

HELP!!!  
KEEP THOSE BIOGRAPHIES COMING

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Women Making a Difference project will continue through 2010. We are requesting additional 1-3 page biographies, as many as you can contribute. The biography could be an AAUW member or non member from the past or in the present – someone who made or is making a difference in your area. Fields to be considered are government, politics, business, science, medicine, law, journalism media, literature, religion, health, social services, education, art, music, theater, sports, leadership, community service, or others. It is important to preserve the accomplishments of these women, for otherwise their contributions might be forgotten. Since this is an ongoing project, send us your biographies as soon as they are written.

Discussions of important women to be included in this project can be incorporated in branch programs and/or committees, and also can be used as community outreach. It is a great way to increase branch visibility!

The participation of every member is needed to make this exciting project truly representative of the entire state. Questions? Check the NYS AAUW website under the historians tab or contact one of us.

There are many women in New York State who have made a difference in our lives. Their accomplishments need to be documented and preserved for future generations, which NYS AAUW plans to do. To make this a success, we need the cooperation of all branches. The goals and mission of AAUW make our organization uniquely qualified to undertake this project, which will be an ongoing one. A list of biographies we have received is on page 3.

1. Identify prominent women in your own community or area who have made a difference. Include women from the past or present, AAUW members or non AAUW members. List as many as possible.
2. Choose several, at least five or more of the women from your list.
3. Find biographical information.  
Suggested sources:
  - City, county, college/university libraries – reference books, books, special collections, newspaper articles, oral histories, etc.
  - Online information
  - Archives of organizations, historical societies, museums. AAUW, or any organization in which the person has been active
  - Government records – city, county, state, national
  - Employment information
  - Interviews – with the person or with people who know or knew her
  - Any other relevant sources
4. Guidelines for the biography:
  - Each woman's accomplishments are different, but following are some suggestions for writing the biography.
  - Dates – birth and death ( if not living)
  - Information covering her life span (as much as possible)

Where born and raised and where lived during the rest of her life

Family

Education

Profession (if relevant)

Area or field of interest of profession

Community service (if relevant)

Contributions

Unique accomplishments and reputation (local, state, national, international)

Any relevant personal information

Not all of the above items may be relevant, but you may find other types of pertinent information.

5. Write a 1-3 page biography which includes her accomplishments and contributions. Document all sources with a bibliography, and footnotes or endnotes, with page numbers (when possible). Be sure to include the names of the author and researcher for each biography. They may or may not be the same person. Also include the name of your branch.  
See the attached biography taken from the Pennsylvania AAUW project, which resulted in a book, entitled Pennsylvania Women in History: Our Hidden Heritage and one that has been submitted to us. These can be used as a possible guideline.
6. Send or email the biography or biographies to us as soon as you have completed them. The deadline has been extended through 2010.
7. Completion of the biographies should result in a book celebrating the accomplishments of many of the amazing women of New York State. We look forward to receiving articles from each branch, so that all areas of our state will be represented. All biographies will be placed in the AAUW NYS archives.

Information is available on the NYS website under the History tab.

Feel free to contact either of us at any time for questions or comments. Have fun learning about the women, the famous and not so famous, in your area!

NYS AAUW History Consultant Committee

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Please look at the list of biographies already received and example biographies on the next several pages.

Biographies as of June 2010

Allen, Doris  
Anthony, Susan B.  
Babcock, Caroline Louise  
Barber, Dr. Annetta  
Barker, Helen E.  
Barnes, Mary Sheldon  
Barton, Clara Harlowe  
Bass, Captain Marian  
Bentley, Grace Van Tuyl  
Bethune, Louise Blanchard  
Blodgett, Katherine Helen  
Bolin, Jane Maltida  
Brett, Catharyna  
Brill, Joan  
Bronz, Lois T.  
Brooks-Bertram, Dr. Peggy  
Buchholz, Anna Oder  
Buckley, Helen  
Burchard, Dr. Mary Agnes  
Chapin, Mary Q.  
Chestnut, Dr. Erma Ruth  
Clark, Rhea Doyle Eckel  
Clinkscale, Dr. Arlene W.  
Colden, Jane  
Collins, Eileen  
Colvin, Ruth J.  
Common, Minna Anthony  
Comstock, Clara  
Connelly, Elizabeth A.  
Connor, Barbara  
Cornell, Harriet  
Cox, Mary  
Currie, Evelyn Marie  
D'Ambrosio, Dr. Vinni Marie  
Davenport, Sarah Lynn  
Davies, Dr. Virginia  
DeCrow, Karen  
De Marco, Mildred  
Donovan, Carolyn Joslin  
Dugan, Marcia B.  
Dykstra-Donnellan, Mariellyn  
Eastman, Crystal  
Ellis, Maria L.  
Fish, Carolyn  
Gage, Matilda Josyln  
Gitche, Wilma  
Gordon, Dr. Susan G.  
Hall, Louise  
Hallock, Faith W.

Hare, Dr. Ruby Elinor  
Harley, Ruth S.  
Harris, Catherine Dickes  
Hayes, Helen  
Hille, Bessie M.  
Holley, Marietta  
Hubbard, Jean Merritt  
Huddle, Kathleen  
Hutchinson, Anne Marbury  
Ingraham, Mary Shotwell  
Johnson, Catherine Common  
Johnson, Lorrin  
Jones, Calista Selena  
Kenyon, Helen  
Kessler, Judy DiMarin  
King, Dr. Nancy L.  
Kleszezewski, Julie Harrison  
Lang, Ruth  
Locke, Margaret  
Lukens, Kathleen  
MacGuffie, Dr. Martha  
Maltby, Dr. Lucy M.  
Marrs, Stella  
Marten, Antoinette  
Maynard, Virginia M.  
McCarthy, Carolyn  
McCormack-Raso, Tess  
McNeil, Ester Lord  
Mead, Anne F.  
Melville, Dorothy Bigelow  
Mills, Franca Maria Ida Lippi  
Mion, Nancy  
Mitchell, Maria Salmon  
Morrison, Toni  
Mowbray-Clarke, Mary  
Nakazawa, Maria  
Nesbitt, Rosemary  
Nevergold, Dr. Barbara Seals  
O'Callaghan, Catherine  
Palmer, Georgianna  
Parker, Charlotte Blair  
Pattison, Lucille  
Peale, Ruth Stafford  
Pendergast, Mehitable Wing  
Penfield, Lida Scovil  
Popp, Lilian  
Quirini, Helen  
Radley, Virginia  
Rey, Linda

Rice, Kathleen  
Richmond, Grace S.  
Rivette, Barbara S.  
Rogers, Dorothy  
Roosevelt, Eleanor  
Rudolph, Beulah Counts  
Sanger, Margaret  
Sansone, Maribel  
Saulitis, Eva  
Savell, Isabelle Keating  
Snedden, Mollie  
Spaulding, Nancy E.  
Stanton, Elizabeth Cady  
Staub, Wendy Corsi  
Stewart, Ida Crawford  
Stitt, Dr. Pauline George  
Stoneman, Bertha  
Stoneman, Katherine  
Sullivan, Sister Kathleen, O.P.  
Talman, Rose Hiller  
Tarver, Marie N.  
Taylor, Emma Flower  
Tears, Lola J. Woodmansee  
Tetor, Linda  
Tolstoy, Alexandra  
Tonetti, Mary Lawrence  
Torrence-Tompson, Juanita  
Towner, Margaret E,  
Treger, Dolores  
Truth, Sojourner  
Tsein, Patricia  
Tubman, Harriet  
Van Liew, Barbara  
Van Renesselaer, Martha  
Verdier, Georgia  
Volkmar, Christine  
Wagner, Sally Roesch  
Walker, Dr. Mary Edwards  
Webster, Jean  
Welch, Joan  
Whitman, Narcissa Prentiss  
Wilkinson, Jemima  
Wilson, Rosemary CWS  
Wilson-Agwu, Europa  
Wing, Harriet Newall Walton  
Wing, Lucy  
Wright, Lucile M.  
Wright, Rita  
Yalo, Dr. Helen

**Frieda Segelke Miller**  
1889-1973

Frieda Segelke Miller was an internationally known expert in labor law administration.

Born April 16, 1889, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, she was the older of two daughters of Erna and James Miller. With the deaths of both her parents when she was quite young, she was raised by her grandparents.

A 1911 graduate of Downer College in Milwaukee with a Bachelor's of Arts in Liberal Arts, Frieda laid the groundwork for her chosen career by studying labor economics and political science at the University of Chicago from 1911 to 1915. Her work in labor relations began in 1916 when she accepted a position as a research assistant and teacher in the department of social economy at Bryn Mawr College near Philadelphia. From 1917 to 1923 she worked for the Philadelphia Women's Trade Union League. In this position, she participated in the organization of the Trade Union College in Philadelphia, helped found the Workers' Education Bureau of America and was a member of the administrative committee that set up the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers in Industry in 1920.

In 1924 Frieda worked as a factory inspector for the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. In 1929 she was appointed to head the New York State Labor Department's Division of Women in Industry. In 1936 she became a delegate to the League of Nations' International Labor Organization (ILO) and was the first woman elected to the ILO's executive board.

By this time, she was well-known internationally as well as in the United States. She was appointed to complete an unexpired term as the Industrial Commissioner of New York in 1938. In this position, she reorganized the state's Employment Service, increasing job placements by over fifty percent in one year. She also implemented a system of collecting unemployment insurance from employers, which was instrumental in getting benefits for three million workers in New York, both men and women.

In 1942 Frieda Miller became a special assistant on labor to the United States Ambassador to Great Britain. From 1944 to 1952 she served at the federal level as the Director of the Women's Bureau, dealing with the problems of reemployment of women after World War II. In this position, she was the highest ranking woman in the United States Department of Labor and worked diligently there to achieve equality for working women until 1952 when she returned to her work with the ILO. Among her many projects were a study of the conditions in which women worked worldwide and a survey of the status of child welfare for the United Nations' International Union for Child Welfare.

Although she traveled extensively in her work, Frieda kept a residence south of Easton on Coffeetown Road. She was an active member of the Easton Branch of the American Association of University Women from 1955 to 1967. She returned to New York City in retirement and died there in 1973. Her work in the field of labor was significant and left a lasting impact on the lives of working women.

**Easton Branch**

Researcher: Margaret D. Druse  
Writer: Susan Berkowitz



Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

Cite the sources you used at the end of your article.

The source of the above article which may be used as a model is:

McElroy, Janice, (ed.), Stangil, Mary Ann and Druse, Margaret D. (asst. eds.). Our Hidden Heritage: Pennsylvania Women in History. Washington, D.C.: American Association of University Women: A Project of the Pennsylvania Division, 1984



**Lida Penfield, 1873-1956**

In 1907, one hundred years ago, only 14% of Americans graduated from high school. Thinking about that gives one an idea of what a remarkable woman Lida Scovil Penfield was. She was born in 1873 in Oswego. Her father, Joel B. Penfield, was a prominent wealthy business man (dry goods, milling, etc.), active in civic and government organizations. He died in 1873, when she was just a few months old.

Lida graduated from Boston University and also earned her Ph. D. from that school. She joined the faculty of Oswego College in 1917 and became head of the English Department in 1932. She may have been temporarily in charge of the college library during this period.

In addition to her work in the English Department, she became an authority on local history, writing a book for young people called Stories of Old Oswego. She also directed a pageant about 200 years of the white man's activities in the area. This was presented at Fort Ontario. She wrote articles for the Oswego County Historical Society about the Coopers in Oswego, since James Fenimore Cooper lived in Oswego for a time during the War of 1812.

Among other things at the College, she composed and initiated the Torchlight Ceremony, which was inaugurated in 1936 and is still one of the school's most important annual traditions. Dorothy Rogers in her book, Oswego: fountainhead of Teacher Education, describes this very well.

Rogers' book describes Lida Penfield as "a dainty, beautiful, cultured lady. Her real distinction was her personal influence." Her successor, Charles Wells, said, "She set a tone of culture that no one else can ever beat."

When the new college library was built in 1961, it was appropriately named for her, as was the more recent library, which was constructed in 1967. Penfield Library is one of the central buildings of the State University of New York at Oswego.

Lida Penfield represented Oswego at a meeting in Ithaca when the College Clubs made the transition into branches of the American Association of University Women, and she became the first president of the Oswego Branch.

**Bibliography**

Churchill, John. Landmarks of Oswego County, Syracuse, New York: Mason & Co., 1895  
Rogers, Dorothy, Oswego: fountainhead of Teacher Education, New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1961

Researcher and Writer: Ann Marie French, Oswego Branch