

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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.

1. Identify several 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 one 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).

See the attached biographies taken from the Pennsylvania AAUW project, which resulted in a book, entitled Pennsylvania Women in History: Our Hidden Heritage. These can be used as a possible guideline.

6. Send the biography or biographies that you have completed in 2006-2007 to the NYS AAUW historians.

For the following year, 2007-2008, choose one or more different women from your list and follow the steps provided in this handout. That deadline is April 1, 2008.

7. Completion of the biographies will 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.

Feel free to contact either of us at any time for questions or comments. Have fun learning about the women in your area!

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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 Bachelors 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

Jane Ball Frazier**1735? – 1815? -----**

Jane Ball married Edward McClain when she was eighteen. McClain was an English officer stationed in Will's Creek, Maryland. There Jane thrived on the pioneer life, but her husband died shortly thereafter.

Jane met John Frazier, a frontiersman, trader and gunsmith and found that his pioneer spirit matched her own. A short time after their marriage as she and her servant, Bradley, were enroute to Evitts Creek where John was building a trading post, they were attacked by Miami Indians. Bradley was killed, and Jane was captured and taken to Ohio. She was named Red Morning, adopted by the chief, and forced to marry an Indian brave, Pesquitomen.

After thirteen months of captivity, she and two male captives managed to escape while the braves were on a hunting trip. The three suffered many hardships and hunger on the long journey home. They managed to kill a rabbit which the men ate before it was properly cooked, and, as a result, both men died. Luckily, Jane had refused to eat her share. She finished the rest of the trip back to Will's Creek alone. There she discovered that, thinking her dead, John had remarried.

John and Jane were reunited and moved to Fort Bedford, where the third of her ten children, a son, was born. He is said to have been the first white child born in Bedford County. Jane set up a tavern called Frazier's Inn just outside of the fort. The tavern still stands on the corner of Pitt and North Richard Street in Bedford. Jane managed the tavern while John carried out his duties as justice of the peace and judge of several courts. He died in 1773.

In 1775 Jane married Richard Delapt, but was widowed for the third time in 1781 when her son Benjamin Frazier and Delapt were killed and scalped by Indians in a raid near Frankstown.

Bedford County Branch

Researcher/Writer: Mary Sue Whisker

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