

“THIS LARGE ARMY OF . . . WOMEN”: RECOGNIZED AT LAST IN 1893

World's Columbian Exposition Chicago (Kobach, NE: Home and Fire Insurance Co.)



The Woman's Building at the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition was used for exhibits and meetings. Exhibits by women were also in other buildings and judged alongside exhibits by men. The quotation in the title is by Ida A. Harper. In full, her statement reads: "It is not possible to estimate the good that is being promoted through the combined efforts of this large army of earnest, energetic and devoted women; nor can one comprehend the loss it would be to every community, were it deprived of the religious, educational and philanthropic services of its women. (Locomotive Firemen's Magazine, Vol. 17, No. 7, p. 612.)



IHB
Indiana Historical Bureau
State of Indiana

THE INDIANA HISTORIAN EXPLORING INDIANA HISTORY

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Focus

When the U.S. Congress in 1890 authorized the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the women of America—and the world—had a great opportunity. The law included a Board of Lady Managers to assure recognition of and participation by women.

The Indiana General Assembly in 1891 established a state Board of World's Fair Managers to guide the state's participation in the Exposition. The two Indiana women on the national Board of Lady Managers (and their alternates) were by law *ex officio* members of the state board. Four other women were appointed to the Board by the governor.

This accomplishment was the result of many years of hard work by women, in Indiana and nationally. Women had joined together

in groups for many purposes during the nineteenth century. Skills gained from organization and club work enabled women to demand this recognition from Congress in 1890.

A book published by the Indiana Board provides the framework and context for this issue. *The Associated Work of the Women of Indiana*, written by Ida A. Husted Harper, provides a compilation of what women had achieved up to 1893. This is an important primary source because Harper's opinions on the significance of these achievements reflects her own active participation.

An excerpt from and summary of Harper's work is included on pages 4 and 5.

Page 3 contains an overview of the changing roles of women in American society.

On pages 6 and 7, there is a

sampling of Indiana women's organizations before the American Civil War.

A timeline occupies pages 8 and 9. It gives both an overview of women's accomplishments and a fashion show covering the period.

Two areas of special interest for which women organized—temperance and suffrage—are covered on pages 10 and 11.

On page 12, the Indianapolis Free Kindergarten is discussed.

Page 13 includes an overview of the World's Fair and its significance.

The history of women is still very incomplete. This issue addresses the accomplishments of women. It also points out the need to seek women's history at the local level so that a more complete story can be compiled. What were the women in your area doing in the nineteenth century?

Hulbert Howe Bancroft, *The Book of the Fair* (New York: Bounty Books, 1994), p. 71.



Indiana's Women Managers

National Board of Lady Managers

- Virginia C. Meredith, Cambridge City alternate, Mary H. Krout, Crawfordsville
- Wilhelmine Reitz, Evansville alternate, Susan W. Ball, Terre Haute

State World's Fair Board

- May Wright Sewall, Indianapolis
- Laura D. Worley, Ellettsville
- Mrs. S. S. Harrell, Brookville
- M. Virginia Hammond, Rensselaer

Portion of a bird's-eye view of the World's Columbian Exposition in Jackson Park in Chicago showing the Manufacturers and Liberal Arts Building in the foreground and the mile-long midway with the Ferris Wheel in the background.

After the Fair, the World's Columbian Exposition Salvage Company spent two years removing the buildings. Parts of the Fair ended up in various states and many countries. Many of the major buildings were consumed by fire—on purpose and accidentally; steel and building materials were salvaged; much of the glass was sold to florists for greenhouses; and ornaments, flagpoles, and statues were sold. (Scientific American, October 3, 1896) Today, only the Museum of Science and Industry stands—the Fine Arts building rebuilt with more sturdy materials. (Smithsonian, June 1993)

Women Discovered



"... the general Government has just discovered woman. . . ." ¹ said Bertha H. Palmer at the Opening Ceremony for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. She expressed a worldwide recognition of the new public roles for American women at the end of the nineteenth century.

Throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, work by men and women was typically carried out in or near the home. Women produced and prepared clothing and food for their families. They cared for their children. Women also helped their husbands with agricultural labor or their trades. Church membership was, for most women, the only organized activity outside of the home.

After the American Revolution, many changes took place in the lives of Americans. New businesses and technologies provided opportunities for more men to work away from family farms. A greater variety of goods and food products became available for purchase. Families had fewer children. Mothers had more time to direct the moral education of their children.

In the cities, immigrants and former rural families swelled populations. Cities then had problems of growing crime, homelessness, and numbers of people unable to care for themselves and their families. The traditional roles and resources of local governments could not handle the problems.

Women with some free time, money, and a desire to help less fortunate people, came together to form benevolent societies. The first societies appeared along the east coast, but the idea quickly spread to other settled areas. These activities provided the first real opportunity for women to organize themselves. Women considered such benevolent work a natural extension of their duties as wives and mothers.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, a growing religious movement called the Second Great Awakening promoted an intense interest in reforming individuals. Societies were formed to eliminate prostitution, alcohol-abuse, and slavery.

Some women formed self-improvement clubs such as literary societies and mothers' clubs. Free black women in the Northeast and Pennsylvania were among the first to organize in the early decades of the nineteenth century. Their goals generally were mutual aid and self-improvement.

Many clubs discussed "Should women have the right to vote?" The women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 resulted in the formation of women's suffrage organizations all over the country.

The Civil War turned everyone's attention to the great needs of both the northern and southern armies. Women organized to help. Women's aid societies provided food, medicine, and warm clothing.

The accomplishments of women's organizations during the Civil War brought women continued success. By the 1890s, thousands of voluntary associations provided black and white women with opportunities to exercise skills in business, organization, public speaking, education, and lobbying. Women, black and white, fought alcohol, poverty, ignorance, and disease. They established free kindergartens, orphan homes, libraries, hospitals, inexpensive housing, medical services, and much, much more. Many continued to press for the right to vote.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, state and local governments began to recognize and support the efforts of women's organizations to cope with society's problems. It would, however, be twenty more years before women could influence government at the voting booth.

¹*Dedicatory and Opening Ceremonies of the World's Columbian Exposition* (Chicago: Stone, Kastler and Painter, 1893), p. 154.

Sources: Riley, *Inventing the American Woman*, Vol. 1; Scott, *Natural Allies*.

Organization Was the Watchword

Ida A. Harper wrote *The Associated Work of the Women of Indiana* in 1893. It was a publication related to Indiana's participation in the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

It had been hard to gather information about women's groups. Harper noted that "... the same effort was made to secure information from all denominations and all organizations, but there was a vast difference in the responses." In addition, women's work had "... been ignored by census-takers and statisticians ..."

In the opening section, excerpted above, Harper talks about the benefits of organization.

Harper says that there were over 100,000 women in Indiana enrolled in various clubs and organizations in 1893. The total (all ages) female population of Indiana recorded in the 1890 census was 1,074,000. That means over 9% of the females in Indiana belonged to clubs or organizations.



The watchword of the day is organization. Our national motto, *E Pluribus Unum*, is receiving a universal illustration. The spirit of combination, of federation, has seized upon the people. . . .

It would not be an exaggeration to say that every twenty-four hours witnesses the birth of a new organization. People are coming nearer together every year, and the world is growing smaller. Men and women are awakening into a new consciousness of their powers, and are developing that breadth of view which follows a wide association with others. . . .

If men, with their strength, and experience, and independence, need the benefits of organization, how vitally necessary it is to women, who have so much greater obstacles to meet, so much less strength with which to overcome them. Isolated, without cohesion, scattering their forces, they groped and stumbled toward the light, until at length they have found the sunshine. All the opportunities and advantages combined were not sufficient to obtain for them what now is promised through organization. . . .

All that has been done is but the beginning. Women's organizations are increasing in number and membership and influence with every year. They no longer have to contend with an adverse public sentiment, but they are stimulated by an almost universal encouragement. Through organized work women have acquired a consciousness of strength, an independence of action, and a confidence in their ability to decide for themselves their proper sphere of action. They are learning to know themselves. . . .

Ida A. Husted Harper

Ida Husted was born in February 1851 in Fairfield, Indiana. Her family moved to Muncie where she graduated from high school in 1868. After attending Indiana University for one year, she took a position, at age 18, in Peru, Indiana as a principal and teacher. She married Thomas W. Harper in 1871, and they moved to Terre Haute.

Ida Harper began to contribute articles and columns regularly to Terre Haute newspapers and to the *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*. During her career, Harper's writings appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the country.

Harper was divorced in 1890 and moved from Terre Haute. She became a prominent figure internationally in the suffrage movement and had a close association with Susan B. Anthony. She wrote a three-volume biography of Anthony and helped to edit several volumes of the *History of Woman Suffrage*.

In 1915, Harper gave a collection of her Terre Haute articles (1872-1894) to the Vigo County Public Library. In 1916, she gave another collection of her writings to the Library of Congress.

Harper played an important role in putting women's issues before the public. She provided an example and a vision for women to broaden their roles and their rights. She died in Washington, D.C. on March 14, 1931.

Sources: Gary W. Daily, "Ida Husted Harper," Introduction to the Ida Harper Collection, Vigo County Public Library; Nancy Baker Jones, "A Forgotten Feminist: The Early Writings of Ida Husted Harper, 1878-1894," *Indiana Magazine of History*, 73 (March 1977): 79-101.

Photograph of Ida Harper from
Indiana State Library, Indiana Division.

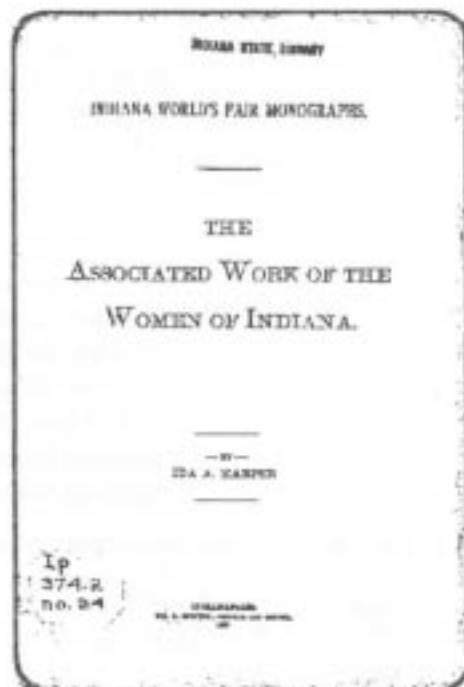
What Were Indiana Women Doing?

Harper's research covers a broad range of women's organizations. The following is a summary of Indiana activity recorded by Harper in *The Associated Work of the Women of Indiana*.

- Harper lists eighty women's literary clubs in thirty-three Indiana counties in April, 1893. She defines literary clubs broadly "... as a body of women organized for mental improvement and social intercourse." Clubs focused on various subjects, such as current authors, ancient writing, history, Shakespeare, constitutional law, and the economy.
- The Indiana Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in 1874. In 1892, there were unions in eighty-eight counties in Indiana with a total membership of 5,535. The Union supported activities in a variety of social areas for children and adults.
- From 1851 to 1860 an Indiana woman suffrage convention was held annually in Dublin, Indiana. Work on suffrage did not go forward during the Civil War years, but annual conventions resumed in 1869. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other national figures addressed the suffrage issue in Indiana. In May 1880, the National Woman Suffrage Association's annual convention was held in Indianapolis.
- The first union to admit women was the International Typographical Union in 1872. It demanded equal pay for women. There were sixteen of these unions with about 150 women members. The second

union to admit women was the Cigar Makers' Union, with about 100 women members. Three Knights of Labor unions included about 300 female members. The Laundry Girls' Union of Indianapolis was composed, owned, and managed by women.

- Women's councils were a result of the organization of the National Council of Women of the United States in 1888. The goal was to join all women's organizations in an area into a local council. Local councils would form state councils. State councils would form the national council. Indianapolis and Fort Wayne had local councils.
 - Many men's organizations such as Odd Fellows, Masons, Knights of Pythias, railroad workers, and veterans groups had associated ladies' auxiliaries. These women, numbering in the thousands, usually carried out social and charitable activities.
 - Art associations and musical societies brought men and women together throughout the state.
 - Missionary work at this time was "... almost exclusively controlled by women. . . ." Harper lists thirteen women's church-related mission groups of various denominations. Thousands of women were involved in raising funds to support missionaries and educational and medical work.
- Harper also singles out some individual examples of women's accomplishments in Indiana.
- The Reform School for Girls and Woman's Prison opened in 1873 with a woman superintendent. The legislature gave women



Indiana State Library, Indiana Division

management control of the reformatory in 1877.

- Orphans' homes were authorized by the legislature in 1881. Harper lists twenty-eight orphans' homes in various counties. Many of the boards were made up of women.
- The Propylæum, dedicated in 1891, was a women's clubhouse in Indianapolis, conceived, built, and owned by women. It was used extensively by associations, clubs, and individuals.
- The Flower Mission was established in 1876 to help the poor and needy of Indianapolis. In 1882, the Flower Mission established a two-year training school for nurses.

Source: Harper, *The Associated Work of the Women of Indiana*.

Early Women's Clubs in Indiana

Few records have been located that provide evidence of women's organizations in Indiana before the American Civil War. The following women's organizations were identified and documented in the 1939 *History: Indiana Federation of Clubs*, compiled by Grace Gates Courtney.

A clue to possibly the earliest women's club in Indiana was found in the October 1825 issue of the *New Harmony Gazette* (shown below). It is assumed by historians that Frances Wright, an early feminist living in New Harmony, was involved with the organization, but little

else is known about the Female Social Society.

Records do exist for the Edgeworthalean Society of Bloomington, including a constitu-

tion and by-laws. The first regular program meeting of this female literary society was held on January 8, 1841. The first president of the society stated that "Our object is the cultivation and improvement of the mind. . . ." The address also noted that "societies similar in character . . . have long existed in places not very distant" The Society met once a week and charged a fine of 6 1/4 cents for absence from a meeting without an excuse. The Society record book ends June 14, 1844.

The Clonian Society in Vernon, Indiana was formed in July 1858. Historians know about this early women's club because its constitution was found in the cornerstone of the Jennings Academy. The building was constructed in 1858 and torn down in 1922. No other records have been located. The members' pledge affirmed "that the moral and intellectual faculties of the young ladies may be improved by a continual effort on their part"



Constance Owen Fauntleroy

New Harmony State Historic Site, Division of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

Notice.

The Regular Meeting of the Female Social Society is postponed till Monday evening 14th instant.

ASHWORTH, President.

A. E. CROWELL, Sec'y.

One of the best documented women's organizations is the Minerva Society of New Harmony founded by Constance Owen Fauntleroy on September 20, 1859. Constance was the niece of Robert Dale Owen, statesman and member of the 1850 Indiana Constitutional Convention. He wrote the constitution and by-laws of the Minerva Society.

The Society was "instituted by the young ladies of New Harmony for self improvement and mental cultivation. . . ." Its motto was "Wisdom is the crown of glory."

The women debated such topics as "Are We Made Happier by Education?" "Which is the Greater Evil, War or Slavery?" and "Is Woman Mentally Man's Equal?"

The members of the club wrote compositions and poems which were read to the group. Article 3 of the constitution required members to have a notebook to record notes on each composition.

An unusual feature of the Minerva Society was the election procedure. New officers were elected every six weeks. That way, all members could have equal executive experience.

The Minerva Society continued to

meet until the autumn of 1863. The Civil War brought the Society to an end when some members left New Harmony to serve as nurses in the Civil War.

Additional early women's clubs have been identified. One is described below.

Another, for example, is a Maternal Association in Fountain County described by Mary Hovey in a letter of December 13, 1837. The aim of its members was to better instruct themselves in nurturing their children.

There may be additional records, references in letters, or newspaper notices that will lead to previously unknown groups. Such discoveries can help to increase the knowledge about women in the early history of Indiana.

Sources: Courtney, *History: Indiana Federation of Clubs*; Lockridge, *The Old Fautleroy Home*; *Ladies of the Club: The Minerva Society of New Harmony, 1859-1863* [New Harmony State Historic Site, 1992].

The photograph at right is page one of the Constitution of the Widows and Orphans friend Society of the City of Indianapolis founded in 1854. The organization's objective was to "... relieve [sic] the physical intellectual [sic] and moral wants of widows and orphans . . ."

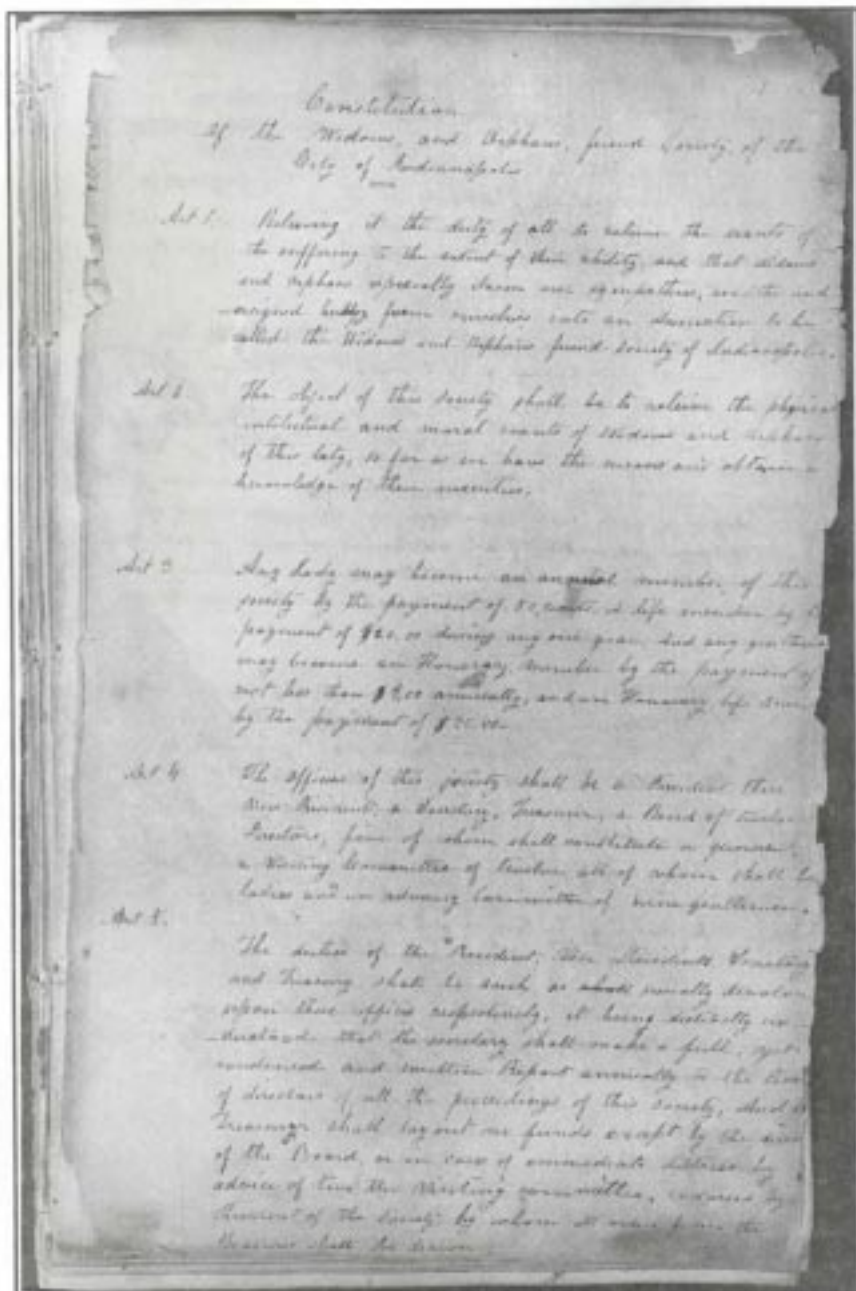
Membership dues for women were 50 cents each year or \$20 for a life membership. Men could be honorary members by paying \$3 each year or acquiring an honorary life membership for \$30.

In addition to the usual officers, the constitution established a visiting committee of twelve women and an advisory committee of nine gentlemen.

You Be the Historian

Explore your community to discover what women were doing in the nineteenth century.

- Check town and county histories, newspapers, and local history collections.
- Compile and write histories of those activities for your public library or local historical society.
- Send a copy of your work to *The Indiana Historian*.



Indiana Historical Society Library, Negative No. C5637.

Time to Get

1816
Indiana became the nineteenth state.



1848
Seneca Falls, New York Convention was organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott to discuss women's grievances. More than 300 men and women attended.

1841
Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, granted women the first university degrees in America.

1851
Indiana adopted a new Constitution.



1888
International Council of Women brought delegates from seven foreign nations and twenty-nine national women's organizations into the largest and most representative body of women ever convened.

1858
American Young Women's Christian Association was founded and offered educational programs for working women.

1840
American Female Moral Reform Society was founded by reform societies in New York; it claimed 555 chapters in the nation. It was pledged to help improve the moral conduct of women and men.



1861-1865
American Civil War.

1874
Women's Christian Temperance Union was founded to limit consumption of alcohol and improve conditions of the working class.

1831
New England Anti-Slavery Society, Boston was founded by William Lloyd Garrison and welcomed women. The Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society was formed soon after as an auxiliary and raised funds for the cause.



1869
American Woman Suffrage Association was founded by Lucy Stone and Julia Ward Howe to get the right to vote for women through individual state legislatures.

1869
National Woman Suffrage Association was founded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony to work for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give women the right to vote.



Sources for fashions: Sophie B. Steel and Cecil W. Trout, *Historic Dress in America, 1800-1870* (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co., 1910); Nancy V. Bryk, ed., *American Dress Pattern Catalogs, 1873-1909* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1988); *The Delineator*, Vol. 22, No. 1, p. 2; *The Delineator*, Vol. 75, pp. 292, 300; *The Delineator*, Vol. 96, p. 137.

Organized!

You Be the Historian

- Make your own timeline beginning with the dates on these pages. Add dates of events related to women's activities in your community.
- Notice the dress styles associated with each time period. Find designs in magazines to illustrate the time periods in your timeline.

1899
General Federation of Women's Clubs was founded in New York to provide a network for communication among women's clubs from all parts of the country.

1897
National Congress of Mothers was founded by Alice Birney to promote scientific study of child development. It became the Parent Teacher Association in 1924.

1899
National Consumers' League was founded to improve the conditions for women workers in factories and retail sales.

1890
National-American Woman Suffrage Association was founded by uniting the American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman Suffrage Association into one organization.

1896
National Association of Colored Women, a federation of clubs, was established through the merger of the National Federation of Afro-American Women and the National League of Colored Women.

1900
American Home Economics Association was founded to professionalize the position of the homemaker.



1920
Women's Bureau was established by Congress as part of the Department of Labor to gather information and recommend government action in the interest of working women.



1893
World's Columbian Exposition took place in Chicago from May through October 1893.



1901
Junior League was founded and sponsored civic projects.



1903
Women's Trade Union League encouraged women's unions to protect women workers.

1893
National Council of Jewish Women was founded as a result of the World's Columbian Exposition.

1896
National Association of Collegiate Women was founded to unite women who had gone to college.

1920
Nineteenth Amendment to U.S. Constitution gave American women the right to vote.

1895
National Conference of Colored Women was organized by Boston clubwoman Josephine Ruffin, a leader in the black women's club movement.



1912
Children's Bureau was established by Congress as part of the Department of Labor. Women were among advocates concerned about child labor practices.

Advocates for Temperance

In recent years, such organizations as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) have campaigned for laws to protect citizens from unwise drinking of alcoholic beverages. Another organization—the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)—has had similar goals since it was founded in 1874.

temperance

1. the quality or state of being temperate; moderation or self-restraint
2. total abstinence from alcoholic liquors.

Temperance had been a focus for men and women long before that date. In Indiana, religious and community leaders had formed

temperance societies in Logansport, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, and Charlestown by the 1830s. Temperance advocates convinced the Indiana legislature to pass a bill in 1847 that enabled township voters to prohibit local sale of alcohol.

Temperance advocates viewed alcohol as a threat to the family. They showed evidence that men spent food money on alcohol, lost their jobs, and abused their wives and children.

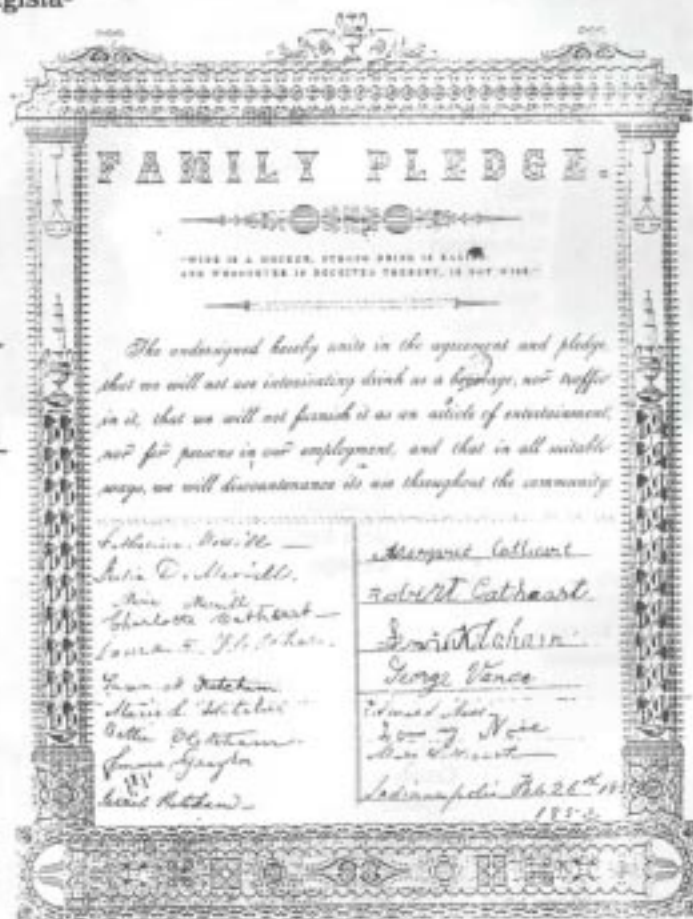
The WCTU gained in popularity under Frances Willard, who became president in 1879. By the turn of the century, the WCTU reportedly had chapters in every state and county in the United States.

The WCTU owned its own newspapers, office buildings, temperance hotels, and other businesses. Frances Willard's slogan was "Do Everything." This included supporting alcohol-free restaurants, boys' clubs for orphans, homes for alcoholic women, woman suffrage speakers, literature, and petitions to state legislatures.

The Indiana branch of the WCTU was formed in Indianapolis in 1874 under the presidency of Mrs. Zerelda G. Wallace. In 1895, the Indiana WCTU began educational programs which led to passage of a state law requiring instruction in the public schools on the effects of alcohol and narcotics.

Women in the WCTU also fought for the right to vote. They believed that power in the voting booth would help them secure victory in the anti-liquor crusade.

Sources: Riley, *Inventing the American Woman*, Vol. 2; Phillips, *Indiana in Transition*; Madison, *Indiana Way* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986), p. 106; Woloch, *Women and the American Experience*.



Indiana Historical Society Library, Collection No. M608.

Women Fight for the Right to Vote



Helen Gougar

In the 1990 congressional elections, more women voted than men. Men, however, have had the right to vote much longer than women.

The first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. The Indiana Woman's Suffrage Association was formed in 1851. Members and others wrote letters, petitions, and made speeches.

Special efforts were made in Indiana to win the right to vote in 1881.

The General Assembly passed a resolution in 1881 to amend the state Constitution to allow women to vote. In order to amend the Indiana Constitution, an amendment must pass in two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly. The amendment did not pass in 1883.¹

Men and women continued to speak out in favor of women's rights. In Lafayette, Indiana, on November 4, 1894, Helen Gougar tested the law. She was a former teacher, women's rights activist, and publisher of *Our Herald*, a newspaper which advocated temperance and equal suffrage. Gougar had studied law and believed she had the right to vote. She was allowed to enter the voting booth, but she was refused a ballot.

The test case by Gougar was carried to the state Supreme Court. The court did not support Gougar. Women were not allowed to vote.

The women of Indiana continued their struggle for the vote. A number of other Hoosiers, including Ida Harper, May Wright Sewell, Zerelda G. Wallace, and Grace Julian Clarke, were recognized nationally for their work for women's suffrage.

It was not until 1920 that women were granted the right to vote by an amendment to the United States Constitution.

¹ See the March 1993 issue of *The Indiana Junior Historian* for more details.

Sources: Phillips, *Indiana in Transition*; Lafayette Weekly Journal, November 8, 1894.

CONSTITUTION OF THE National Woman Suffrage Association.

ARTICLE 1.—The organization shall be called the NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 2.—The object of this Association shall be to secure National Protection for women citizens in the exercise of their right to vote.

ARTICLE 3.—All citizens of the United States, subscribing to this Constitution, and contributing not less than one dollar annually, shall be considered members of the Association, with the right to participate in its deliberations.

ARTICLE 4.—The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President from each of the States and Territories, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of not less than five.

ARTICLE 5.—A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of five, and all the Officers of this Association shall be eligible members of each Committee, with power to vote.

ARTICLE 6.—All Women Suffrage Societies throughout the country shall be welcomed as auxiliaries, and their accredited officers or duly appointed representatives shall be recognized as members of the National Association.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, President, New York.	
SARAH E. ARTHUR, Secretary, N. Y.	
MATILDA JOSEPH GAGE, Recording Sec., N. Y.	Vice-Presidents—see List.
MARGARET W. COULDER, Treas., Va.	
MRS. OLYMPIA BROWN, Corresponding Sec., Va.	
MAY WRIGHT SEWELL, Chair'n Ex. Com., 22 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Ind.	
ELLEN H. SHELDON, Q. M. G.'s Office, Washington, D. C.	Reservist Secretaries.
JULIA T. FOSTER, 129 H. 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.	
PEARL ADAMS, Wash., D. C.	
RACHEL C. FOSTER, Corresponding Secretary, 129 H. 12th St. Philadelphia, Pa.	
JANE H. SPOFFORD, Treasurer, 129 H. 12th St., Washington, D. C.	
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Indiana State Library, Indiana Division.

Progress through Training

In her 1893 publication, Ida Harper described the Indianapolis Free Kindergarten and Children's Aid Society. Incorporated in 1884, the group's purpose was "... to establish and maintain Free Kindergarten schools in the city of Indianapolis, for the education and moral training of the children of the poor, between the ages of three and eight years, and the material assistance of those for whom parents are unable to make adequate provision."

By 1893, Harper reported, there were "eight Kindergartens, five Kitchengardens, two Domestic Training Schools, one Slold or Manual Training School, three Literary Clubs, three Library Clubs, two Nursery Maids' Classes, seven Mothers' Instruction Classes, a Normal Training School for Teachers, and real estate and personal property to the value of over \$7,000." These accomplishments reflect the goals of the organization to train children, parents, and teachers.

Much of the success of this Indianapolis organization was attributed to the superintendent, Eliza A. Blaker. Donations were the major funding source. The Marion County Council and the Indianapolis School Board also provided some support to the kindergartens, but not regular appropriations.

Kindergartens, manual training, domestic training, literary and library clubs, and monthly parties served thousands of children in need—black and white, Americans and immigrants.

For mothers, there were classes on health and child care, a day care program, and social and cultural meetings. A home visiting program aided parents and children. An evening entertainment program was available for both parents.

Teacher training was the goal of monthly meetings of the organization's

Froebel Club. The major focus in this area, however, was the Normal Training School. The school granted a teaching diploma after fifteen months of study and work. In 1893, the cost to students at the school was \$50 a year plus about \$25 for books and supplies. There were twenty-eight full scholarships each year.

By 1893, 160 women had been graduated and were teaching in twenty-one states. The Indianapolis organization had spawned three similar institutions in Chattanooga,

Tennessee; Detroit, Michigan; and New Albany, Indiana. Teachers from the Indianapolis Training School managed these institutions.

The Normal School became independent of the Free Kindergarten Society in 1913 when it incorporated as the Teachers College of Indianapolis. It

later became affiliated with Butler University, which had a secondary school teacher training program. In 1933, the college became the Elementary Department of the College of Education at Butler University.

Sources: Harper, *The Associated Work of the Women of Indiana*, pp. 13-16; Emma Lou Thornbrough, *Eliza A. Blaker, Her Life and Work* (Indianapolis: The Eliza A. Blaker Club, Inc. and the Indiana Historical Society, 1956).

Offer for a Colored Kindergarten.

Mrs. John C. Wright has proposed to the ladies of the Free Kindergarten and Children's Aid Society that she will deed to the society two good sized lots in the vicinity of the City Hospital, if they will erect a suitable building thereon for the use of the colored kindergarten. Mrs. John C. Wright will head the list of subscribers to the building fund with a subscription of \$500. The ladies are delighted with the prospect of a new building, so much needed, and will make an effort to have the money by the early spring.

Indianapolis World, November 12, 1892, p. 3.

“Nothing equal to it”

In this time of space travel, the information highway, and virtual reality, it is hard to imagine the impact of the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition on its time.

Indiana's Ida Harper wrote, "Nothing equal to it ever was seen, there will not be anything like it again within the next century."¹ Others at the time echoed that belief about this event—commonly called the World's Fair.

The World's Columbian Commission was created by an Act of Congress in April 1890.

The Fair was colossal in size, magnificent in art and architecture, and staggering in educational display. Every nation was offered the opportunity to exhibit. In two years, more than 200 buildings were built. Just before the Fair opened, 12,000 to 14,000 workmen were employed to complete the work.

Over one million plants were used to landscape the 1000-plus acres along Chicago's lakefront. The largest structure, the Manufacturers and Liberal Arts Building, could have held six games of baseball at the same time. The Art Palace held over 10,000 individual exhibits. The Agriculture building included a 22,000-pound cheese and a 38-foot temple made of 38,000 pounds of chocolate.

Other buildings focused, for example, on machinery, forestry, leather, transportation, horticulture, electricity, and mining. A mile-long Midway Plaisance provided entertainment from all over the world—including rides on

the world's first Ferris wheel for fifty cents. Each car accommodated forty people in swivel chairs.

New products were introduced, including the first American souvenir postcards and the first zippers. Brand names, now familiar, were new at the Fair—Chase & Sanborn, Quaker Oats, and Cream of Wheat.

Through the Board of Lady Managers authorized by Congress, women worked with men in organizing, promoting, designing, and managing the Fair. The Woman's Building, pictured on the cover, displayed the work of women—from its architectural plans to its sculpture and its exhibits. Women's dormitories were erected to provide inexpensive housing for "unescorted" working women.²

The inclusion of women as an important part of the Fair was, in large part, a result of the accomplishments of women's clubs.

Unfortunately, all women did not have equal access. The black women of Chicago resolved to ". . . request the Columbian Commission to establish an office for a colored woman whose duty it shall be to collect exhibits from the colored women of America . . ."³ The Board of Lady Managers, composed of two women from each state and territory, could not agree about an office for a black woman or to include a black woman on the national board.

The only person to organize, collect, and contribute black exhibits to the Fair was J. Imogen Howard, a black school teacher in New York City. As a member of the

New York Board of Women Managers, she worked for two years collecting statistics and samples of black women's work.

Women who participated in the Fair seemed to agree that it would have a lasting impact on the status of women. Susan B. Anthony believed that the Fair had greatly advanced the suffrage cause. Bertha Palmer, Chair of the Board of Lady Managers, suggested that ". . . A community of interests has been created among women in every part of the world, such as has never heretofore existed . . ."⁴

A modern historian of the Fair has concluded that it ". . . provided for American women . . . a heightened awareness of their sexual identity and of the historic achievements of their sex, . . . an official recognition of their civic standing and professional achievements, and an object lesson in effective methods of national and even international organization."⁵

¹Ida A. Harper, *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*, Vol. 17, No. 9, p. 803.

²*Ibid.*, Vol. 16, No. 7, 598.

³Weimann, *The Fair Women*, p. 103.






⁴Burg, *Chicago's White City of 1893*, p. 248.

⁵*Ibid.*, 325.

Sources: Burg, *Chicago's White City of 1893*; *Smithsonian*, June 1993.



Games

In a coded message, each letter, A through I, is shown by the lines around the letter. For example, A is , E is , G is , and so on. Lines and dots stand for the rest of the alphabet letters, from J, , to Z, .

Try the key, crack the code, and learn more about women's voluntary organizations.

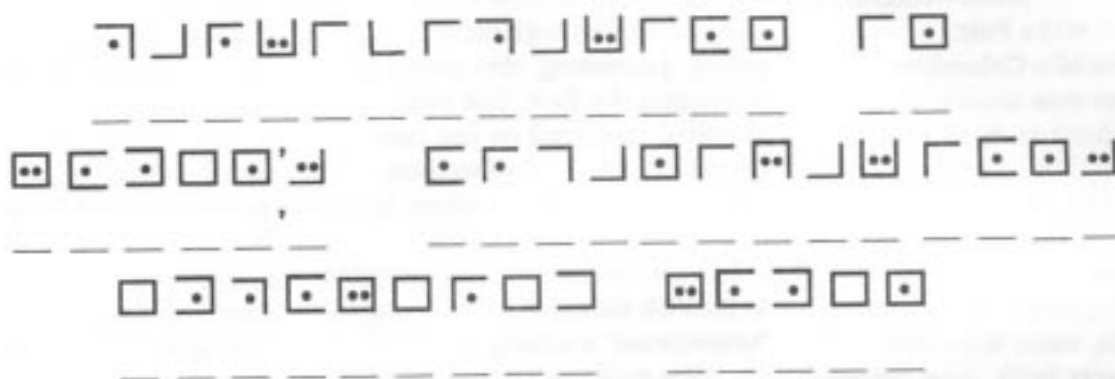
Adapted from Burton Albert, Jr., *Secret Codes for Kids* (Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 1976), p. 26.

Tic-Tac-Code

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

J	K	L
M	N	O
P	Q	R

S	T	U
V	W	X
Y	Z	?



Club Scramble

Unscramble the letters to make words. Write the letters in the boxes to the right. Then read down the fourth column. The answer was a benefit of belonging to women's organizations. Adapted from *Games*, October 1991, p. 77.

EUSMUM
RDEEAR
UMUCAV
NCACEL
CELAPA
RETIRW
TOONIM
COOLSH
NETALP

Answers: museum, reader, lecturer, concert, palace, writer, modern, school, planet

An Apple for Everyone



A Note Regarding Resources: Items are listed on this page that enhance work with the topic discussed. Some older items, especially, may include dated practices and ideas that are no longer generally accepted. Resources reflecting current practices are noted whenever possible.

Selected Resources

Student Reading

• Ash, Maureen. *The Story of the Women's Movement*. Chicago: Childrens Press, 1989.

Ash provides basic information on the early women's movement.

• Ingraham, Claire R. and Leonard W. *An Album of Women in American History*. New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1972.

Contributions of women in U.S. history and brief sketches of prominent women. Illustrations are helpful. Index is limited.

• "Susan B. Anthony and the Women's Movement." *Cobblestone*, March, 1985.

Entire issue covers the topic. A short play about Anthony is included.

• Warren, Ruth. *A Pictorial History of Women in America*. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1975.

Shows achievements and difficulties of women in U.S. Text is brief and informative.

Note: Check your local library for many biographies of women that are available.

Advanced Reading

• Burg, David F. *Chicago's White City of 1893*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1976.

A modern historian's perspective on the World's Columbian Exposition.

• Courtney, Grace Gates. *History: Indiana Federation of Clubs*. Fort Wayne, IN: Fort Wayne Printing Co., 1939.

Chronicles clubs from 1825 through 1937.

• Croly, Mrs. J.C. *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America*. New York: Henry G.

Allen & Co., 1898.

Provides early history up to the formation of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. Includes over 900 pages on state and local clubs. Croly was a leader in the movement.

• Harper, Ida A. *The Associated Work of the Women of Indiana*. Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1893.

Written for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Valuable primary resource available at the Indiana State Library.

• Janeway, Elizabeth, ed. *Women: Their Changing Roles*. New York: Arno Press, 1973.

Reprints of *New York Times* articles from early twentieth century to 1970.

• Ossoli, Margaret Fuller. *Woman in the Nineteenth Century, and Kindred Papers Relating to the Sphere, Condition, and Duties of Woman*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1968.

Reprint of the original 1874 edition. Good primary source.

• Patton, Phil. "Sell the cookstove if necessary, but come to the Fair." *Smithsonian*, June 1993, 38-50.

Informative article with many illustrations.

• Phillips, Clifton J. *Indiana in Transition: The Emergence of an Industrial Commonwealth, 1880-1920*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau & Indiana Historical Society, 1968.

Standard source for the period.

• Rappaport, Doreen, ed. *American Women: Their Lives in Their Words*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1990.

Primary source documents.

• Riley, Glenda. *Inventing the American Woman: A Perspective on Women's History 1865 to the Present*. 2 volumes. Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1986.

Excellent general survey.

• Scott, Anne Firor. *Natural Allies: Women's Associations in American History*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1991.

Excellent presentation of development of women's organizations.

• Weimann, Jeanne Madeline. *The Fair Women*. Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1981.

Detailed, readable account of women and the 1893 World's Exposition.

• Woloch, Nancy. *Women and the American Experience*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Excellent background information and analysis of women's roles from seventeenth century to 1980s.

Of Special Interest

• The annual catalog of the National Women's History Project provides a wide selection of books and teaching materials. Contact: 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492-8518; 707-838-6000.

• The Ida Husted Harper Terre Haute Collection, located at the Vigo County Public Library, contains articles written by Harper 1872-1894. Contact Susan Dehler: 812-232-1113.

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