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0521660033 - The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing

Edited by Dale M. Bauer and Philip Gould

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## The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing

*The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing* is a specially commissioned collection designed for use by students. Providing an overview of the history of writing by women in the period, it establishes the context in which this writing emerged, and traces the origin of the terms which have traditionally defined the debate. It includes chapters on topics of recent concern, such as women and war, erotic violence, the liberating and disciplinary effects of religion, and examines the work a variety of women writers, including Harriet Beecher Stowe, Rebecca Harding Davis, and Louisa May Alcott. The volume plots new directions for the study of American literary history, and provides several valuable tools for students, including a chronology of works and suggestions for further reading.

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THE CAMBRIDGE  
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*Other Nature* (1995), *The Boy Who Was Thrown Away* (1987), and *Snow-Eyes* (1985). She is working on a new novel and a new scholarly study, "Household Words: Composing Common Sense in a Democratic Culture."

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SANDRA ZAGARELL teaches at Oberlin College. She has published widely on nineteenth-century American literature. She has coedited (along with Lawrence Buell) Elizabeth Stoddard's *The Morgesons and Other Writings*, and has edited "A New England Nun" and *Other Stories*.

ROSEMARIE ZAGARRI is Professor of History at George Mason University. She is the author of *The Politics of Size: Representation in the United States, 1776–1850* (1988) and *A Woman's Dilemma: Mercy Otis Warren and the American Revolution* (1995). Her articles on early America have appeared widely in numerous scholarly journals.

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With great advice from no less than six anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press, we contacted scholars at various stages of their academic careers: from the newly graduated assistant professors to the senior scholars in the field. We are proud of this effort to chart the constellation of new work in nineteenth-century American women's writing. Yet we are still daunted by how much we had to leave out and how many people – through their distinction, passion, and scholarly dedication to the topic – *should* have contributed to this volume.

We want to thank the indefatigable efforts of Ann Beebe and Jennifer Workman Pitcock, both of whom shaped the project from the beginning (Ann) to the end (Jenny). Lloyd Pratt compiled – expertly and efficiently – both the chronology and the index. Our editors at Cambridge – starting with Ann Sanow, who conceived of the project, to Ray Ryan, who saw it through – have been enthusiastic and encouraging all along. Rachel DeWachter saved us from panic at other stages. Most of all, we are grateful, as ever, to Gordon Hutner, friend to Phil and partner to Dale – and consummate editor for us both. And even more grateful to our families, especially Sophia Alexandra Gould, and Dan and Jake Hutner, who kept us sane.

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## CHRONOLOGY OF WORKS AND EVENTS 1773–1925

- 1773 Phillis Wheatley. *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*. London.
- 1776 Declaration of Independence.  
Abigail Adams writes to her husband, John Adams, asking him to “Remember the ladies. . . .” At the time, he was serving in the Continental Congress, a group of delegates from the revolutionary colonies that would later form the United States.  
Ann Lee establishes the first American Shaker settlement at Niskeyuna, New York.
- 1777 British occupation of Philadelphia.  
Congress adopts the Articles of Confederation, the first US Constitution. In 1787 a new US Constitution was adopted, replacing the relatively weak Articles.
- 1779 Margaret Corbin receives a lifetime pension from the Continental Congress after taking her fallen husband's place in the Revolutionary War.
- 1781 States ratify the Articles of Confederation.
- 1782 Deborah Sampson disguises herself as a man and enlists in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris ends the American Revolution.
- 1786 Daniel Shays leads western Massachusetts attacks on foreclosure courts and a US arsenal. Although Shays was eventually defeated, these protests against high taxes and harsh economic times led to changes that lightened the debt burden of Massachusetts citizens.
- 1787 Philadelphia hosts the Constitutional Convention of the United States.
- 1789 US Congress holds its first meeting in New York City.  
George Washington is elected first president of the United States.  
The first ten amendments to the US Constitution collectively

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- known as the Bill of Rights proposed in Congress. These amendments outline individual rights and the limits placed on government intervention.
- 1790 American religious revival known as the Second Great Awakening begins; women's participation far exceeds that of men. United States passes its first copyright law. Washington, DC founded. First meeting of the US Supreme Court.
- 1791 Female academies begin training women in the tenets of "republican motherhood." Congress ratifies the first ten amendments to the Constitution collectively known as the Bill of Rights.
- 1793 First Fugitive Slave Law passes Congress. Eli Whitney applies to patent the cotton gin.
- 1795 Naturalization Act establishes guidelines for US citizenship.
- 1800 At 7.04 per woman, US birthrate is the highest in recorded history. Congress passes a bill establishing the Library of Congress. Thomas Jefferson elected president. Gabriel Prosser leads an unsuccessful slave rebellion in Richmond, Virginia. District of Columbia becomes capital of the United States. Margaret Bayard Smith. "The Evils of Reserve in Marriage," *Monthly Magazine, and American Review* and "Lines by a Young Lady. Written at The Falls at Passaic, July 1800," *Monthly Magazine, and American Review*.
- 1801 Tabitha Tenney. *Female Quixotism*.
- 1802 Richmond, Virginia *Recorder* publishes a story about Thomas Jefferson's relationship with one of his slaves, Sally Hemmings.
- 1803 France sells the Louisiana Territory to the US for a cost of 60 million francs.
- 1804 Congress orders Indians east of the Mississippi River removed to Louisiana. Lewis and Clark expedition officially departs from St. Louis with a young Shoshoni woman, Sacajawea, accompanying them as an interpreter. After more than a decade of struggle against the French that begins with a slave revolt in 1791, black leaders declare Haiti an independent republic. New Jersey is the final northern state to abolish slavery.
- 1805 Lewis and Clark's guide, Sacajawea, gives birth to a son in February; the expedition reaches the Pacific Ocean in November.

## Chronology

- Virginia law requires that all freed slaves leave the state or face either deportation or imprisonment.  
Margaret Bayard Smith. *The Diversions of Sidney*.  
Mercy Otis Warren. *The History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*.
- 1807 Robert Fulton's "North River Steam Boat" successfully navigates the Hudson River from New York to Albany and back. Congress passes the Embargo Act and cuts off all export trade.
- 1808 Joseph Charles publishes the first newspaper west of the Mississippi in St. Louis.  
US and Britain officially ban the international slave trade; a widespread "internal" slave trade continues in the US.
- 1809 President James Madison annexes western Florida for the US. Congress repeals the Embargo Act.
- 1812 US declares war against Britain and begins the War of 1812.  
Rebecca Rush. *Kelroy, A Novel*.
- 1813 The British blockade Long Island Sound.
- 1814 Dolley Madison rescues Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington and other important documents from president's house as British troops burn Washington, DC.
- 1815 General Andrew Jackson and his troops defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans two weeks after the official end of the War of 1812.
- 1817 Construction begins on the Erie Canal.  
American Colonization Society advocates returning people of African descent to Africa.  
First Seminole War begins in Florida. The Seminoles were a North American Indian tribe of Creek origin who in the late eighteenth century moved south from Georgia into northern Florida.
- 1820 Congress passes the controversial Missouri Compromise banning slavery in Louisiana territories north of latitude 36° 30'.  
James Eastburn and Robert Sands. *Yamoyden: A Tale of the Wars of King Philip*.
- 1821 First US public high school opens in Boston.
- 1822 American colony of Liberia is established in Africa.  
Denmark Vesey and thirty other slaves are executed after whites discover their plan for a slave revolt in Charleston, South Carolina.  
Stephen F. Austin is the first Anglo-American to colonize Texas.
- 1823 Margaret Bayard Smith. *American Mother; or, The Seymour Family*.



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- 1824 Anna and Sarah Peale are elected to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.  
Lydia Maria Child. *Hobomok*.  
James E. Seaver. *A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison*.  
Margaret Bayard Smith. *A Winter in Washington, or Memoirs of the Seymour Family*.
- 1825 Completion of Erie Canal expands trade to the Great Lakes region and the west.
- 1827 Catharine Maria Sedgwick. *Hope Leslie, or, Early Times in Massachusetts*.  
Sarah Josepha Hale. *Northwood: a Tale of New England*.
- 1828 Women make up 90 percent of the workforce in the New England textile industry.  
Andrew Jackson wins the presidency for the newly established Democratic Party.  
“Jim Crow” minstrel character first introduced in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1831 Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia.
- 1832 The Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society founded.  
Jackson reelected president.
- 1833 Founding of Oberlin College, first US institution of higher education to admit women and men on equal standing.  
Lydia Maria Child. *An Appeal in Favor of that Class of Americans Called Africans*.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. “Modern Uses of Language.” *Western Monthly Magazine*.
- 1834 Women workers at a Lowell, Massachusetts mill successfully strike to protest pay cuts.  
Founding of the New York Female Moral Reform Society.  
Antiabolition riots break out in New York and Philadelphia.  
Forced removal of Seminole Indians from Florida.  
Sarah Josepha Hale. “The Ursuline Convent.” *American Ladies’ Magazine*.  
Sarah Josepha Hale. “How to Prevent the Increase of Convents.” *American Ladies’ Magazine*.  
Sarah Josepha Hale. “Convents are Increasing.” *American Ladies’ Magazine*.  
Lydia Huntley Sigourney. *Poems*.
- 1835 Sarah Josepha Hale. *Traits of American Life*.  
Rebecca Theresa Reed. *Six Months in a Convent; or, The*

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- Narrative of Rebecca Theresa Reed, Who was Under the Influence of the Roman Catholics about Two Years, and an Inmate of the Ursuline Convent on Mount Benedict, Charlestown, Mass., Nearly Six Months, in the Years 1831–1832 With Some Preliminary Suggestions by the Committee of Publication.*
- 1836 Grimké sisters lecture against slavery to crowds of women and men. Mexican troops lay siege to the Alamo.  
Angelina Grimké. *An Appeal to Christian Women of the South.*  
Sarah Moore Grimké. *An Epistle to the Clergy of the Southern States.*  
Lucinda Martin Larned. *The American Nun; or, The Effects of Romance.*  
Maria Monk. *Awful Disclosures of the Hotel Dieu Nunnery of Montreal, Revised, with an Appendix.*
- 1837 Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, forerunner of Mount Holyoke College, opens.  
New York City hosts the first national women's antislavery convention.  
Margaret Fuller. "Governor Everett Receiving the Indian Chiefs."  
Financial depression brings widespread bank closures and business failures.
- 1838 Underground railroad helps southern slaves gain freedom.  
Morse code is introduced.
- 1839 First Married Women's Property Act passes in Mississippi giving women limited rights to property ownership and other legal actions formerly denied them under the auspices of "coverture." Under coverture, married woman's legal personhood was transferred to her husband.
- 1840 World's antislavery convention in London refuses to recognize women delegates, leading Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to convene the first women's rights convention.  
*National Anti-Slavery Standard* begins publication.
- 1843 Phoebe Palmer. *The Way of Holiness.*
- 1845 US annexes Texas.  
John L. O'Sullivan describes North American colonization as the "manifest destiny" of the United States.
- 1846 US declares war on Mexico.  
Zilpha Elaw. *Memoirs of the Life, Religious Experience, Ministerial Travels and Labours of Mrs. Zilpha Elaw, An American Female of Colour Together with Some Account of the Great Religious Revivals in America. Written by Herself.*

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- 1847 Frederick Douglass begins publishing the antislavery newspaper the *North Star*.
- 1848 Seneca Falls, New York is the site of the first women's rights convention.  
Astronomer and former librarian Maria Mitchell becomes the first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.  
US pays Mexico \$15 million to cede the territories that will make up California, New Mexico, and portions of Arizona and Nevada.  
Martin Van Buren runs for President as the Free-Soil Party candidate.  
Elizabeth Ellet. *The Women of the American Revolution*.
- 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first woman doctor to graduate from a US medical school.  
Beginning of the California gold rush.  
Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery. She returned to the South repeatedly and led nearly 300 slaves through the Underground Railroad.
- 1850 Over 1,000 attend the first national women's rights convention in Worcester, Massachusetts.  
Women begin training as physicians at Philadelphia's Female Medical College of Pennsylvania.  
Congress passes the second Fugitive Slave Act, a federal mandate demanding the return of fugitive slaves to their owners, even when those slaves had escaped to and been found in states where slavery no longer existed.  
Susan Warner. *The Wide, Wide World*.
- 1851 Sojourner Truth gives her famous "A'n't I a Woman?" speech while touring in Ohio. In the speech, Truth highlights the failure of traditional ideas of womanhood.  
First training school for black women teachers opens in Washington, DC.
- 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly*.
- 1853 First ordained woman minister of a Protestant congregation, Antoinette Brown, ministers to two First Congregational churches in New York.  
Amelia Jenks Bloomer. "Mothers of the Revolution." *Hear Me Patiently: the Reform Speeches of Amelia Jenks Bloomer*.

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- Fanny Fern [Sara Payson Willis Parton]. *Fern Leaves From Fanny's Portfolio*.
- 1854 Harriet Beecher Stowe. *The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*.  
Orvilla S. Belisle. *The Archbishop; or, Romanism in the United States*.  
Maria Cummins. *The Lamplighter*.  
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. *Forest Leaves and Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects*.  
Julia Ward Howe. *Passion-Flowers*.  
Ann Sophia Stephens. *Fashion and Famine*.
- 1855 Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands*.  
University of Iowa admits women, the first state college or university to do so.  
Decision in *Missouri v. Celia*, a slave, declares black women "property" and prohibits them from defending themselves against rape by their masters.  
Orvilla S. Belisle. *The Prophets*.  
Josephine Bunkley. *The Testimony of an Escaped Novice: From the Sisterhood of St. Joseph, Emmettsburg, Maryland, the Mother-House of the Sisters of Charity in the United States*.  
Helen Dhu [pseudo. Charles Edwards Lester]. *Stanhope Burleigh: the Jesuits in Our Homes*.  
Fanny Fern [Sara Payson Willis Parton]. *Ruth Hall*.  
Mary Anne Sadlier. *The Blakes and the Flanagans: a Tale Illustrative of the Irish Life in the United States*.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. *First Geography for My Children*.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. "The Old Oak of Andover – A Reverie."  
Augusta Jane Evans (Wilson). *Inez; a Tale of the Alamo*.
- 1856 Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Dred: a Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp*.
- 1858 Lydia Sigourney. *Lucy Howard's Journal*.
- 1859 American Medical Association opposes abortion.  
E. D. E. N. Southworth. *The Hidden Hand*.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. *The Minister's Wooing*.  
Harriet Wilson. *Our Nig*.
- 1860 First English-language kindergarten opens in the US with Elizabeth Palmer Peabody at the helm.  
Mary Bryant. "How Should Women Write?"  
Ann Sophia Stephens. *Malaeska: the Indian Wife of the White Hunter*.

## Chronology

- 1861 Civil War begins with the bombing of Fort Sumter in South Carolina.  
Rebecca Harding Davis. "Life in the Iron Mills." *Atlantic Monthly*. *Life in the Iron Mills and Other Stories*.  
Harriet Jacobs. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.  
Henry Mayhew. *London Labour and the London Poor*.
- 1862 Oberlin College becomes the first US institution to award a baccalaureate to an African American woman, Mary Jane Patterson.  
Single women begin claiming land under the Homestead Act.  
Rebecca Harding Davis. *Margaret Howth: a Story of To-Day*.  
Elizabeth Drew Stoddard. *The Morgesons*.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Agnes of Sorrento* and *The Pearl of Orr's Island: a Story of the Coast of Maine*.
- 1863 Louisa May Alcott. *Hospital Sketches*.  
Gail Hamilton. "A Call to My Country-Women." *Atlantic Monthly*.  
Mary Anne Sadlier. *Bessy Conway; or, The Irish Girl in America*.  
E. D. E. N. Southworth. *Ishmael*.  
Elizabeth Drew Stoddard. "Lemorne versus Huell."
- 1864 Mary Anne Sadlier. *Confessions of an Apostate and Con O'Regan; or, Emigrant Life in the New World*.  
Augusta Jane Evans (Wilson). *Macaria; or, Altars of Sacrifice*.
- 1865 The more than 1.9 million slave women living in the US are freed with the close of the Civil War.  
Astronomer Maria Mitchell becomes the first female professor at Vassar College.  
Abraham Lincoln assassinated.
- 1866 Congress passes the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, extending male voting rights but for the first time defining "citizens" and "voters" as male.  
Louisa May Alcott. *A Long Fatal Love Chase*.  
Augusta Jane Evans (Wilson). *St. Elmo*.  
Marion Harland. *Sunnybank*.
- 1867 Cigar makers union becomes the first national union to accept African Americans and women.  
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. "Affairs in South Carolina."

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- Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Ward). "At Bay." *Harper's New Monthly*.  
 Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Ward). *Gypsy Breynton*.
- 1868 Rebecca Harding Davis. *Dallas Galbraith*.  
 Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Ward). *The Gates Ajar*.  
 E. D. E. N. Southworth. *Fair Play*.
- 1869 Women's suffrage movement splits into the National Woman's  
 Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage  
 Association.  
 First transcontinental railroad is completed.  
 Arabella Mansfield of Iowa becomes the first woman attorney in  
 the United States.  
 Women in the Wyoming territory win suffrage.  
 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. *Minnie's Sacrifice* and *Moses:  
 a Story of the Nile*.  
 E. D. E. N. Southworth. *How He Won Her*.  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Oldtown Folks*.  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe. "The True Story of Lady Byron's  
 Life." *Atlantic Monthly*.
- 1870 Women in Utah territory win suffrage.  
 Pamela Cowan. *The American Convent as a School for  
 Protestant Children*.  
 Rebecca Harding Davis. *Put Out of the Way*.  
 Helen Hunt Jackson. *Verses by H. H.*  
 Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Ward). "The Woman's Pulpit."  
*Atlantic Monthly*.  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Lady Byron Vindicated. A History of the  
 Byron Controversy*.
- 1871 Smith College established; opens in 1875.  
 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. *Poems*.  
 Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Ward). *The Silent Partner*.  
 Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Ward). "Unhappy Girls." *The  
 Independent*.  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe. *My Wife and I* and *Pink and White  
 Tyranny*.
- 1872 Charlotte E. Ray admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia  
 as the first African American woman lawyer in the US.  
 Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton. *Who Would Have Thought It?*  
 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. *Sketches of Southern Life*.  
 Marion Harland. *True as Steel*.

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- 1873 Comstock Act defines contraceptive information as “obscene.”  
The Act’s effects are felt far into the twentieth century.  
Formation of the Association for the Advancement of Women.  
Edward H. Clarke. *Sex in Education; or, A Fair Chance for the Girls*.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Woman in Sacred History*.
- 1874 Founding of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union.  
US Supreme Court refuses to extend 14th Amendment protections to women.  
Abba Goold Woolson, ed. *Dress Reform: a Series of Lectures Delivered in Boston, On Dress as it Affects the Health of Women*.
- 1875 Partial suffrage for women in Michigan and Minnesota.  
Mary Baker Eddy. *Science and Health*.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. *We and Our Neighbors*.
- 1876 Partial suffrage for women in Colorado.  
Rebecca Harding Davis. “How the Widow Crossed the Lines.”
- 1877 Helen Magill earns her doctorate in Greek from Boston University and becomes the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from an institution in the US.  
Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Ward). *The Story of Avis*.  
Susan B. Warner. *Diana*.
- 1878 Partial suffrage for women in New Hampshire and Oregon.  
Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Poganuc People: Their Loves and Lives*.
- 1879 Mary Baker Eddy founds the Mother Church of Christian Science, later renamed the Church of Christ, Scientist.  
Partial suffrage for Massachusetts women.
- 1880 Sarah Winnemucca, granddaughter of two Northern Paiute chiefs, leads protests against the state of Indian reservations.  
Partial suffrage for women in Mississippi, New York, and Vermont.
- 1881 Clara Barton organizes the American Association of the Red Cross.  
The school for black women that later becomes Spelman College opens in an Atlanta, Georgia church basement.  
The Association of Collegiate Alumnae, later the American Association of University Women, begins promoting “educational equity for all women and girls.”  
Helen Hunt Jackson. “Tidal Waves.” *Atlantic Monthly*.  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. *History of Woman Suffrage*, vol. 1.
- 1882 Emma Lazarus. “The New Colossus.”

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- 1883 Emma Lazarus. "The Jewish Problem." *Century*.  
Ella Wheeler Wilcox. *Poems of Passion*.  
Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins. *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*.
- 1885 Joseph Taylor founds Bryn Mawr College.  
Ada S. Ballin. *The Science of Dress in Theory and Practice*.
- 1887 Partial suffrage for women in Arizona, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, and South Dakota.  
Utah women lose the right to vote.  
Lizette Woodworth Reese. *A Branch of May*.
- 1889 Barnard College opens.  
Rebecca Harding Davis. "Anne."
- 1890 Partial suffrage for women in Oklahoma and Washington.  
Wyoming becomes a state and has full suffrage for women, allowing women to vote in local, state, and national elections.  
Daughters of the American Revolution established.
- 1891 Liliuokalani becomes queen of Hawaii.  
Sophia Alice Callahan. *Wynema: a Child of the Forest*.  
Lucy Delaney. *From the Darkness Cometh the Light; or, Struggles for Freedom*.  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton. "The Degradation of Disfranchisement." *Woman's Tribune*.
- 1892 Sociology department at the University of Kansas offers a course in the "Status of Women in the United States."  
Rebecca Harding Davis. *Kent Hampden and Silhouettes of American Life*.  
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. *Iola Leroy; or, Shadows Uplifted*.
- 1893 Woman's Building at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago showcases the accomplishments of American women.  
National Council of Jewish Women founded.  
Full suffrage for women in Colorado.  
Partial suffrage for women in Connecticut.  
Amanda Berry Smith. *Autobiography: the Story of the Lord's Dealings with Mrs. Amanda Smith, the Colored Evangelist*.
- 1894 Chartering of Radcliffe College.  
*Woman's Era* begins publishing news of the national black women's club movement.  
Partial suffrage for Iowa and Ohio women.  
Loss of partial suffrage for New Jersey women.
- 1895 Elizabeth Cady Stanton. *The Woman's Bible*.



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- 1896 First women's intercollegiate basketball game between Berkeley and Stanford.  
National Federation of Afro-American Women and the National League of Colored Women merge to form the National Association of Colored Women.  
Full suffrage for women in Idaho and Utah.  
Homer Plessy sues when a train company denies him a seat in a rail car with white passengers. The case is appealed all the way to the US Supreme Court. The court's decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* sanctions the segregation of African Americans in public accommodations, setting the standard that would be followed for decades to come.  
Sarah Orne Jewett. *The Country of the Pointed Firs*.  
Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. *Chapters from a Life*.
- 1897 Evangelina Cisneros. *The Story of Evangelina Cisneros (Evangelina Betancourt Cosío Y Cisneros), told by Herself [and] Her Rescue by Karl Decker*.
- 1898 Partial suffrage for women in Delaware and Louisiana.  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton. *Eighty Years and More – Reminiscences 1815–1897*.
- 1899 Carry Nation publicly hatchets bottles and bars to protest alcohol.  
Lillian Galbreth is the first female commencement speaker at the University of California at Berkeley.  
Rebecca Harding Davis. "The Curse of Education."
- 1900 Some women in Wisconsin gain partial suffrage.  
Zitkala-Sa. "Impressions of an Indian Childhood." *Atlantic Monthly*.  
Zitkala-Sa. "The School Days of an Indian Girl." *Atlantic Monthly*.  
Zitkala-Sa. "An Indian Teacher Among Indians." *Atlantic Monthly*.
- 1902 Myra Kelley. *Little Citizens: the Humours of School Life*.
- 1903 Founding of the Women's Trade Union League.
- 1904 Helen Keller graduates cum laude from Radcliffe College.  
The National Child Labor Committee lobbies to eliminate child labor.  
Rebecca Harding Davis. *Bits of Gossip*.
- 1909 International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Women's Trade Union League support striking shirtwaist workers in New York.

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- Founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- Edith Maud Eaton (Sui Sin Far). "Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of an Eurasian." *The Independent*.
- 1910 Partial suffrage for women in New Mexico.  
Full suffrage for women in Washington State.
- 1911 Women in California win full suffrage.  
La Liga Femenil Mexicanista organized in Laredo, Texas.
- 1912 Juliette Gordon Low organizes the first American Girl Guide troop, predecessor of the Girl Scouts. 500,000 turn out to watch a parade of over 20,000 suffrage supporters in New York.  
Women in Arizona, Kansas, and Oregon win full suffrage.  
National American Woman Suffrage Association stages a march on the Capitol the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration as president.  
Mary Antin. *The Promised Land*.
- 1913 Partial suffrage for Illinois women.  
Women in the Alaska territory win full suffrage.
- 1914 Reproductive health activist Margaret Sanger indicted for distributing the birth control pamphlet *Family Limitation*.  
Full suffrage for women in Nevada and Montana.
- 1915 Creation of the Woman's Peace Party.
- 1916 Jeannette Rankin is elected a US Representative from Montana and becomes the first female member of Congress.  
Margaret Sanger is tried and imprisoned after opening the first US birth control clinic.
- 1918 Over one million women working for industry connected to World War One.
- 1920 The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees women the right to vote.  
Anzia Yeziarska. "How I Found America." *Hungry Hearts and Other Stories*.
- 1922 Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution first proposed.  
Scammon Lockwood. "She Didn't Have Any Sense." *McClure's* (June).
- 1925 Anzia Yeziarska. *Bread Givers: a Struggle Between a Father of the Old World and a Daughter of the New*.