusk, free. House tours by appointment. Younger children may enjoy this free [Scavenger Hunt](#). (Janet Livingston Montgomery.)

**LESSON PLANS & OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES**

**NatureNotes: Madam Brett Park**, 2 pp, Susan Hereth and Kate Brill Phipps, Scenic Hudson. Perfect material for a class field experience.

**Two American Entrepreneurs: Madam C.J. Walker and J.C. Penney**, grades 5 and up, Rita Koman, education consultant to Teaching with Historic Places, National Park Service. Based on National Historic Landmark files, photographs, and other sources related to Walker and Penney.

**From the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College**  
*Hands-on-History at Historic Huguenot Street* (grades 5-8) lesson and PowerPoint (15 slides), activities, possible site visits, and bibliography. J. Klein, J. Cunneen, N. Fellows.

**Huguenot Street plans** (grades 3-9) several lesson plans developed by teachers in the region.

**Montgomery Place** (grades 3-5) lesson, bibliography, PowerPoint (12 slides). Jason Dubois, Lauren Hunker, Mary Lillis, Lauren Mills, and Sarah Pettinicchi.

**BACKGROUND READING**


Jane Colden is considered the first woman botanist in the U.S. Her manuscript, "Flora of New York," is an extensive study of plants in and around Newburgh.

Born in New York City, Jane grew up near Newburgh where her family moved when she was a toddler. At that time the area was still quite rural.

Colden's father, a Scottish doctor and scientist, encouraged her interest in plants. He also taught Jane the botanical classification system.

She collected and described plants near her home and completed more than 300 drawings with detailed notes.

Colden was interested in medicinal plants, talked with local people about how they were used, and included such information in her studies.

In 1759, Colden married Dr. William Farquhar. There is no evidence that she continued her botanical work after her marriage.

Define

Botany
the scientific study of plants, including their structure, genetics, ecology, distribution, classification, and economic importance.

Maria Mitchell was the first female astronomer in the U.S., and the first American to discover a comet. Her Quaker parents supported equal education for girls, and she attended schools in her hometown, Nantucket, MA. Her formal education ended when she was 16, and Mitchell worked briefly at a girls’ school. She then opened her own school emphasizing math and science; she also enrolled nonwhite students, which was very unusual at the time.

From about 1836-56 she worked as a librarian while studying with her father, an astronomer and teacher, at the observatory he built. In 1847, using a 2-inch telescope, she discovered what is now called Miss Mitchell’s Comet. The Danish king awarded her a gold medal, and the following year she became the first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1856, Mitchell left the library and traveled to Europe, meeting with astronomers and promoting abolition and suffrage.

When Mitchell joined the faculty at Vassar College (Dutchess) in 1865, she continued her activism, bringing noted feminists to speak on campus. At Vassar, Mitchell had access to a 12-inch telescope—the third largest in the country—and began studying the surfaces of Jupiter and Saturn. A demanding teacher, she expected her students to come out at night for class work and observations.

Mitchell’s research, and that of her students, was often published in academic journals that usually featured only men’s work. She was a founder of the American Association for the Advancement of Women, now the American Association of University Women and still active. At their 1876 meeting in Philadelphia, Mitchell gave a speech entitled, “The Need for Women in Science.”

Maria Mitchell has an asteroid and a lunar crater named for her and she received many honors: she was an officer in one of the few mixed-gender professional groups, the American Social Science Association, and was the first woman elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Philosophical Society. Maria Mitchell retired from Vassar in 1888.

**DEFINE:** Astronomy

The branch of science that deals with celestial objects, space, and the physical universe as a whole.
Eunice Newton Foote was a scientist, inventor, and women’s rights campaigner. Born in Connecticut, she attended Troy Female Seminary, now the Emma Willard School, where she studied with Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps, a pioneering woman scientist, botany expert, and the third female member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Foote was on the editorial committee for the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, the first national women’s rights meeting. She and her husband signed the "Declaration of Sentiments," and she was one of five women who prepared the convention’s actions and decisions for publication.

In August 1856, the AAAS held its annual meeting in Albany. Hundreds of men gathered to share new discoveries, discuss advancements in their fields, and explore new topics. Some sources say that Foote’s work was the only notable presentation, but while Foote attended, she was not permitted to read her own paper. It was presented by Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian Institution. He began by noting how unusual her presence was, saying, “Science was of no country and of no sex. The sphere of woman embraces not only the beautiful and the useful, but the true.”

Foote’s short paper, “Circumstances Affecting the Heat of the Sun’s Rays,” predicted climate science by showing how the sun affects gases and theorized about how such gases interact with Earth’s atmosphere. A column in the September 1856 issue of "Scientific American" praised Foote for supporting her opinions with practical experiments adding, “this we are happy to say has been done by a lady.”

At the end of her life, Eunice Newton Foote lived in Saratoga Springs.

Image: Front cover of physicist Eunice Foote’s 1856 paper on global warming. Courtesy of University of California, Santa Barbara.
Emily Warren Roebling was born and raised in Putnam County. Without her, it is quite possible the Brooklyn Bridge might never have been finished. Her father-in-law, John Roebling, designed and began work on the bridge in 1867. Two years later he died of complications from an accident; her husband, Washington Roebling, became chief engineer. In 1870, Washington developed what was probably decompression sickness. Bedridden, he relied on Emily to finish the job.

In 2018, "The New York Times" published a belated obituary for Emily. It read in part, “She became her husband’s ‘eyes and ears.’ … She went back and forth to the construction site. She negotiated the supply materials, oversaw the contracts, and acted as liaison to the board of trustees. Eventually, she became a kind of ‘surrogate chief engineer.’” The Brooklyn Bridge opened in 1883, and the Roeblings went to live in Troy while their only child attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Emily remained active and late in life received a certificate in business law from the Woman’s Law Class sponsored by the Woman’s Legal Education Society and New York University, which at that time did not admit women. She went on to argue for equality in marriage in an Albany law journal article.

**Define**

Decompression sickness: also known as divers' disease, the bends, or caisson disease. Symptoms include joint pain, headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, weakness, and skin problems.

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Antonia Maury was born in Cold Spring (Putnam), the granddaughter and niece of pioneering male astronomers. She attended Vassar College (Dutchess) and studied with the astronomer Maria Mitchell. After graduating with honors in physics, astronomy, and philosophy, Maury went to work at the Harvard College Observatory.

At Harvard, Maury observed and processed astronomical data. In 1897, she published an important paper about stars, electromagnetic radiation, and light. The observatory's director did not accept Maury’s analysis, so she left Harvard. A Danish astronomer recognized the value of her work; he and others used it to identify giant and dwarf stars. From 1896 to 1918, she taught physics and chemistry at a girls' school in Tarrytown (Westchester).

In 1918, Maury returned to Harvard as an adjunct professor and remained there until 1935. Her most famous work was a 1933 analysis of the binary star Beta Lyrae. In 1943, Maury received a prestigious award from the American Astronomical Society.

When she retired, Maury moved to the family home in Hastings-on-Hudson (Westchester) and pursued an interest in nature and conservation. She enjoyed bird-watching and fought to save western sequoias from being felled for the war effort.

Maury also served as curator of the observatories in Hastings built by her grandfather and uncle. The first photos of the moon taken through a telescope were made there. The site is now known as Observatory Cottage at Draper Park.

**DEFINE**

**Binary Star**

A system of two stars revolving around each other.
Beatrix Cadwalader Jones was born in New York City. One of the first female landscape architects, she was the only woman founder of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Farrand became one of America's most celebrated landscape designers and helped to define an American taste in gardens.

There was no specialized school for landscape design, so Farrand studied botany and land planning and then learned surveying, drafting to scale, elevation rendering, and engineering, at the Columbia University School of Mines.

She advocated the use of native plant species and perennials based on her experience at her family's summer home in Maine and her visits with influential British garden writers.

In 1912, relatively early in her career, Farrand designed a residential garden for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Newbold in Hyde Park, Dutchess. This walled garden, now part of the FDR National Historic Site, has been restored to highlight her original design and is known as the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield.

During her career, Farrand designed many landscapes and gardens at notable sites, such as Yale and Princeton. While she never lived in the Hudson Valley, Beatrix Farrand's influence and design live on at Bellefield.

**DEFINE**

**Perennial**

A perennial is a plant that lives for more than two years and grows back on its own.
Ida Helen Ogilvie was a respected geologist and teacher. Her most noted research related to glaciation and volcanic activity. She also started the geology department at Barnard College.

Ogilvie majored in geology and zoology at Bryn Mawr College, spending summers at the Marine Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. In 1903, she earned a PhD in geology at Columbia University and began teaching.

A daring explorer and mountain climber, she created a trail in Canada’s Rockies, and also explored volcanoes. She was admitted to four major scientific associations, an unusual honor for women at the time.

During World War I, she and her students joined the Woman’s Land Army and ran Airlie, a Westchester County farm. After the war, some in the group wanted to continue farming, so Ogilvie bought about 600 acres in Columbia County.

Ogilvie taught until 1941, and then focused on running the farm where she excelled at breeding dairy cows. When she died at 89, a friend wrote, “she lived a long and mostly happy life, doing the things she wanted to do.”

**DEFINE**

*Woman’s Land Army*

During both world wars, women took over farms throughout the country as men went to fight overseas. The WLA did not receive government assistance; it functioned with the help of non-profit groups and colleges.

For instance, Vassar College (Dutchess) had a 740-acre farm where students grew food and trained. Vassar student farm workers earned 17 and a half cents an hour and worked an eight-hour day.
Marie Tharp created the first map of the ocean floor. A geologist and oceanographic mapmaker, she spent her professional life at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in the Palisades and lived nearby in South Nyack.

Using soundings from sonar, Tharp and Bruce Heezen proved that the ocean floor was not flat and dull. Tharp’s maps showed cracks, valleys, and volcanic mountains that went on for thousands of miles with peaks higher than Mount Everest.

When Tharp proposed the concept of what is now called continental drift -- the idea that the ocean's crust is splitting apart -- Heezen called it "girl talk." Nonetheless in 1956, according to Smithsonian.com, Heezen published and took credit for the findings.

Tharp and Heezen continued to work on their ocean floor maps throughout the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. They were published by the Office of Naval Research in 1977.

Tharp worked at Lamont from 1948 until her retirement in 1982. She was paid less than many of her colleagues, and only at the end of her career was she allowed on research vessels with them.
LESSONS, LINKS, AND DESTINATIONS

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH)

LISTEN OR WATCH

Beatrix Farrand Tribute Film, 8+ minutes, Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame, 2014.

The Life and Gardens of Beatrix Farrand, 40 minutes, Karyl Evans, 2016. 2 min. trailer.


READ


This Lady Scientist Defined the Greenhouse Effect but Didn’t Get the Credit, Because Sexism, 3 pp, Leila McNeill, Smithsonian.com Dec. 5, 2016. (Foote)

VISIT

Beyond Curie is a poster project highlighting women in STEM. As of May 2018, none of the women in this guide were included, but additions are being made.

Jane Colden Garden created by the Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess, Trailside Museums & Zoo, Bear Mountain State Park, Orange County. Includes thicket garden, sunny garden, and woodland gardens. For group scheduling.

Jane Colden Native Plant Sanctuary at Knox’s Headquarters State Historic Site, New Windsor, Orange County. Walk amidst the indigenous plants Colden catalogued so carefully more than two centuries ago. 845-561-1765, ext. 22.

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Palisades, Rockland County. Hands-on earth science for MS and HS students on campus and at Piermont Pier Field Station. Programs include Secondary School Field Research Program, Day in the Life of the Hudson River and Harbor, Rockland Land Use Planning with Students, and more. (Marie Tharp spent her career here.)

Maria Mitchell Observatory, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. Mitchell lived, taught, and conducted research here. It’s now a National Historic Landmark. A new observatory is open to the public weekly, weather permitting. Details: Facebook, Twitter, or 845-437-7679. For class visits: 845-437-7340.

Observatory Cottage at Draper Park, Hastings-on-Hudson Historical Association, Westchester County. Antonia Maury lived here and served as curator of the observatories. The first photos of the moon taken with a telescope were made here. Schedule well in advance: 914-478-2249 or hhscottage@gmail.com.

LESSON PLANS & OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Palisades, Rockland County: gives teachers access to the latest scientific research in earth and environmental science; labs, lesson plans, and supplementary material. Teacher professional development opportunities focus on collaborations between researchers and schools.

Sketch from direct observation in nature, Wallkill River School, Orange County. Follow in the footsteps of Jane Colden to identify and draw plants and start a sketchbook with botanical notes and sketches. Instructor: Shawn Dell Joyce.
Three Rivers of Yonkers, grades 4-5, Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak. Units to increase awareness of river ecology, geology, and history.

Teaching the Hudson Valley’s free online library can be searched by subject area, grade level, and keyword. Many plans include downloadable resources. Here are just a few of the STEM-related lessons and activities.

- The Changing Hudson Project, grades 9-12, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Eight plans explore ecosystems, pollution, climate, and more.

- Earthworms in the Classroom, grade 2, Julie Cash, Kingston City School District. Students do research, use graphic organizers, create reports, etc.

- Empire Forester: FDR as a Tree Farmer, grades 7-10, Susanne Norris, Home of FDR National Historic Site. Hands-on investigation and discussion.


- Protecting Our River, grades 7-9, Margaret Bangert, South Jr. High, Newburgh Enlarged City School District. Two activities/lesson plans.

BACKGROUND READING


Maria Mitchell and Women's Rights, Vassar Encyclopedia and College Archives.


Marie Tharp, the Woman who discovered the Backbone of Earth, 2 pp, David Bressan, Scientific American, July 30, 2013.

Meet the woman who first identified the greenhouse effect, 4 pp, Megan Darby, Climate Home News, February 9, 2016. (Eunice Newton Foote)


HUDSON VALLEY WOMEN

FAITH LEADERS
Ann Lee was a blacksmith’s daughter and mill hand in Manchester, England. Looking for a more personal and emotional religion than the official Church of England, she joined the Wardley Society in 1758. The Wardleys had split from the Quakers and because their worship involved physical shaking, they were called Shaking Quakers, Shakers for short. The group’s official name, which they used after emigrating to the U.S., was the United Society of Believers in the Second Coming of Christ and they often referred to themselves as Believers.

Lee’s father arranged for her to marry another blacksmith, Abraham Stanley. They had four children who died at birth or in early infancy. In her grief, Lee began to have visions. The visions called attention to Lee’s innate leadership skills and charisma. She became more active with the Shakers eventually becoming a leader of the group. The Shakers’ nontraditional worship resulted in persecution, and eventually one of Lee’s visions directed her to take her followers to America.

A group of eight, including Lee’s husband and other family members, arrived in New York City in 1774 and began looking for a place to settle. Eventually, they found a site near Albany and, with four others who had come from England, settled there in 1776. By 1793, Lee had inspired 12 settlements in New York and New England.

After Ann Lee’s death the Shakers established their primary settlement at New Lebanon (renamed Mount Lebanon in 1861), and eventually spread to 19 communities from Maine to Kentucky, creating the first and largest American communal organization. Today one Shaker community exists in Maine.

DEFINE: Shakers

The Shakers believe in establishing “heaven on earth” through cooperation and collectivism. They practice pacifism, celibacy, gender equality, and the public confession of sin. Shakers made significant contributions in religious thought, music, art, architecture, agriculture, and business. They are known today for simple, elegant design and the high quality of the items they produced.
Frances "Fanny" Crosby was born in Brewster or Southeast, Putnam County. As an infant, she suffered from an eye infection and was blinded by the treatment she received. Sources disagree about whether the cause was ignorance or malpractice. Despite being blind, Crosby became one of the most prolific hymn writers ever. She composed 8,000 or more hymns in her lifetime. Her songs remain popular with many Christian denominations.

From 1835-1843 Crosby attended the New York Institution for the Blind in New York City. There, she developed a love for poetry and the Bible. After graduation Crosby taught at the school where she met Alexander Van Alstyne. They married in 1858.

Alexander, a former student at the Institution for the Blind, supported and often transcribed Fanny’s work. She never learned to write and composed entirely in her head. In addition to hymns, Fanny authored secular and patriotic songs, poetry, and a two-volume biography.

Appalled at the plight of immigrants and the poor, Crosby wanted to be seen as helping those around her. She was described as having "a horror of wealth" and gave away much of the little she earned. She and her husband organized benefit concerts and contributed to organizations such as the American Female Guardian Society and Home for the Friendless.
Margaret Newton Van Cott
Greene and Ulster Counties

Margaret Newton was born in New York City to a wealthy Episcopal family. In 1848, she married Peter Van Cott and joined his wholesale patent medicine business.

When Peter died in 1866, Margaret continued to support her family through sales. She also joined a Methodist Episcopal church in Manhattan and began to lead prayer meetings and Bible study at a mission in a poor area.

Successful in winning converts, Margaret accepted an invitation to hold revival meetings in Greene County. More invitations followed. Initially reluctant to preach, she was encouraged by her success.

In 1868 and 1869, she became the first woman to receive formal permission from Methodist Episcopal churches to preach. One "license" came from the Methodist conference of Stone Ridge/Ellenville, Ulster.

By 1880, Van Cott was said to have traveled 143,417 miles and to have held 9,933 revival meetings from Boston to San Francisco, Milwaukee to New Orleans.

When she retired in 1902, Van Cott had converted more than 75,000 people, half of whom joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. She held special meetings for mothers, veterans, and children.

At the end of each revival, Maggie organized new converts into prayer bands to help maintain their new faith. She supported herself with small offerings received at revivals.

Margaret Van Cott's supporters raised funds to support her retirement, and she made her home in Greene County.
Dorothy Day was born in Brooklyn. Trained as a journalist, she was baptized and converted to Christianity in 1927. A lifelong labor and peace activist, she worked on a wide range of social issues keeping in mind Catholic teachings.

In 1933 -- the depths of the Great Depression -- she and Peter Maurin formed the Catholic Worker Movement to serve the homeless, hungry, and forsaken. They believed God gives every person dignity and that as Christians they should show love and respect to all.

In 1964, Day bought Rose Hill, a former Livingston estate in Tivoli (Dutchess County), and began using it as a base. Printing presses for the movement's paper, "The Catholic Worker," were there. The site also hosted lectures and conferences, and housed the homeless in exchange for work on the farm. Soon, a day-care program provided classes and meals to apple pickers' children in the area.

Around 1979, the farm in Tivoli closed and the movement opened Peter Maurin Farm in Marlboro, Ulster County. As of June 2018, Catholic Worker communities continue to serve the downtrodden. Often called "houses of hospitality," there are more than 200 in the U.S. and around the world. Members commit to nonviolence, poverty, and works of mercy. Dorothy Day is being considered for sainthood by the Catholic Church.

Image: Dorothy Day, 1916, photographer unknown, Bettman/Corbis Images
LINKS, LESSONS, AND DESTINATIONS

FAITH LEADERS

LISTEN OR WATCH

Ann Lee: She Inspires, one minute video, WMHT, August 2017.

Dorothy Day: Don’t Call Me a Saint, 55 minutes, Claudia Larson, 2006.

The Shakers: America’s Quiet Revolutionaries, video, 2+ minutes. Made for a special exhibit at NYS Museum. Also: Shaker dictionary and online exhibit divided into six areas, e.g., settlement in America, religious practice, and design.


READ

Anne Hutchinson: Puritan Rebel, Cobblestone Magazine for Kids, about 50 pp, year unknown. Ages 9-14. Single copy, $6.95. (Not profiled in this guide.)

Catholic Worker.org provides a detailed history of the movement along with a directory of related communities and farms that continue today.

A Clash of Cultures: Anne Hutchinson's Brief Life near St. Paul's Church. Online exhibit about the Puritan involved in major religious and political controversies in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during the 1630s. She lived in Westchester County the last year of her life. (Hutchinson is not profiled in this guide.)

Shaker Heritage Society’s website features extensive, easy to use resources about Ann Lee and the Shakers.

Shaker Museum collects, preserves, and interprets Shaker artifacts. Its collection spans more than 200 years. Searchable online database. Library.

VISIT

Akin Free Library, John Kane House, and Oblong Meeting House, Pawling, Dutchess. For related lesson plan see below, Quakers of Pawling.
**Foster Memorial African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church**, Tarrytown, Westchester. Amanda Foster (b. 1807, Albany, not profiled in this guide) joined the Underground Railroad while working as a nurse to the children of Arkansas’s governor. She moved to Tarrytown in 1837, started a sweet shop, married, and helped found AME Zion, which during the Civil War fed and sheltered fugitives.

**Historic Huguenot Street**, New Paltz, Ulster. School programs for all ages, e.g., Life & Death in the 1700s (grades 7-12), touches on religious persecution. The website has a concise description of their religious motivation for coming here.

**Shaker Heritage Society**, Albany. School programs for all ages, e.g., Explore America’s First Shaker Settlement (K-6) and Shakers and The Giver (MS). In-school program: Shakers in your Classroom (3-6). Nature preserve and bike paths.


**St. Paul’s Church National Historic Site**, Mount Vernon, Westchester. Ask about special programs. Standard public tours include a short video, exhibits, and tour of the 18th-century church and cemetery. Spring and summer, weather permitting, visitors may climb the bell tower. Self-guided cemetery tour.

**LESSON PLANS & OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES**

**Quakers, Women, & Reform**, Resource 12, Women & the American Story, Center for Women’s History, New-York Historical Society, 1 p., background, discussion questions.

**Activities for use with The Shakers: Hands to Work, Hearts to God** (see Listen or Watch, above), 13 pp. Four activities, with assessment suggestions for grades 5-8 and one for grades 7-10. Also: additional resources and a Shaker timeline.

**Quakers of Pawling**, K-5, K. Brennan, C. Rand, and L. Bendl, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College. Pawling was once home to the region’s largest community of Quakers. Lesson plan, places to visit, and bibliography.

**BACKGROUND READING**


Lucretia Coffin Mott was born in Massachusetts. As a teenager she attended Nine Partners, a Quaker school in Dutchess County. She taught there after graduating, and her interest in women's rights began when she discovered that male teachers were paid significantly more than women.

In the 1820s, Mott became a Quaker minister. She traveled extensively, with her husband's support, preaching sermons that emphasized the presence of the Divine within every individual.

Mott worked with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other women to plan the first large gathering of U.S. women's rights activists. At their 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, they issued a call for suffrage and other rights, known as the "Declaration of Sentiments."

Define: Quaker

Quakers trace their roots to the Church of England and are known formally as the Religious Society of Friends. Although Nine Partners School closed in 1863, a cemetery and Friends Meeting House are still active there.
Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Baumfree, a Dutch-speaking slave in Ulster County. After escaping, she became known as a powerful orator and advocate, first preaching Christianity and later promoting abolition and women’s suffrage.

Like most slaves in the rural North, Isabella lived isolated from other African Americans. She was sold many times and suffered physical and sexual abuse. Inspired by her faith, she managed to flee with her infant daughter in the mid-1820s. She then became the first woman to successfully sue for child custody, regaining her young son who had been sold illegally.

Living as an acclaimed preacher in New York City in the 1830s, Truth met abolitionists and suffragists. She found their arguments compelling and began to speak on those topics as well. She traveled broadly as a lecturer at first basing her speeches on her Biblical understanding of justice.

When the Civil War began, Truth became more political. She argued for the inclusion of blacks in the Union Army, and once they joined brought them food and clothes. After the war, Truth continued the fight for universal suffrage and advocated that freed slaves be given land.

"At a time when most Americans thought of slaves as male and women as white, Truth embodied a fact that still bears repeating: Among blacks are women; among the women, there are blacks."

Nell Irvin Painter, emerita professor of history, Princeton University
SOJOURNER TRUTH

For more abolition and suffrage resources, go to the end of this section.

LISTEN OR WATCH

Ain’t I a Woman? Three actors have recorded this speech by Sojourner Truth. Each is under five minutes: Alice Walker, Kerry Washington, and Alfre Woodard. Produced by Zinn Education Project, grades 6-12.

READ


VISIT

Sojourner Truth spent much of her life in Ulster County. What is sometimes called her escape route includes two plaques: (1) near her birthplace on Route 213 and (2) Ulster County Court House, Kingston, where she sued to reclaim her son.
Sojourner Truth Library, SUNY New Paltz, Ulster County, observes March 6 with special events in honor of Sojourner Truth. For details email the dean of the library. A 1995 mural featuring Truth hangs above in the staircase. Website features books, articles, documents from the U.S. Dept. of Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) and a list of related materials in its collections.

Sojourner Truth Memorial, Port Ewen, Ulster County. Truth is seen as she might have looked as a young girl enslaved by a tavern owner and Revolutionary War veteran. Sculptor Trina Greene of New Paltz wanted to honor Sojourner Truth, the abolitionist cause, and the ongoing struggle for human rights. She also hoped to raise awareness that slavery existed in New York.

LESSON PLANS & OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES

Sojourner Truth: Abolitionist and Women's Rights Activist, PBS Learning Media, 4 minute video with lesson plan.

Unsung Heroes: Encouraging students to appreciate those who fought for social justice. Activity by retired Portland (OR) Public School teacher Bill Bigelow, 17 pp. Reading levels: 6-12. The activity is based on an essay by Howard Zinn. Sojourner Truth is one of the "heroes."

BACKGROUND READING

Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery, Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jenifer Frank, 304 pp, Ballantine, 2005. This book provides valuable context and includes substantial information about New York slavery and Sojourner Truth, including her 1851 speech to the Women's Rights Convention. A teachers' guide is available.


For 30 years Harriet Myers and her husband Stephen helped individuals escaping slavery and were among Albany's most important abolitionists.

Their home (shown here) was a pivotal stop on the underground railroad and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the New York State Underground Railroad Heritage Trail, and the National Park Service's National Network to Freedom.

Image: Paul Stewart, Capital District Underground Railroad History Project.
Cynthia Moore Hesdra was born in 1808 in Tappan, Rockland County. She spent part of her life enslaved. The circumstances are unclear though some accounts say her husband, Edward Hesdra, purchased her freedom.

Cynthia and her husband ran a successful laundry in New York City and owned property there, in Bergen County, NJ, and in Nyack where Cynthia’s father was one of the town’s wealthiest men.

One of the Hesdras’ Nyack properties is said to have been a safe house on the underground railroad. A marker at Main Street and Route 9W marks the spot where the house stood.
Elizabeth Cady Stanton was not born in the Hudson Valley, but she studied at the Troy Female Seminary, now the Emma Willard School, in Rensselaer County. She was a suffragist, social activist, abolitionist, and a leading figure in the early women's rights movement.

Stanton wrote the "Declaration of Sentiments," presented at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. That gathering is often marked as the start of the organized women's rights and suffrage movement in the U.S. During her life, Stanton addressed many issues in addition to suffrage, e.g., custody, property and employment rights; divorce, and birth control.

After the Civil War, the women's rights movement split. One side, including Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, were committed to suffrage for women and African Americans. They did not support constitutional amendments that would have given voting rights to African American men only.

Eventually, Stanton and Anthony argued that the language of the 14th and 15th amendments actually did give women the right to vote, but they did not win that argument. Almost 50 years passed before U.S. women obtained the right to vote, Elizabeth Cady Stanton shaped the movements that made it possible.
Carrie Chapman Catt was crucial to the suffrage movement and was also a tireless activist for peace.

She spearheaded a campaign for women's voting rights in New York State, which was successful in 1917. Catt was also instrumental in passage of the 19th amendment, which in 1919 gave all U.S. women the right to vote.

Catt was involved in the global women's movement and helped found the International Woman Suffrage Alliance now known as the International Alliance of Women.

In the 1910s Catt moved to Westchester County. Her home in Briarcliff was called Juniper Ledge. She later lived in New Rochelle's Paine Heights neighborhood.

Did you know?

Between 1912 and 1914 there were two Suffrage Hikes. One traveled from the Bronx to Albany; the other from New York City to Washington, D.C.

The hikes were an expression of grassroots activism designed to bring attention to voting rights for women.

Grassroots Activism

Individuals working together starting at the most local level. A grassroots movement is made up of "ordinary" people, not the rich, not the powerful, not elected officials.

Synonyms include: popular, of-the-people, bottom-up, nonhierarchical, rank-and-file.
Mr. President,

how long must women wait for liberty?

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Milholland graduated from Vassar College in Dutchess County. She was denied admission to law school at Cambridge, Harvard, and Yale due to her gender, but was admitted to New York University and graduated in 1912. She joined a New York City firm where she handled criminal and divorce cases. During an investigation of conditions at Sing Sing Correctional Facility she insisted on interviewing prisoners and even had herself handcuffed to one so she could experience conditions firsthand.

In March 1913, Milholland led a national Woman's Suffrage Procession on horseback, wearing a crown and a long white cape. The images quickly became a suffragist symbol. Her obituary in the "New York Sun" said, "No suffrage parade was complete without Inez Milholland." Her presence boosted morale and won support for the movement. She was active in the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which later became the National Woman's Party.

Her wide ranging activism involved Milholland in prison reform, world peace, and equality for African Americans. She was a member of the NAACP, the Women's Trade Union League, the Women's Political Union, the National Child Labor Committee, and England's Fabian Society. Milholland died from pernicious anemia while on a speaking tour in the western states. Her last public words were, "Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?"

Image: 1913, photographic print, George Grantham Bain Collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.
LINKS, LESSONS, AND DESTINATIONS

ABOLITION

LISTEN OR WATCH

Audio, Eileen McAdam, producer, Sound & Story Project of the Hudson Valley

Certificate of Freedom, 2008, under 2 minutes. Warren Boyd's grandfather was a freed slave. As a young boy in the 1920s, he loved listening to his grandfather's stories even though his mother disapproved.

Too Many Bones, narrator: Jim Metzner, 2009, under 7 minutes. Newburgh’s City Historian, a police officer, a school parking lot, a 19th century African cemetery, and the discovery of bones make for a suspenseful tale.

READ


Letters Home: Carrie Niles’ Correspondence with New York’s Volunteers, Gail Goldsmith, Hudson River Valley Review, Vol. 27, No. 2, Spring 2011, pp 105-116. Niles grew up in Columbia County and corresponded with Union soldiers during the Civil War. The letters can be seen at the Columbia County Historical Society.


VISIT

Bevier House Museum, Marbletown, Ulster County. An upstairs room houses the county’s largest collection of Civil War artifacts on public display.
Cynthia Hesdra is honored at Nyack, Rockland County, sites: (1) bench1, Village Memorial Park, 4 Depew Ave., (2) plaque to the “Edward Hesdra Family,” Routes 59 and 9W, the site of the Hesdra family home thought to have been part of the Underground Railroad, (3) Cynthia Hesdra Way, Depew and Piermont.


**Foster Memorial African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church**, Tarrytown, Westchester County. Amanda Foster (b. 1807, Albany) joined the Underground Railroad while working for Arkansas’s governor. She moved to Tarrytown in 1837, started a candy shop, married, and helped found AME Zion, which fed and sheltered fugitive slaves. Open to the public. (Foster is not profiled in this guide.)

**Harriet and Stephen Myers’ Residence**, Albany. The Myers’ were leaders in Albany’s movement for abolition. Youth group/classroom tours are one hour.

**Jay Heritage Center**, Rye, Westchester County. Striving for Freedom: The Jay Family and Manumission is an interactive theater program designed for grades 4-8, social studies, and adaptable for high schoolers and adults. The site also is eager to work with students interested in primary source material.

**John Jay Homestead State Historic Site**, Katonah, Westchester County. Slaves, Slavery and the Jay Family, immersive, [hands-on experience](https://www.historicnys.org/forts-stands) designed to help students (grades 6-12) answer difficult questions, e.g., “Why did many Founding Fathers continue to own slaves” while stating that “all men are created equal?”

Out of Washington’s Shadow: African-American History Tour of Newburgh. Tashae Smith developed this self-guided five-stop tour, including the Alsdorf home, one of the city’s links to the Underground Railroad. [Maps and more](https://www.nps.gov/learn/historyculture/index.htm). **Narration for each stop**. Sound & Story Project. Guided tours, [Walk Newburgh](https://www.tournewburgh.org/).

**Rensselaer County Historical Society**, Troy. During Abolition & Escape (grades 4-8) students visit sites associated with the abolition movement and use primary resources and readers’ theater based on a real event.2 Not a Railroad and Not Underground (grades 3-5) introduces students to African-Americans living in Troy before the Civil War. Also: walking tours and in-class programs.

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1 Part of the Bench by the Road Project, a history and community outreach initiative of the Toni Morrison Society begun in 2006. “Bench by the Road” came from a speech Morrison gave in 1988. First published in 1989 and reprinted in 2008 by [UU World](https://www.uuworld.org/). There is no place you or I can go, to think about or not think about, to summon the presences of, or recollect the absences of slaves; nothing that reminds us of the ones who made the journey and of those who did make it. There is no suitable memorial or plaque or wreath or wall or park or skyscraper lobby. There’s no 300-foot tower. There’s no small bench by the road. There is not even a tree scored, an initial that I can visit or you can visit in Charleston or Savannah or New York or Providence, or better still, on the banks of the Mississippi.

2 [Incident in Troy](https://www.uuworld.org/), for more information about this see the teaching materials section below, [Africans in America](https://www.nps.gov/).
St. Paul’s Church National Historic Site, Mount Vernon, Westchester County. Interpretive programs include the history of enslaved and free black community members. Including some buried in the cemetery, e.g., Rebecca Turner (not profiled in this resource), who lived through the revolutionary and civil wars.

LESSON PLANS & OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES


Freedom & Dignity Project, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College, includes:

- Children and Slavery, grades 7-8, Kathy Hack, Miller MS, Kingston City Schools. Students learn to understand the conditions of slavery.
- Resistance to Slavery, grade 8, Michael Brown, Linden Avenue MS, Red Hook CSD. Students read, discuss, and write using primary sources.
- Slavery in New York, grades 7-11, Georgia Herring and Heather Simco, Millbrook Junior/Senior High School.


Mount Zion & Montrepose Cemeteries, grade 4, Donna Nageli, Kingston City School District. Students compare and contrast two very different cemeteries. One, given to the African-American community by the City of Kingston; the other created by and for leaders of the white community.

BACKGROUND READING


LISTEN OR WATCH

**100 Years on Mount Ida**, 2011, 12-minute video on the history of the Emma Willard School. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others in this guide attended the school formerly known as Troy Female Seminary.

**Perseverance: The story of women's suffrage in New York State**, Tamarac Video Productions, 2017, 15 minutes. Film features Hudson Valley students and scholars.

For more video, see Teaching Materials below and resource page for Sojourner Truth.

READ


**Declaration of Sentiments** (2 pp) signed by three women profiled in this resource: Eunice Newton Foote, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Grades 6-12.

Elizabeth Started All the Trouble, Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Matt Faulkner, 40 pp, Disney-Hyperion, 2016. Grades 1-4.

**One Hundred Years toward Suffrage: Timeline**, E. Susan Barber, Women’s Rights National Historic Park.


Visit

New York State Museum has a substantial collection of items related to women’s history. The woman’s suffrage collection contains flyers, banners, car cards, and more. Votes for Women, a centennial exhibit, closed May 2018, but resources remain online: Educator’s Guide, 30 pp; online exhibit, traveling exhibit: email for details.

Lesson Plans and Other Teacher Resources

Seneca Falls, 1848: Women Organize for Equality, class role play, grades 9-12, Bill Bigelow, Portland (OR) Public Schools, 17 pp, Zinn Education Project. Students study race and class while exploring the convention’s accomplishments and limitations.

Woman Suffrage, grade 6, uses essays from the Hudson River Valley Review, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College: (1) From Emancipation to Representation, Joan Hollister & Sally Schultz; (2) Woman Suffrage, Vassar College and Laura Johnson Wylie, Eva Boice, both from Vol. 20, No. 2, 2004; and (3) The 1895 New York State Woman Suffrage Association Convention, Shannon Risk, Vol. 23, No. 2, Spring 2007.

From the Library of Congress

Women’s History Lessons: 19th Century Women Struggle and Triumph (grades 6-12), Suffrage Strategies: Voices for Votes (grades 3-8), Suffragists and their Tactics (grades 6-12), and Women’s Suffrage: Their Rights and Nothing Less, (grades 6-12).

Primary Source Sets, Women’s Suffrage: collections of sheet music, photographs, letters, and maps; teacher’s guide with historical context and online resources; tools to help students analyze primary sources; Student Discovery Set (free e-book). Students can zoom in, highlight, and make notes on artifacts and documents.

National American Woman Suffrage Association Collection: 800 books and pamphlets collected between 1890 and 1938.

From PBS Learning Media

Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Orator, Author, and Activist: 4-min. video, lesson plan, 3-7.

Primary Source Set: Women’s Suffrage: Campaign for the 19th Amendment, 6-12.

Upstate, Downstate: The Women’s Movement, grade 4, explores the history of the 19th century women’s movement, its connection to abolition, and the continuing struggle for equality + discussion questions, teaching ideas, and student handouts.

Women’s Suffrage: Crash Course US History #31, lesson and 13-minute video, 9-12.
After the death of her husband, Julia Hart Beers moved in with her brother William, a successful landscape artist. Determined to support herself and her two daughters, she devoted herself to art. Beers sold her paintings and also earned money escorting young women on sketching trips in the Adirondacks and Vermont.

Sister of Hudson River School founder Thomas Cole, Sarah Cole was a talented painter in her own right. She studied with Thomas, spent time at his Catskill home, and often took sketching trips with him. As a result, their subjects and style are sometimes similar. Sarah's daughter, Emily, was also a noted painter.

Known for etchings, pen-and-ink drawings, and landscape paintings, Eliza Pratt Greatorex was one of the first women elected to the National Academy of Design. When her husband died in 1858, she became a full-time artist, and supported herself and her children with her work.

Walters is said to have been the only woman to study with Asher Durand, a leading Hudson River School painter. A full-time professional artist, Mary Josephine Walters's work was exhibited at the National Academy of Design, the San Francisco Art Association, and other important venues of her time.

Sometimes called the mother of interior design, Candace Wheeler was one of America's first female interior and textile designers.

Wheeler founded the Society of Decorative Arts and managed large projects, such as the interior of the women's building at the 1893 world's fair.

Wheeler was born in Delhi, NY, just outside the Hudson Valley. She spent much of her adult life in New York City, but in 1887 she started an artists' colony in Greene County with her husband and brother.

They named the colony Ongeura Park, and in 2003 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Candace Wheeler was a teacher, writer, and role model for women who demanded space in field that up to that time was dominated by men.
Charlotte Perkins Gilman is best known today as the author of "The Yellow Wallpaper," a short story still widely read. Informed by her own experiences with an unsatisfying marriage and postpartum depression, the story suggests a connection between mental health and women's ability to control their own lives.

A prominent feminist, sociologist, and suffragist, Gilman was a popular speaker. Her topics included women's need for economic independence and changes to the division of labor within the family. She explored the history of traditional marriage and motherhood in "Women and Economics" (1898); during her lifetime it was her most influential book and was translated into seven languages.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman was not a New Yorker, but she often visited the Byrdcliffe Colony in Woodstock to write, socialize with other artists, and find peace and quiet. In addition to short stories and non-fiction, she wrote poetry, plays, novels, magazine articles, memoirs, and "The Living of Charlotte Perkins Gilman: An Autobiography."
Anna Mary Robertson Moses was a self-taught artist whose work is known for vivid colors and scenes of rural America. She was in her seventies when her work came to public attention. In 1938, a New York City art collector saw her work in a drugstore window and told her he would make her famous; she and her daughters were amused.

The following year, three of Moses’s paintings were included in a members-only show at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). In 1940, she had her first solo show, “What a Farm Wife Painted,” at Galerie St. Etienne in New York. From then on Moses’s reputation grew. She won prizes and exhibited throughout the U.S. and eventually worldwide.

Born near Saratoga, Moses moved to Rensselaer County in 1905 and remained there the rest of her life. Anna Mary Robertson Moses’s paintings, however, remain popular and are part of many museum collections today.
Eva Watson-Schütze was known for romantic, powerfully composed photographic portraits. Born in New Jersey she, like many late-19th-century photographers, had planned to be a painter.

Eva opened a portrait studio in Philadelphia in 1897 and quickly developed a significant reputation. She exhibited in the U.S. and Europe and frequently wrote for photography magazines.

In 1901, Eva married a lawyer and opened a new studio in Chicago. They spent their summers in Woodstock.

In 1902, Eva was elected to an important group that promoted photography as an art as well as a form of documentation. The next year she helped found Photo-Secession, which also promoted photography as fine art.

For the rest of her life, Eva Watson-Schütze promoted photography as art and exhibited her work in influential galleries around the world.

Edna St. Vincent Millay
Dutchess & Columbia Counties

1892–1950

Millay was one of the most popular poets of her time, and in 1923 won a Pulitzer Prize for "The Ballad of the Harp-Weaver."

Born in Maine, Millay and her sisters were raised by a feisty single mother who exposed them to the arts.

Millay had no money for college, but the YWCA National Training School's director recognized her potential and helped her attend Vassar College.

After graduating, Millay lived in New York City, but found its distractions made writing difficult. In 1925, she and her husband bought a 700-acre estate in Columbia County.

Steepletop, as they called it, became Edna St. Vincent Millay's primary home. Her work and life has become emblematic of female liberation and the Jazz Age.


First Fig
My candle burns at both ends; It will not last the night; But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends— It gives a lovely light!

Second Fig
Safe upon the solid rock the ugly houses stand: Come and see my shining place built upon the sand!
Margaret Frances “Peggy” Bacon was a writer, portrait artist, caricaturist, and illustrator. She contributed to "The New Yorker," "Vanity Fair," and other publications.

Born in Maine, Bacon studied at the Art Students League in New York City and with Andrew Dasburg, a Woodstock-based painter.

In 1920, Bacon married another painter, and moved to London. When they returned to the U.S. the following year, they divided their time between Woodstock and New York City.

Bacon illustrated more than 60 books, 19 of which she wrote. In 1952, one of her mysteries, "The Inward Eye," was nominated for an Edgar Allan Poe Award.
Doris Emrick Lee, a painter and book illustrator, was first known for relatively simple depictions of rural people and landscapes. Beginning in the 1950s, while her subjects stayed the same, her style became increasingly abstract.

Born in Illinois, she established a studio in New York City in the 1930s, but soon settled in Woodstock. Lee first received acclaim for “Thanksgiving,” which won a prestigious prize at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1935.

She was soon hired to paint two murals for the General Post Office in Washington, D.C. (Now a federal office building.) During the late 1940s and 1950s, she produced work for “Life” magazine.

“A painting is a thing in itself, like a musical composition,” she said, “It has a life of its own.”
Marion Greenwood was an American social realist painter whose work was popular in the U.S. and Mexico in the 1920s.

She is best known for her murals, but she also created easel paintings, prints, and frescoes.

Greenwood was one of two women artist/correspondents during World War II. Her paintings of wounded soldiers and their occupational therapy are in the National Archives.

As a teenager, Greenwood made multiple visits to Yaddo in Saratoga Springs. Late in life she made her home in Woodstock.

Greenwood is shown here painting a mural for the WPA at the Red Hook Housing Project, Brooklyn.

Image: 1940, Sam Shalat, Federal Art Project, Photographic Division, Archives of American Art
Known as the First Lady of Song and the Queen of Jazz, Ella Fitzgerald was a musical genius. In the early 1920s, her family moved from Virginia to Yonkers (Westchester). She was a good student and studied dance and music at an early age. When Fitzgerald was 15, her mother died leaving her in the care of a stepfather and an aunt. The situation was not a nurturing one; she began skipping school, and her grades suffered. Legal trouble landed her in an orphanage and then the New York Training School for Girls in Hudson (Columbia). When she escaped, she was homeless for a time.

In 1934, Fitzgerald debuted at one of the Apollo Theater’s first amateur nights and won first prize -- $25. The next year she began playing with a well-known jazz orchestra. By 1938, she was topping the charts with songs like, "A-Tisket, A-Tasket," some of which she co-wrote. Fitzgerald continued with the band, singing, recording, and writing, until she began a solo career in 1942. In the 1950s and ‘60s she was well known for her collaborations with trumpeter Louis Armstrong.

Ella Fitzgerald was the first African American woman to receive a Grammy Award and went on to win 13 Grammys, including a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1967. She also earned a National Medal of Arts, a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the University of Southern California’s Magnum Opus Award, an honorary doctorate in music from Harvard University, and many other honors.
Raquel Rabinovich uses a variety of materials and her wide ranging work that includes drawings, collages, paintings, sculptures, and installations. She often works in series -- a slow process of unfolding that requires viewers to experience her creations slowly. One example is a string of large, stone, installations along the Hudson River. Rabinovich calls these “Emergences,” and one is pictured above. The stones disappear from view at high tide and gradually reemerge when the tide ebbs.

Rabinovich was born in Argentina and studied art in Buenos Aires, Paris, and Edinburgh. She has lived and worked in Rhinebeck (Dutchess County) since 1967. Raquel Rabinovich has received numerous grants and awards including a Lee Krasner Award for Lifetime Achievement from The Pollock-Krasner Foundation. She also is included in the oral history program of the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art.
In 1959, Lorraine Hansberry became the first African American writer to have a play produced on Broadway: "A Raisin in the Sun," a groundbreaking exploration of racial segregation. At 29, she also became the youngest playwright, first black author, and fifth woman to win a New York Drama Critic's Circle Award.

In her short life, Hansberry published 10 plays and stories. She also wrote a screenplay for "A Raisin in the Sun," which was released in 1961 starring Ruby Dee and Sidney Poitier. The film was remade in 2008 with Sean Combs and Phylicia Rashad.

Born in Chicago, Hansberry graduated from public schools and then entered the University of Wisconsin where she began a lifetime of activism. In 1950, she left for New York to pursue a writing career and attend The New School. Hansberry worked on Henry Wallace's 1948 presidential campaign, fought evictions in Harlem, worked with W. E. B. Du Bois, wrote for newspapers, and joined the civil rights movement.

Lorraine Hansberry spent the last few years of her life in Croton-on-Hudson where it is said she loved to walk in the woods surrounding her home. After her death, her ex-husband, who had remained a friend, published "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," a play and best-selling book based on her life and unpublished writing.

Julia Santos Solomon is a Dominican-American multi-media artist. Her work includes drawings, paintings, sculpture, fashion, and illustration.

She lives and works in Woodstock (Ulster County), exhibits regularly throughout the Hudson Valley, and is archived by the Smithsonian.

Santos Solomon’s art reflects her experience as a woman with roots in both the Caribbean and the U.S. She consults with students and provides professional development programs for teachers.
LINKS, LESSONS, AND DESTINATIONS

THE ARTS

LISTEN OR WATCH

Alice Morgan Wright: She Inspires, WMHT, Aug. 2017, 1-minute video. This modernist sculptor (b. 1881, Albany) also campaigned for women's rights. The Smithsonian American Art Museum website has a short bio and samples of her work. (Wright is not profiled in this guide.)

Edna St. Vincent Millay: She Inspires, WMHT, Nov. 2017, 1-minute video. Or, visit the Edna St. Vincent Millay Society’s website and listen as she reads her poems.


Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart, PBS, American Masters Series, first aired January 2018, 1 hour, 54 minutes. Website features a trailer, biography, timeline, and more. Available on DVD and to stream via California Newsreel.


READ

Candace Wheeler, 7 pp, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC. Background material and full-color samples of her work prepared for a 2001 exhibit.


Remember the Ladies: Women of the Hudson River School, Nancy Siegel and Jennifer Krieger, 36 pp with many reproductions, Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 2010. This collection of essays was written to accompany a special exhibit.


Six Female Artists of the Hudson River School, Alexandra Kiely, 8 pp, DailyArtMagazine.com, 2017. This is a blog post including reproductions of several paintings plus a bibliography.


A Studio Visit with Julia Santos Solomon, Ann Hutton, 2 pp, Hudson Valley News, December 8, 2016. This is a short, interesting interview with the artist.

**VISIT**

Beatrix Farrand Garden, at Bellefield on the grounds of the FDR Home and Presidential Library, Hyde Park, Dutchess County. The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association offers 45-minute guided tours, by arrangement. There are also occasional special events and a 15-minute, free, audio tour.

Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at Steepletop, Austerlitz, Columbia County. Tours are about two hours and can be tailored to meet the interests and needs of your group. In spring 2018, the Society launched a fundraising campaign to keep the site open.

Hudson River Valley Heritage, online exhibits, e.g., Women of the Hudson Valley in Art (including some artists profiled here), Best Threads, and A Notion to Sew.

Julia Santos Solomon, Smithsonian Archived Artist. Bio and samples of her work.

Maple Grove Cemetery, Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer. Grandma Moses’ burial site.

Raquel Rabinovich: Smithsonian American Art Museum website and her site.
Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, SUNY New Paltz, Ulster County. The museum’s collection includes works by women of the Hudson River School and other artists with ties to the region. School groups are welcome. Ask the educator to highlight Hudson Valley women. An online exhibit, American Scenery: Different Views in Hudson River School Painting includes work by women.

**Thomas Cole National Historic Site**, Catskill, Greene County, welcomes students. With advance notice, site educators will prepare programs and tours focused on Sarah Cole who studied with her brother, Thomas, and often visited Catskill.

**Woodstock Artists Association and Museum**, Woodstock, Ulster County. WAAM is eager to engage youth in the arts. It offers museum visits and in-school programs on art making, critical thinking, visual literacy, and problem solving.

**Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild**, Woodstock, Ulster County. Walking tours by appointment to see the founders’ home, ceramics studio, and historic theater. Also: exhibits, performances, classes, and workshops. Permanent collection includes Arts and Crafts furniture, decorative arts, and two-dimensional works online at Hudson Valley Visual Art Collections Consortium.

### MORE HUDSON VALLEY MUSEUMS WITH ART COLLECTIONS

Museum educators and curators are often eager to tailor programs or tours to your interests. So, go ahead, ask about art made by Hudson Valley women.

- **Albany Institute of History & Art**, Albany
- **Art OMI**, Columbia
- **Dia Beacon**, Dutchess
- **Empire State Plaza Art Collection**, Albany
- **Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center**, Dutchess
- **Hudson River Museum**, Westchester
- **Katonah Museum of Art**, Westchester
- **Neuberger Museum of Art**, Westchester
- **New York State Museum**, Albany
- **Storm King Art Center**, Orange
LESSON PLANS AND OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES

Art Portfolio Advantage. Professional development for teachers and advice for students from Julia Santos Solomon.

Edith Wharton’s Lily Bart - How Authors Can Impact a Region and Landscape Design and Archaeology-Staatsburg and Hyde Park, high school lesson plans, Hudson River Valley Artists & Writers, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College. Millay Colony for the Arts, Austerlitz, Columbia County: ask about their teacher professional development opportunities.

Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, Woodstock, Ulster County. WAAM is eager to provide professional development for teachers on art making, critical thinking, visual literacy, and problem solving.

BACKGROUND READING


Edna St. Vincent Millay: The Academy of American Poets has a short biography and 60 of Millay’s poems. The Poetry Foundation has poems, podcasts (including readings), and scholarly articles.


REFORMERS, ACTIVISTS & TRAILBLAZERS

HUDSON VALLEY WOMEN

REFORMERS, ACTIVISTS & TRAILBLAZERS
Kate Mullany founded Troy's Collar Laundry Union and then became the first woman elected to national union office. Her family had emigrated from Ireland and Kate's father died when she was 19 or 20. She and her sister decided that Kate would be the breadwinner while Mary cared for the house and their ailing mother.

Kate went to work in one of Troy's commercial laundries. Laundry “girls” washed, bleached, starched, dried, and ironed linen collars for $2 to $4 a week. They worked 12 to 14 hour days and often were burned by boiling water, chemicals, and irons. If they damaged a shirt or collar, the cost could be deducted from their pay.

Some 3,000 women worked in Troy’s collar industry. Their requests for higher wages were routinely ignored. Kate heard men talk about unions and what could be accomplished when workers banded together. In 1864, she and two coworkers, Esther Keegan and Sarah McQuillan, decided to organize a union.

The women led a successful strike to increase wages and improve working conditions. Some accounts say they tripled wages within four years. Their Collar Laundry Union became known as the first female union in the country.

Although they had support from the men’s unions and many of Troy’s merchants and professionals, when the women pushed for another raise in 1869, the laundry and factory owners refused and broke the union.

Mullany was an activist the rest of her life, striving to improve conditions for women workers. She connected economics and politics and believed the right to vote would help women win protective labor laws. As a result, she sometimes worked with suffragists.
Most people know Nellie Bly for her undercover exposé of the Women’s Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell Island off Manhattan. In 1887 Bly, a reporter at the New York World, wrote, “From the moment I entered…. I talked and acted just as I do in ordinary life. Yet strange to say, the more sanely I talked and acted, the crazier I was thought to be....” She spent 10 days living and talking with patients. Convinced that many were sane, she wrote:

“What, excepting torture, would produce insanity quicker than this treatment? …. to take a perfectly sane and healthy woman, shut her up and make her sit from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on straight-back benches, do not allow her to talk or move during these hours, give her no reading and let her know nothing of the world or its doings, give her bad food and harsh treatment, and see how long it will take to make her insane.”

Bly’s report became a book, “Ten Days in a Mad-House,” and led to a grand jury investigation. The case resulted in improved treatment and an increase in the budget of the Department of Public Charities and Corrections. In 1889, Bly traveled around the world in an attempt to break the record of the character in Jules Verne's novel, “Around the World in Eighty Days.” Leaving from Hoboken, NJ, she traveled by ship, horse, rickshaw, sampan, burro, and more, completing the trip in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds and setting a real world record.

In 1895, Bly married Robert Seaman of Catskill; they lived together on his property in Greene County until his death in 1904.
Eleanor Anna Roosevelt was the longest-serving—and arguably the most influential—first lady the U.S. has ever had. When her mother died in 1892, she went to live with her grandmother in Tivoli (Dutchess).

She studied with private tutors until she was 15, when she went to an English girls' school. The headmistress took a special interest in Eleanor and helped shape her social conscience. When Eleanor returned to NYC at 18, she was confident in herself and her abilities.

Eleanor became involved in social service work, joined the Junior League, and taught at settlement houses in New York. In 1905 she married her fifth cousin, Franklin D. Roosevelt; between 1906 and 1916, they had six children.

During this time, family and FDR's career were Eleanor's priorities. When the U.S. entered World War I, she volunteered with the Red Cross and in hospitals.

In 1921, Franklin succumbed to polio; Eleanor became increasingly active in politics to help him maintain his interests and to express her own personality and goals. She was active in many women's organizations, the Democratic Party, and other groups.

In 1927, with Nancy Cook, Marion Dickerman, and Caroline O'Day, Eleanor established Val-Kill Industries, a non-profit furniture factory in Hyde Park (Dutchess). During this time she also taught at a private girls' school in New York City.

Upon moving to the White House in 1933, Eleanor told the public not to expect a symbol of elegance, but rather "plain, ordinary Mrs. Roosevelt." She was the first First Lady to hold her own press conferences, allowing only women reporters to attend as they were barred from presidential news conferences.

Throughout her public life, Mrs. R. was concerned about the treatment of African Americans. In 1939, for instance, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) refused to allow Marion Anderson, a black singer, to perform in their auditorium. Eleanor resigned her DAR membership in protest and arranged for Anderson to sing at the Lincoln Memorial.

Sometimes called "the president's eyes, ears, and legs," Eleanor traveled extensively during FDR's presidency. She reported to the president about working and living conditions, using what she saw to support New Deal goals and advocate for the poor, African Americans, and workers.
When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered WWII, Mrs. Roosevelt made certain that the president did not abandon the goals of the New Deal. For example, she used her daily column, “My Day” (published 1935-1962), to let the public know about her travels and her views on issues of the times.

The first First Lady to have a syndicated newspaper column, Eleanor was also the first to be a regular radio commentator. Later, she effectively used the emerging technology of television. After the president’s death in 1945, Mrs. Roosevelt maintained her public life. President Truman appointed her to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly where she chaired the Human Rights Commission and managed the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It was adopted by the UN General Assembly December 10, 1948. Mrs. Roosevelt often referred to the UDHR as her greatest accomplishment.

In 1953, Mrs. Roosevelt resigned from the UN delegation, so that incoming President Dwight Eisenhower could fill the position. She then volunteered with the American Association for the UN and was a U.S. representative to the World Federation of UN Associations. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy reappointed Mrs. Roosevelt to the UN delegation. She also chaired Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women.

Eleanor Roosevelt remained in great demand as a speaker and lecturer until the end of her life. A prolific writer, she authored many articles and books including an autobiography. In her final years, Mrs. Roosevelt lived at Val-Kill and kept an apartment in NYC. She died Nov. 7, 1962, and is buried with her husband in the Rose Garden at their Hyde Park estate.
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

LISTEN OR WATCH

**Facing History & Ourselves** has short audio and video pieces related to Mrs. Roosevelt and human rights. Specific topics include the Cold War, displaced persons, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the holocaust, and more.

**Films from PBS.** Clips and teaching materials are available. Online access to complete programs varies. Available on DVD, libraries, and streaming services.

- *Prospects of Mankind with Eleanor Roosevelt,* WGBH, 16+ min., first aired 1959.


**Roosevelt National Historic Site Speakers Bureau.** Engaging presenters will come to your school. Most can adapt to your grade level. Sample topics: ER’s Fight for Civil Rights; History of Val-Kill Industries; and Women Who Wear Pants.

Read

The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame, Peter Dreier, 512 pp, Nation Books, 2012. Includes Betty Friedan and Eleanor Roosevelt, women from other sections of this guide, and more.


**Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project,** George Washington University. Digital and print editions of Eleanor Roosevelt’s political papers, My Day columns, and more.
Facing History & Ourselves has an easy to search collection of readings.

The First Kitchen: Eleanor Roosevelt’s austerity drive, Laura Shapiro, 10 pp, The New Yorker, Nov. 22, 2010, describes typical White House fare during the Roosevelt era: “Broiled kidneys on toast, chipped beef on toast...."


Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 72 pp, United Nations, illustrated by Yacine Ait Kaci, 2015. Download and print the entire booklet or selected articles.


VISIT

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site has programs and tours for students. Map of the site. Audio guide for Eleanor’s Walk, a short trail first built in 1940.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum has programs and tours for school groups and professional development for teachers.

Home of Franklin Roosevelt National Historic Site, programs and tours for classes.

LESSON PLANS & OTHER TEACHER RESOURCES

Arthurdale Heritage preserves a New Deal community in West Virginia championed by Mrs. Roosevelt. Website includes audio and other resources. Related National Park Service lesson plan, Arthurdale, grades 5-12, social studies.

Eleanor Roosevelt – Human Rights Advocate, by local teachers Linda Bouchey, Susan Rudoy, and Michelle Nieman; Freedom & Dignity Project, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College, grade 8.

Introduction to Resources and Programs at the Roosevelt Presidential Library: Half-day workshop introduces teachers to the Library’s programs and resources. Participants get an overview of document-based programs, online resources, and field experience options. Highlights include letters to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Library of Congress Teachers, part of the Library’s website, features classroom materials, professional development, and primary documents related to Eleanor Roosevelt. One activity uses a letter Mrs. Roosevelt wrote to the president of the NAACP in 1936. Searchable with keywords.

Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, George Washington University, features primary sources, lesson plans, and case studies.

Teaching the Hudson Valley’s free online library of lesson plans and activities

Eleanor Roosevelt: An American Hero, Susanne Norris, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site, grade 4. Looks at Mrs. R’s life and contributions, including her role as a delegate to the United Nations. Activities included.

Eleanor Roosevelt: Her Day, Your Day, Barbara Goodman, social studies, Newburgh Free Academy, grades 4-12. Three activities/lesson plans introduce students to ER’s My Day column and encourage experiments with media.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights poster, Yes! Magazine. Free. 11x17

BACKGROUND READING


  Vol. 1: The Early Years, 1884-1933, 632 pp, 1992
  Vol. 2: The Defining Years, 1933-1938, 686 pp, 1999

Eleanor Roosevelt and Her Legacy, Hudson River Valley Review, Vol. 26, No.1, Autumn 2009, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College. This scholarly journal with multiple essays about the First Lady and reviews of books about her.

Amelia Earhart is best known as the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and for her tragic disappearance in 1937. Her interest in flying began during World War I. As a Red Cross aid in Canada, she was fascinated by air force pilot training. Earhart's first plane ride in 1920 hooked her. The next year, she began flying lessons and bought her first plane. In 1922, Earhart broke the women's altitude record. In 1928, she became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic and published a book, "20 Hours 40 Minutes." In 1931, Earhart married publisher James Putnam, and they made a home in Westchester County.

Earhart toured, lectured, and became aviation editor at "Cosmopolitan" magazine. She also continued flying and setting records. In 1933 Earhart attended a state dinner at the White House. She and Eleanor Roosevelt quickly hit it off, and Amelia offered to take Mrs. R. on a private flight. The women snuck away, commandeered a plane, and flew from Washington to Baltimore. Soon, Eleanor got a student permit, and Amelia promised to give her lessons. During an attempt to circle the globe in 1937, Amelia Earhart disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. President Roosevelt authorized a search, but Earhart was never found, and Eleanor Roosevelt never got her flying lessons.
Lee Miller, who was born in Poughkeepsie, started her working life as a fashion model in the 1920s, but is best known as a photographer and one of the first women war correspondents. Bored with modeling, Miller went to Paris to build on photography skills she had learned from her father. She returned to the U.S. in the early 1930s and set up her own studio. Miller exhibited her work at galleries and museums and attracted commercial clients such as cosmetics companies and department stores.

By the time World War II broke out, Miller was living in England. Ignoring her family’s plea that she return home, Miller became the official war photographer for "Vogue" magazine. She later said, “I was often afraid but it became a matter of pride that work went on.” Miller photographed the bombing of London, D-Day, the liberation of Paris, concentration camps, and more.

After the war, Miller continued contributing fashion and celebrity photos "Vogue." She married a British knight, Roland Penrose, becoming Lady Penrose, and made photos for biographies he wrote about several artists.

Born in Poughkeepsie, Jane Bolin's father was the son of an American Indian woman and an African-American man. Her mother was a white Englishwoman. Bolin's father was a lawyer and though she had a comfortable upbringing, she was well aware of injustice. Her determination to fight inequities made her a woman of many firsts: the first African American woman to graduate from Yale Law School, to join the New York City Bar Association, and to work in the city's legal department.

When she was appointed to NYC family court in 1939, she became the country's first African American woman judge. She ultimately served for 40 years. Among her achievements were ending the assignment of probation officers by race and halting the placement of children according to ethnicity.

Bolin also worked with Eleanor Roosevelt to support the Wiltwyck School in Esopus, Ulster County. Initially, an experimental summer camp for Protestant African-American boys said to be juvenile delinquents, it became a year-round school in 1942 and was open until 1981.

Photo: Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information, circa 1940. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.
Frances Stevenson Reese was born in Manhattan, but Obercreek, a farm in Hughsonville, Dutchess County, had been in her family for generations, and was her lifelong second home. In 1963, Reese helped set the stage for the modern environmental movement, initiating one of the most significant environmental lawsuits in U.S. history. Consolidated Edison proposed to build the world’s largest pumped-storage hydroelectric plant on Storm King Mountain overlooking the Hudson River.

Concerned about possible pollutants and harm to the landscape, Franny and a small group of neighbors formed the Scenic Hudson Preservation Committee to see if they could stop it. For 17 years, the group was in and out of court. They galvanized thousands of people from across the nation and world, and kept the plant from being built.

Their final legal victory established the right of citizens to speak out and initiate lawsuits to protect the environment. The case also provided legal precedent for federal legislation, such as the Clean Water Act of 1977, and yielded a new legal specialty. The group’s success prompted others to seek help from Scenic Hudson.

Franny chaired the organization until 1984, advising an expanding professional staff as they developed programs addressing air and water quality and community planning needs. Over the years, Scenic Hudson also initiated hundreds of land and historic preservation projects, created dozens of parks, and preserved thousands of acres of farmland.

Today, the organization Franny Reese founded continues the work she started and has added climate change, the cleanup of degraded lands, smart growth, environmental education, revitalizing riverfront communities, and more to its agenda.
Ruth Franckling was born in New Rochelle, grew up in Woodstock, and graduated from Kingston High School. She learned to fly at Kingston Airport and in 1940 received a private pilot’s license. The following year, Franckling became the first woman in Ulster County to receive a commercial pilot’s license. In 1942 she became an instructor.

In 1943, the U.S. Air Force wanted women flyers to ferry planes, teach rookies, and tow targets for gunnery practice, freeing male pilots for combat. Franckling answered the call, completing six months of training in Texas and another seven months at increasingly difficult flight schools around the country. She became one of the nation’s first WASPs (Womens Airforce Service Pilots) and eventually qualified to fly 19 types of military planes.

Franckling was disappointed when the WASPs were disbanded at the end of World War II. When her offer to work for $1 a year was ignored, she went back to teaching in flight schools and flying charters in Kingston. In 1946 Ruth married Ward Reynolds, a veteran of the 11th Airborne Division. They opened a flying service in Greene County near the family dairy farm.
Betty Friedan is best known for her book, “The Feminine Mystique.” Written in 1963, it is often credited with igniting feminism’s second wave, i.e., the Women’s Movement of the 1960s and ’70s.

Friedan’s parents were Jewish immigrants. She was born in Peoria, Illinois and graduated from Smith College and the University of California Berkeley.

She began her career as a journalist specializing in labor and women’s issues. By the end of her life, Friedan had published six books.

In 1966, Friedan co-founded NOW (the National Organization for Women) and became its first president.

NOW’s goal was to complete the work of the suffragists securing women’s rights and equality in all spheres.

For much of her adult life, Friedan resided in Rockland County.

Define: Feminism

Social and political movements aiming to define, establish, and achieve political, economic, personal, and social equality regardless of sex. 19th and early 20th century women who worked for the vote are often called first wave feminists. Friedan’s generation represents the second wave. Many identify a third wave that began in the early 1990s influenced by punk culture and a tsunami of sexual harassment complaints following Anita Hill’s Congressional testimony. Some argue that #MeToo represents a fourth wave. Time will tell.
In the 1940s, Lillian Shadic excelled as a high school softball player and even played right field on the boys' baseball team. After she graduated from Roeliff Jansen High School (now Taconic Hills), her dad encouraged her to try out for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGBL). During the 1949 season, she played center field for the Springfield Sallies.

With men back from World War II, the popularity of women's baseball waned. In 1950, Shadic married Clifford Campbell and they raised dairy cows and a family. Today, the Taconic Hills High School ball diamonds are on the Campbell's former farm fields and a nearby plaque honors "Pete." She drove a school bus for 17 years and also volunteered in the schools. Until the age of 75, she played softball in local women's leagues and with her children and grandchildren.

Campbell also was active in her community. In addition to coaching Little League baseball and girls' softball, she played basketball, bowled, and ran a golf driving range. She volunteered with several Veterans groups, the Craryville Fire Auxiliary, the Craryville United Methodist Church, and the North Copake Cemetery Association.

In 1986, former members of the AAGBL began a players' association and campaigned for two years to have the league recognized in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY. The AAGBL also inspired the 1992 movie, "A League of Our Own." On Mother's Day 2011, Campbell threw out the first pitch for the New York Mets proudly wearing her Springfield Sallies jersey.

Image courtesy of Larry Fritsch Cards.
In 1984 Geraldine Ferraro became the first woman and the first Italian American to run for vice president on the ticket of a major party. She was born in Newburgh and went to parochial schools there and in Tarrytown, Westchester.

When Ferraro was 10, her widowed mother moved the family to the South Bronx and supported them by working in a garment factory. Ferraro worked her way through Marymount Manhattan College and Fordham University School of Law. Before entering politics, she worked as a public school teacher and lawyer.

From 1978-84, Ferraro served in the U.S. House of Representatives. A member of the Democratic Party, she emphasized women’s issues, but her interests and influence were broad. While some hailed Walter Mondale for choosing Ferraro as his running mate, the choice was not overwhelmingly popular even among women.

When the Democrats lost the election, Ferraro remained active serving on the boards of women’s organizations and charities and as a fellow at Harvard, fundraising for the party, and even appearing in a soft drink ad. She twice ran for U.S. Senate in New York and lost.

In 1993 Ferraro was the alternate U.S. delegate to the World Conference on Human Rights and was then appointed U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. She was vice-chair of the U.S. delegation to the 1995 World Conference on Women where she prioritized human rights.
Hillary Rodham Clinton has had a long and remarkable career. From 1993-2001 she was, by many accounts, the most active and influential first lady since Eleanor Roosevelt. She was the first female U.S. senator from New York, 2001-09, and served as U.S. Secretary of State, 2009-13. Clinton was also the first woman to win the Iowa Presidential Caucus and run for president on a major party ticket, running as a Democrat in 2016.

Clinton was born and raised in suburban Chicago. She graduated from Wellesley College and Yale Law School. In 1973, Clinton went to work for the Children’s Defense Fund. Her experience there seems to have been formative: the needs of children, families, and women animated much of her later work as a lawyer, activist, diplomat, and legislator.

In 1975, Clinton moved to Arkansas, married Bill Clinton, and served as the state's first lady for more than a decade. While in Arkansas, she co-founded Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and was the first female chair of the Legal Services Corporation.

In 1995, she led the U.S. delegation to Beijing for the United Nations World Conference on Women. Many were inspired by her declaration that “human rights are women’s rights, and women’s rights are human rights once and for all.” Hillary Rodham Clinton has made her home in Chappaqua since 2001.
LINKS, LESSONS, AND DESTINATIONS

REFORMERS, ACTIVISTS, & TRAILBLAZERS

For resources related to Eleanor Roosevelt, see page 74.

LISTEN OR WATCH

**A League of Their Own**, 1992, director: Penny Marshall, writers: Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, 2 hours. A professional all-female baseball league springs up during World War II. Inspired by real events. Available on Hulu, Netflix, and DVD.

**Amelia Earhart**, PBS American Experience, first aired Oct. 27, 1993. Timeline, transcript, and materials are available, but online access to complete programs varies. Available on DVD or check libraries and streaming services.


**Don’t Iron While the Strike is Hot!** A musical about Kate Mullany, performed by students. Video available online in three parts of 25-35 minutes each.

**She Inspires**, a series of one minute videos from PBS, WMHT.

  - **Emma Willard**, 2017. Willard believed females were as capable as males of mastering math, philosophy, and the sciences. She advocated that girls’ stay in school beyond eighth grade. (Willard is not profiled in this resource.)

  - **Ethelda Bleibtrey**, 2018. Born in Waterford, Saratoga County, Ethelda became a competitive swimmer at a time when many thought it unladylike for women to compete. At the 1920 Antwerp Olympics, she swam in the first modern aquatic events allowing women. (Bleibtrey is not profiled in this resource.)

  - **Kate Mullany**, 2018.

**Kate Mullany: Labor Activist**, Tamerac Productions, 2016. Less than 16 minutes.

**No Job for a Woman -- The Women Who Fought to Report WWII**, Michèle Midori Fillion, Hurry Up Sister, Productions, 2011, 61 minutes. Although Lee Miller, the war photographer profiled in this guide, is not in this film, her colleagues’ stories are quite similar. Available on DVD or check libraries and streaming services.
The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame, Peter Dreier, 512 pp, Nation Books, 2012. Includes Friedan and Roosevelt from this section, women who appear elsewhere in this guide; and at least two more who could have been included: Frances Perkins and Margaret Sanger.

101 Changemakers: Rebels and Radicals Who Changed U.S. History, editors: Michele Bollinger and Dao X Tran, 210 pp, Haymarket Books, 2012. MS and HS. Includes Friedan from this section; women who appear elsewhere in this guide; and at least one more woman who could have been included, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins who lived for some years in Westchester County.


American Labor Studies Center. Information on Kate Mullany plus a glossary of labor terms and other resources, e.g., labor and human rights, child labor.

Campbell leaves diamond legacy, Hudson Valley 360, December 19, 2017. Short article about Lillian Campbell’s life and death.


**VISIT**

**Franny Reese State Park**, Highland, Ulster County. 2.5 miles of trails with views of the Mid-Hudson Bridge, [Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park](http://www.warwalk.org), and the City of Poughkeepsie. Connects to the Walkway Loop Trail. [Get map](http://www.warwalk.org).

**Hart-Cluett Historic House Museum**, Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy. Two of the home’s owners had a collar and shirt manufacturing business, Collar City (1 hour, grades 3-5), immerses students in Troy’s industrial past. Also: walking tours of the city, History in Your Classroom, and house tours.

**Kate Mullany National Historic Site**, Troy, Rensselaer County. Mullany’s home is being restored. For possible group visits: 518-331-4474 or email Paul Cole.

**National Purple Heart Hall of Honor**, New Windsor, Orange County. Soldiers Across Time compares the stories of Purple Heart recipients from the Civil War to now. Students apply social studies practices, e.g., gathering, interpreting etc.

**New York State Museum**, Albany. With enough notice, the museum’s education and curatorial staff can tailor a program or share special items from its collections. Use the search function on the website, to find items such as a scrapbook about Clara J. Martin, Westchester’s first female deputy sheriff.

Saint Peter’s Cemetery, Troy, Rensselaer County. Burial place of Kate Mullany.

**Storm King State Park**, Cornwall-on-Hudson, Orange County. Trails reaching 1,000 feet reward hikers with views of the Hudson Highlands and the River. The park began with 800 acres in 1922 and now totals 1,884 acres some donated by Consolidated Edison as part of the settlement of Franny Reese’s lawsuit.

**Westchester Women and War: Portraits 1943-45**, online exhibit, [Hudson River Museum](http://www.hudsonrivermuseum.org), Yonkers, Westchester. 45 portraits of Yonkers women of varied ages and backgrounds who joined the Women’s Army Corps. This beautiful exhibit includes profiles of each woman and photos from the Life Photo Collection.
WOMEN BY COUNTY

Albany County
 Maria Van Rensselaer, 1645-1688 (Colonial and Revolutionary Eras)
 “Mother” Ann Lee, 1736-1784 (Faith Leaders)
 Harriet Myers, 1807-1865 (Abolition and Suffrage)

Columbia County
 Margaret Beekman Livingston, 1724-1800 (Entrepreneurs)
 “Mother” Ann Lee, 1736-1784 (Faith Leaders)
 Elizabeth Freeman, “Mumbet,” 1742-1829 (Abolition and Suffrage)
 Janet Livingston Montgomery, 1743-1828 (Colonial & Revolutionary War Eras)
 Flavia Marinda Bristol, 1824-1918 (Entrepreneurs)
 Ida Helen Ogilvie, 1874-1963 (STEM)
 Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1892-1950 (The Arts)
 Ella Fitzgerald, 1917-1996 (The Arts)
 Lillian “Pete” Campbell, 1929-2017 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)

Dutchess County
 Cathryna Rombout Brett, 1687-1763 (Entrepreneurs)
 Janet Livingston Montgomery, 1743-1828 (Colonial & Revolutionary War Eras)
 Sybil Ludington, 1761-1839 (Colonial & Revolutionary War Eras)
 Lucretia Mott, 1793-1880 (Abolition and Suffrage)
 Maria Mitchell, 1818-1889 (STEM)
 Antonia Maury, 1866-1952 (STEM)
 Beatrix Farrand, 1872-1959 (STEM)
 Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
 Inez Milholland, 1886-1916 (Abolition and Suffrage)
 Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1892-1950 (The Arts)
 Dorothy Day, 1897-1980 (Faith Leaders)
 Elizabeth “Lee” Miller, 1907-1977 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
 Jane Bolin, 1908-2007 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
 Katharine Graham, 1917-2001 (Entrepreneurs)
 Frances “Franny” Reese, 1917-2003 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
 Raquel Rabinovich, b. 1929 (The Arts)

Greene County
 Sybil Ludington, 1761-1839 (Colonial and Revolutionary War Eras)
 Candace Wheeler, 1827-1923 (The Arts)
 Margaret Newton Van Cott, 1830-1914 (Faith Leaders)
 Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman “Nellie Bly,” 1864-1922 (Reformers, Activists…)
 Ruth Franckling Reynolds, 1918-2007 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)

Orange County
 Jane Colden, 1724-1760 (STEM)
 Margaret “Capt. Molly” Corbin, 1751-1800 (Colonial & Revolutionary War Eras)
Deborah Sampson Gannett, 1760-1827 (Colonial & Revolutionary War Eras)
Geraldine Ferraro, 1935-2011 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)

Putnam County
Sybil Ludington, 1761-1839 (Colonial and Revolutionary War Era)
Elizabeth Corne Kennedy Dyckman, 1776-1823 (Entrepreneurs)
Frances Crosby van Alystyne, 1820-1915 (Faith Leaders)
Emily Warren Roebling, 1843-1903 (STEM)
Antonia Maury, 1866-1952 (STEM)

Rensselaer County
Maria Van Rensselaer, 1645-1688 (Colonial and Revolutionary War Eras)
Eunice Newton Foote, 1819-1888 (STEM)
Emily Warren Roebling, 1843-1903 (STEM)
Kate Mullaney, 1845-1906 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1850-1902 (Abolition & Suffrage)
Anna Mary Robertson (“Grandma”) Moses, 1860-1961 (The Arts)

Rockland County
Cynthia Hesdra, 1808-1879 (Abolition & Suffrage)
Marie Tharp, 1920-2006 (STEM)
Betty Friedan, 1921-2006 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)

Ulster County
Huguenot women, 1708-1919 (Entrepreneurs)
Sojourner Truth, 1797-1883 (Abolition & Suffrage)
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1860-1935 (The Arts)
Eva Watson-Schütze, 1867-1935 (The Arts)
Peggy Bacon, 1895-1987 (The Arts)
Doris Emrick Lee, 1905-1983 (The Arts)
Marion Greenwood, 1909-1970 (The Arts)
Ruth Franckling Reynolds, 1918-2007 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
Julia Santos Solomon, b. 1956 (The Arts)

Westchester
Deborah Sampson Gannett, 1760-1827 (Colonial & Revolutionary Eras)
Carrie Chapman Catt, 1859-1947 (Abolition & Suffrage)
Antonia Maury, 1866-1952 (STEM)
Ida Helen Ogilvie, 1874-1963 (STEM)
Elizabeth Corne Kennedy Dyckman, 1776-1823 (Entrepreneurs)
Sarah Breedlove, “Madam C.J. Walker,” 1867-1919 (Entrepreneurs)
Amelia Earhart, 1897, death uncertain (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
Ella Fitzgerald, 1917-1996 (The Arts)
Katharine Graham, 1917-2001 (Entrepreneurs)
Ruth Franckling Reynolds, 1918-2007 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
Lorraine Hansberry, 1930-1965 (The Arts)
Hillary Rodham Clinton, b. 1947 (Reformers, Activists, and Trailblazers)
The longer we looked the more fascinating women we found. Here’s a list of just some of those who didn’t make it into this resource. We hope you and your students keep researching and maybe even write your own profiles. Your county or town [historical society] can probably provide more leads.

**Albany**
Abigail Mott, 1803-1850. Active in the movements for abolition and suffrage.

Alice Morgan Wright, 1881-1975. Modernist sculptor and suffragist. See samples of her work at the Smithsonian American Art Museum website.

**Columbia and Dutchess**
Amanda Akin, 1827-1911. Civil War nurse from Pawling; her journals are archived at the Smithsonian.

Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi, MD, 1865-1887. First Indian woman to graduate from medical school. Lived briefly and is buried in Poughkeepsie.

Margaret Lynch Suckley, 1891-1991. A sixth cousin, close friend, and confidante of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Suckley was also an archivist at his library – the first created by a president to preserve his legacy.

Women’s History in the Hudson Valley: Ten Stories from Dutchess and Columbia Counties is a series of booklets from the office of NYS Assemblywoman Didi Barrett. Copies may be available at a local library or download by year of publication: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, or 2018.

**Greene**
Mary Mapes Dodge, 1831-1905. Author best known for Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates. She lived mainly in NYC, but in 1888 purchased a cottage at Candace Wheeler’s Onteora Park arts colony in Tannersville.

Mabel Parker Smith, 1863-1949. She was noted historian of the Catskills.

Putnam
Susan (1819-1885) and Anna (1827-1915) Wamer. Susan wrote a best-selling novel. Together the sisters wrote novels, hymns, and stories. They lived in a farmhouse on Constitution Island.

Edith Diehl, 1876-1953. Bookbinder and author. Born in Brewster, educated in Carmel. During WWI she worked with the American Red Cross and was a leader in the Woman's Land Army at Wellesley College and nationally.

Aileen Osborn Webb, 1892-1979. Founded the American Craft Council. She lived most of her life in Garrison.

Pola Stout, 1902-1984. Influential interior and textile designer. She and her second husband had a home in Brewster.

Rensselaer and Saratoga
Emma Willard, 1787–1870. She founded Troy Female Seminary, the country's first academic school for young women.


Westchester
Margaret Sanger, 1879-1966, birth control advocate and founder of Planned Parenthood. Her support of eugenics may complicate the story for younger students. Lived briefly in Westchester at the turn of the century.

Agnes Elizabeth Meyer, 1887-1970. Journalist, philanthropist, civil rights activist, arts patron, and mother of Katharine Graham (Read about her in the Entrepreneurs section.) She lived much of her adult life in Westchester.

Lila Bell Wallace, 1889-1984, philanthropist and co-founder of Reader’s Digest. She lived in Mount Kisco.


Bella Abzug, 1920-1998. Legislator. She is best known as a congresswoman from New York City, but raised her children in Westchester and moved back late in life to make an unsuccessful run for Congress from there.

¹ Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years, oral history with Amy Hill Hearth, 320 pages, Dell, 1994