LIVES OF PURPOSE:

NEW JERSEY WOMEN'S HERITAGE

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August 2022

The stories of women's lives and accomplishments, big and small, are embedded in every aspect of New Jersey's past. Beginning with New Jersey's native inhabitants, women contributed to the state's economy, political life, education, scientific advances, arts, culture, and religious life. These stories are found in the many remarkable historic sites and landscapes throughout the state. The following short essay offers a broad sweep of women's roles in shaping the history of New Jersey and, indeed, in shaping the history of our nation. Click on the links to see the many places where you can experience this amazing history for yourself.

Life in the Colony, 1618-1776

The east coast of America was originally home to a native people who first arrived over 10,000 years ago. At the time of the first European settlement, in what is present-day New Jersey, the region was home to the Lenape Indians. They lived in established villages along rivers and streams, moving seasonally each year to encampments in search of food and game. Theirs was a matriarchal society; upon marriage, a man joined his wife's family. Women and girls were the village's agriculturists, growing a number of cultivated crops to augment what was gathered from the land. They also preserved foodstuffs, made clothing, kept the house, served as midwives, and treated the ill and infirm. Waterloo Village's *Winakung: A Native Lenape Woodland Forest* interprets Lenape life and culture, including the important role of women.

As Europeans pushed into the region, beginning with the first permanent settlement in 1618, the original Dutch settlers were joined over the ensuing 150 years by people of French, English, Swedish, Finnish and Scots heritage. Quakers, Catholics, Puritans, and Iberian Jews sought religious freedom in the new colony. Even though there was a free Black population, under the Dutch and then the English, the enslavement of Black people became part of the economic landscape, including a robust African slave trade. In 1664, when the English took control of New Amsterdam from the Dutch, the area west and south of the Hudson River became the colony of New Jersey. Early settlers, mostly from New England, brought with them architectural, agricultural, religious, and cultural traditions from their countries of origin, including the roles of men and women in society.

From the earliest English settlement, landholders, or "freeholders," were defined as "persons" worth 50 English pounds, which opened property ownership to both women and men. Consequently, women qualified for land grants offered to attract new settlers. In a rare occurrence, Elizabeth Haddon, a single 21-year-old Quaker woman, was sent by her father from England in 1701 to occupy land he had

purchased sight unseen. She went on to become a leader of the Quaker church in the colony and one of the founders of the town Haddonfield. A brew house, where she prepared herbs for treating medical conditions, survives today. The Historical Society of Haddonfield tells her story.

For the most part, though, women married and labored as worker-companions to their husbands in an agriculturally based economy and contributed to largely self-sufficient households. Unlike the Lenape's matriarchal society, the European model was patriarchal. Still, women were responsible for most of the same tasks as their Lenape counterparts, growing, preparing, and preserving food, weaving, spinning, and making clothing, tending small animals, caring for children, maintaining the household, assisting in childbirth, and providing healthcare. In general, girls were not formally educated. Instead, they were taught domestic skills. However, certain religious denominations offered basic education to girls, one example being the Quakers, whose religious beliefs promoted equality between men and women, up to and including leadership positions in the church. Wealthy families educated their daughters at home by hiring tutors or sent them to "finishing" schools or overseas for their educations. Annis Boudinot Stockton, one such woman, went on to become a noted eighteenth century poet. The Stockton home, Morven Museum and Garden, tells her story, and the stories of the enslaved women who worked there.

II: Revolutionary Women: the colonies become a new nation

The War for Independence caused widespread hardships throughout the colonies. In New Jersey, as elsewhere, every level of society was impacted. Men, whether foot soldiers, militia members, officers, or political leaders, were away from home for long periods of time. Women were forced to take on the additional responsibility of running farms and businesses in the absence of husbands, and independently caring for their families even as Continental and Loyalist officers commandeered houses, foodstuffs, and valuables in support of the war effort.

New Jersey became known as the Crossroads of the American Revolution for its crucial role in the prosecution of the war effort. As George Washington led the effort and moved around the state, he made his headquarters in many of the strategically located stately homes. The women who ran these households were forced to adapt their homes and family lives to accommodate Washington, his entourage and occasionally, encampments on nearby property. Theodosia Johnes Ford suffered the death of her husband, Colonel Jacob Ford, just as Washington set up headquarters in nearby Morristown. Her home, now part of Morristown National Historical Park, housed forty soldiers in four rooms on the first floor during the winter of 1777.

Other women played equally important and equally risky roles during the war. Soldiers' wives sometimes accompanied their husbands at encampments and near battlefields. Often women of lesser social standing, these "camp followers" provided vital services in time of war, cooking, doing laundry, and nursing injured and sick soldiers. Mary Hays McCauley was one such camp follower. She became known as

Molly Pitcher for her services carrying water, tending the wounded, and allegedly taking the place of a wounded soldier to load and fire a cannon during the Battle of Monmouth. The Dey Mansion in Passaic County served as both an encampment location with camp followers and as one of Washington's headquarters during the summer and fall of 1780, where the women of the Dey family took on the added responsibility of hosting the General and his officers.

Like the men of the state, women's allegiances were divided, some supporting the Patriot cause and a smaller number supporting the Loyalists. A few women catered to both sides to protect their homes, families, and businesses. Others remained neutral, out of conviction or necessity. Ann Cooper Whitall, a Quaker who settled with her husband in Red Bank on the Delaware River in 1748, made no distinction among wounded soldiers after the Battle of Red Bank. Her home, now part of Red Bank Battlefield, served as a field hospital, where Ann treated injured and ill Hessian and Continental soldiers alike.

Those loyal to England fared poorly during and especially after the war. Some estimates put the number of Loyalists in the colonies at 15% to 20% of the population. They were often the targets of violence and subject to seizure of their property to finance the Patriot's cause. Women were not immune from this danger and deprivation. Elizabeth Franklin, wife of William Franklin, Loyalist, son of Benjamin Franklin, and the last colonial governor of New Jersey, was held in her Perth Amboy home by colonial forces before being taken behind British lines in New York City, where she died in 1777. Especially with the end of the armed conflict in 1781, Loyalist women and their families were forced to flee with British troops or relocated to other British colonies. Many of these families settled in Nova Scotia.

The Political Foundations of the New State

New Jersey adopted its first state constitution on July 2, 1776, just as the War for Independence began. This constitution was unique in the new nation as the only one to link the right to vote to wealth regardless of sex; single women who had assets worth 50 pounds had the franchise. Voting laws passed in 1790 and 1797 specifically refer to voters as "he" and "she." Estimates are that up to 15 percent of eligible women may have voted. Calls to rescind the franchise came as soon as women began voting in discernible numbers. Reports of corruption and voter fraud — men donning dresses to vote multiple times — soon turned public opinion against New Jersey's experiment in women's suffrage. A new law, passed in 1807, declared that restricting the vote to white men was necessary to the state's "safety, quiet, good order and dignity." The law restricted voting rights to "free, white, male citizens of this state." The fight to nationally secure the women's franchise continued for 113 years, but had taken root early in New Jersey, just as the new nation emerged.

New Nation, New Challenges, New Opportunities

The years following the Revolution well into the nineteenth century brought significant changes to the lives of women, in ways big and small. The culture and way of life was in transition. Though the state remained primarily agrarian and rural, urban areas such as Paterson, Newark, and Trenton became increasingly industrial. New Jersey's two major canals, the Morris Canal and the Delaware and Raritan Canal, both built in the 1830s, were followed shortly after by growing networks of railroads, dynamically changing how goods – and people – moved around. For example, farm products could easily be shipped to urban areas, giving rural women the opportunity to grow and ship fresh produce as a means of adding to the family income.

The canals also brought anthracite coal from northeast Pennsylvania to fuel the factories in the growing industrial centers. Alexander Hamilton first proposed an industrial center in Paterson in 1791, which, he said, would offer employment to the widows of Revolutionary War soldiers. At first, the availability of abundant waterpower drove development, but by the middle of the nineteenth century, coal-fired steam boilers became a source of power to operate mills when water levels dropped. Beginning in the first half of the nineteenth century, Paterson's mills produced textiles, guns, and locomotives, among other items. Women and children from surrounding areas provided cheap labor for the textile mills there, as they did in other industrial centers.

Regardless of social or economic standing, women remained at the center of home life and household management. However, developing industrial technology and the slow introduction of mass-produced items impacted women's everyday lives. By mid-century, the pottery industry in Trenton was mass-producing household items like dinnerware, lowering their cost, and making such items available to a growing middle class. Textile mills changed how clothing was made and reduced the cost of fabric, which had previously been imported from England. With more efficient anthracite coal as fuel, the iron industry increased the production of cast iron. Consequently, cast iron cook stoves and cookware became more affordable and available. No longer did women have to cook over an open fire in a hearth, where the risk for clothing to catch fire and cause extensive burns became one of the leading causes of death for women in the earlier centuries. Still, in rural areas, women continued to produce much of what was needed at home well into the mid-nineteenth century. Historic Cold Spring Village in Cape May County interprets everyday life in a small, rural community in the early nineteenth century, including the daily tasks of household management.

New ways of manufacturing occasionally led to new ways of organizing communities, work, and workers. In Burlington County, Agnes and Hezekiah Smith took a small milling operation on Rancocas Creek and grew it into a planned industrial community, Smithville. The town was ahead of its time in workers' rights,

education, and offerings in arts and culture for the residents. In partnership with her husband, Agnes was an active participant in the planning, evolution, and management of the town. In 1822, James Allaire purchased a working iron operation, re-named it the Howell Works and grew it into a town of 400, including a co-educational school where workers were required to send their sons and daughters. Now part of Allaire State Park, the village had at least two women blacksmiths who, along with women and girls, worked in a factory producing screws and were a vital part of the workforce.

The exuberance of the new nation also expressed itself through growing social movements, including the abolitionist and temperance movements, and the seeds of the quest for women's vote. The town of Cape May became an important location for the abolition movement in the 1840s and 1850s, where Harriet Tubman spent time there raising money for the cause, a story now told at the Harriet Tubman Museum. The town of Lawnside, near Camden, the only historically African American incorporated municipality in the northern United States, is the location of the Peter Mott House. Mott and his wife Eliza were active in the abolition movement and opened their house as a stop on the Underground Railroad. In the new country where many thought anything was possible, the idea of utopian communities came to fruition in places like the North American Phalanx in Red Bank, where women participated fully and equally in communal life. A similar utopian experiment, the Raritan Bay Union, drew some of the leading voices in the abolition movement, women's rights, and the push for equal education. Sarah and Angelina Grimke, who were vocal advocates of all three causes, were founders of the community, along with Angelina's husband, Theodore Weld, a nationally known abolitionist. There, in the early 1850s, Weld and the Grimke sisters ran a progressive school that was both co-educational and interracial, with a curriculum that combined both abstract and practical learning.

In other places in the state, public education was also gaining a foothold. Clara Barton, who went on to found the American Red Cross, started her career as a teacher, and upon moving to Bordentown, established the first free public school there in 1852. Six students enrolled the first year: 600 enrolled in 1853. Barton's schoolhouse is now interpreted by the Bordentown Historical Society. Around the same time, teaching became a growing career choice for women, though they were generally paid far less than their male counterparts. New Jersey opened its first "Normal School," a two-year teachers' training school, in Trenton in 1855. By then, twenty-nine towns had opened free schools for resident children. The state's "Normal Schools" eventually evolved to become four-year state colleges for teacher training.

The mid-nineteenth century also brought focus to women's inequality in the eyes of the law. New Jersey revised its constitution in 1844, and while a petition for woman suffrage was submitted, it was ignored by the Constitutional Convention, and the disenfranchisement of women and free Blacks was written into the new document. That did not deter supporters of women's right to vote. In 1858, Lucy Stone, noted

women's rights advocate in New England, moved to New Jersey, where she refused to pay property taxes on her home in Orange in protest. She later moved to Montclair, where her home remains a private residence. In 1866, Stone was also active in the creation of the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association in Vineland, the location of the first New Jersey Convention for Universal Suffrage. The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society tells the stories of these and other protest efforts to secure universal suffrage.

The fight to free enslaved people finally came to a head with the onset of the Civil War. Although no battles were fought on New Jersey soil, residents' lives were still deeply impacted. While the state was politically divided regarding abolition of slavery, New Jersey responded to the call to save the Union by raising troops and funds to support the war effort. Once again, women were left with the responsibilities of caring for the home and family and running businesses or farms in the absence of men. Some women were drawn to nursing and traveled to battlefields or hospitals to care for wounded or sick soldiers. Cornelia Hancock, from Salem County, was one such woman. At the conclusion of the war, she traveled to the South to teach the children of the formerly enslaved.

Voices Rising: Late Nineteenth Century, Early Twentieth Century

The post-Civil War years ushered in an era of invention, innovation, increased immigration, growth of urban areas, scientific advances, expanded educational opportunities, and a growing awareness of social causes and labor/wealth inequities. Women's roles and voices in these and other areas of society were both shaped by and impacted by these changes.

New Jersey was well positioned to expand on its already established manufacturing and industrial economy. Immigration to the state significantly increased the diversity and number of new residents, with many coming from countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and China. In 1890, nearly one third of New Jersey's population of 1,444,922 were immigrants, many of whom - men, women, and children - sought work in mills and factories in Paterson, Newark, Trenton, New Brunswick, Camden, and elsewhere. As urban centers grew to be industrial powerhouses, populations there grew exponentially. By 1880, nearly 55% of the state's population lived in urban areas; by 1900, that figure had increased to 72%.

Women's Work

Throughout this period, New Jersey continued to stay true to its moniker as "the Garden State," for its family farms and for its advances in commercial agriculture and ability to supply perishable produce to the growing urban areas. The bog areas of southern New Jersey were the perfect proving grounds for the development of commercial cranberry and blueberry cultivation. The story of Elizabeth White's groundbreaking work to cultivate high bush blueberries is told at Fenwick Manor, where she conducted her experiments, and at Historic Whitesbog Village, the nearby

cranberry and blueberry bog and workers' village where her blueberry bushes were first successfully cultivated.

Women remained critical workers in agriculture, whether on the family farm or in communities such as Whitesbog and Double Trouble Village, another cranberry growing and packing facility and workers' village in Ocean County. On family farms, women worked as partners to their husbands, where their gardens, poultry, and dairy products provided food for their families and products for sale. Farm life during this time period is now interpreted at historic sites like Fosterfields Living Historical Farm in Morristown and Howell Living History Farm near Lambertville.

With the growth of commercial canning factories, some farms turned to growing vegetables and fruits on a large scale to meet the demand. Farmwomen were instrumental for planting, harvesting, and packing produce for shipment and for home canning businesses, especially for tomatoes. Companies like Campbell's Soup in Camden, which introduced Campbell's Beefsteak Tomato Soup in 1895, also made good use of the famous "Jersey tomato" grown on many family farms.

While farm work and domestic service continued to employ thousands of women, manufacturing, retail, and office work increasingly supplied more and more opportunities for employment. Women worked in garment shops, textile mills, as cigar makers, tailors, shoemakers, pottery decorators, secretaries, retail clerks and salespeople. They were active in trade unions, walkouts and strikes, and the fight to improve poor working conditions. Married women often took in boarders, prepared, and sold meals to single mill workers, and did piece work at home. The American Labor Museum/Botto House in Haledon tells the story of immigrant working families, including Maria Botto, and of the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913, during which strikers gathered outside the Botto House to hear labor activists like Helen Gurley Flynn speak from the balcony.

Middle class single women, both Black and White, found employment and independence as teachers, nurses, secretaries, clerks and in the new field of professional social work. Women's interest in these professions led to increased formal vocational training opportunities. As the number of publicly supported schools increased, two more "normal schools" opened in Montclair (1908) and Newark (1913), to meet the need for teachers. Advances in the medical field led to hospitals opening nursing schools to train working class and middle-class women in the profession. The Newark German Hospital School of Nursing (now Clara Maass Medical Center) and the Cooper Hospital School of Nursing in Camden are two examples of nursing schools that operated in the mid-1890s.

A few enterprising Black women joined the ranks of business owners in the beauty and cosmetic field. Sarah Spencer Washington started with a small beauty shop in Atlantic City in 1913 and grew the business into a line of products and beauty schools. By 1946, her schools were in twelve states, South Africa and the Caribbean. Cordelia Greene Johnson opened one of Washington's beauty schools in Jersey City

and promoted standards and licensing for beauty salons. In Newark, Louise Scott Roundtree purchased the Kruger Mansion with the wealth she earned from her beauty culture business. She used the mansion as nursery school, a neighborhood center and the offices of her beauty culture school. All these women used their businesses to encourage and support other Black women entrepreneurs.

If New Jersey women wanted more than normal school or vocational learning, they had to go out of state until 1899, when the College of Saint Elizabeth, a private four-year Catholic college, opened in Convent Station. It graduated its first class of four women in 1903. It was followed in 1908 by another Catholic college, Mount St. Mary College and Academy in Chatham. Finally, in 1918, Rutgers College trustees agreed to accept woman, establishing the New Jersey College for Women, later known as Douglass College. Not until the 1970s did major universities in New Jersey, like Rutgers and Princeton, become fully co-educational.

Segregation impacted both public schools and higher education. New Jersey passed legislation outlawing segregation in schools, but the law failed to stop the practice. Access to higher education was especially difficult for Black women because of discrimination. The first woman to become a scholar of sociology in the country, Marion Thomson Wright, was one of only two Black students to attend Barringer High School in Newark. She went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Howard University and a PhD from Columbia University. Her residence in Montclair is still a private home today.

Home Life

Caring for the home and family remained a major occupation for women, regardless of advances in employment and the activism of social reform movements. That said, the labor-intensive nature of housework began to change with technological improvements and labor-saving devices. Early nineteenth century appliances, like the iron cook stove and sewing machine, had already impacted household tasks. By the 1870s, advice writers were instructing women in the use of such new devices as the manual eggbeater, raisin seeder, apple corer, and clothes wringer. Wealthy women often described themselves as "household managers," and were able to employ household help who had access to an ever-increasing number of cooking, cleaning, and household maintenance tools. Mina Edison, wife of inventor Thomas Edison, wrote of her management duties. Their home, Glenmont, part of the Edison National Historical Park, tells her story. The growing number of middle-class women were also encouraged to use the same time management models running their household, similar to the tactics their middle-management husbands employed in factories to improve efficiency. Acorn Hall, in Morristown, and The Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus, interpret many of these domestic changes.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries also ushered in a new era of consumerism as mass produced items for household consumption were marketed to the increasing number of middle–class and upper-class households residing in

the suburbs near major urban areas. Department stores first appeared in the 1850s, but took on a bigger role in the 1890s, aided by the availability of train and trolley service into city centers such as Newark, where Bamberger's Department Store and Hahne's Department stores offered myriad products to discerning consumers.

Reform Movements

The plight of immigrant families in urban areas drew the interest of both middle class and upper-class women. Many of the women drawn to social work did so in response to the complications of immigrant life, especially for immigrant women trying to navigate work and family life in a new country. One example, Whittier House in Jersey City, organized by Cornelia Bradford, offered classes, legal advice, and free kindergarten. Similar settlement houses opened in other urban areas, serving primarily immigrants and their families. Social workers' familiarity with working class and immigrant life also led to the founding of the New Jersey Consumer's League, which advocated for legislation to mitigate child labor and unhealthy working conditions. Wealthy women also took up the cause of assisting the working classes, mostly in urban areas. For example, Jennie Tuttle Hobart, wife of Vice President Garrett Hobart, funded and established a day nursery in Paterson to serve the children of mill workers. The building remains a day-care center to this day.

During this period, women's cultural, professional, and reform organizations proliferated, often linked to national causes like temperance and suffrage. The New Jersey Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in the mid-1870s and grew to a membership of over 8,000 Black and White members by 1891. Many of these members also supported a woman's right to vote. Secular women's clubs, often organized by middle class women in New Jersey's growing suburbia, concerned themselves with education and civic betterment. The first such organization in New Jersey was founded in Orange. By 1894, a consortium of women's clubs organized into the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. Black women, generally excluded from White women's clubs, formed their own organization, the New Jersey Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1915.

The historic preservation movement also gained strength through the efforts of women. Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution took up the cause, working to save buildings and monuments. The earliest example of saving a New Jersey historic site is the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, saved by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) led by Beulah Oliphant. Similarly, Kate MaFarlane of Princeton organized a group of women and formed the Washington Headquarters Association in 1876 to save Rockingham, George Washington's temporary Headquarters in 1783.

The movement for women's suffrage picked up steam significantly during this period, as well. New Jersey was in the vanguard of the national movement in the late 1860s, when, among other actions, Lucy Stone addressed the New Jersey State

Legislature and groups of women attempted to vote in the 1868 presidential election, only to be turned away at the polls. Women did secure the right to vote in school board elections in 1887, only to have that right defeated in the election of 1897. These actions proved to galvanize the movement, when, by 1910, thousands of women joined the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association and the New Jersey Women's Party. On the national level, Alice Stokes Paul, a native of Mount Laurel, organized and led the National Woman's Party. Her experience among suffragists in England led her to organize campaigns to defeat anti-suffrage Congressman and hold silent protests outside the White House. She later co-authored the Equal Rights Amendment and fought for its passage for the remainder of her life. In January 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA, meeting the statutory requirement to be added to the Constitution. However, Congress has yet to pass the amendment following states' ratification. Her family home, Paulsdale, is now home to the Alice Paul Institute, which continues her work by offering programs for girls and young women in leadership and civic engagement and on the history of the women's rights movement.

The Modern Age: Hard Fought Gains, Goals for the Future.

By the time the twentieth century dawned, women had made some gains in education, employment, and social reform movements, though the right to vote was still elusive. The growth of both urban areas and the suburbs, along with advances in transportation and mass production, changed daily life and, for some, improved their standard of living. Immigration continued apace, including an influx of people from eastern and southern Europe until the Immigration Act of 1924 set quotas favoring immigrants from western Europe. In 1900, though, the state's population stood at 1,883,669 people, the 16th highest of all states. Of that total, 430,884, 22.9%, were foreign born.

Winning the Right to Vote and Beyond

New Jersey women continued to advocate and agitate for the right to vote, taking their argument to the highest court in New Jersey. In 1912, in the case of *Carpenter v. Cornish* brought by Mary Philbrook, the first female attorney in New Jersey, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that women had no right to vote under the New Jersey Constitution. Given many defeats here and in other states, increasingly suffragists shifted their focus from advocating in state legislatures to the national arena, advocating and protesting in Washington. However, with the onset of World War I, women on both sides of the suffrage movement put aside their activities to focus on the war effort, organizing local Red Cross chapters and preparing relief supplies for allied countries in Europe devastated by the fighting. Their efforts softened resistance to suffrage in Congress, leading to the passing of the 19th amendment to Constitution, ensuring women's right to vote. In February 1920, New Jersey became the twenty-ninth state to ratify the amendment.

With the right to vote guaranteed, women sought and won positions in political office. Jennie Van Ness and Margaret Laird, Essex County Republicans, were the first two women to serve in the New Jersey Legislature. Van Ness had been active in the suffragist cause. On the local level, Rebecca Estell Winston, of Estell Manor, was elected mayor of her town in 1925, the first New Jersey woman to serve as a municipal mayor. Geraldine Thompson began her career in politics even before the right to vote was secured. Thompson was active in Republican politics as early as 1912, setting policy and making political decisions with all-male colleagues. In 1923, she became the first female delegate to the Republican National Convention. She and Eleanor Roosevelt, a close long-time friend, shared many social reform and welfare interests. Her home in Monmouth County, Brookdale Farm, interprets her life and the farm's important role in the county's history.

Following World War II, women's participation in politics and public policy grew. During the New Jersey constitutional convention, convened in 1947 to replace the long-outmoded 1844 constitution, Mary Philbrook, now 75 years old, advocated for an equal rights amendment to be included in the new document. Though one was not included, the language of the new constitution was free of sex-specific language. It was a New Jersey woman, Florence Dwyer, a Republican from Elizabeth, who sponsored "Equal Pay for Equal Work" legislation in the New Jersey Legislature that became the model for national legislation.

Women and the War Efforts

The twentieth century was marked by two world wars, the Korean conflict and the war in Vietnam. Women played significant roles in all these conflicts. During World War I, in addition to Red Cross relief efforts, New Jersey women opened and staffed canteens at Camp Dix and served in the United State Army Nurse Corp. Others, like Julia Hurlbut, a fellow suffragist protestor with Alice Paul, managed soldier canteens on the front in France, supported by the YMCA. Women also worked for the Women's Land Army, where they worked in agriculture to replace men who had gone to war.

When the United States entered World War II in December 1941, women, both Black and White, were soon recruited to work in military and defense industries that had not existed during World War I. Industrial employment more than doubled during the war years to nearly a million workers, including tens of thousands of women who worked in factories making aircraft engines and munitions, and in shipyards that turned out aircraft carriers and battleships. In one notable switch to war production, the Maidenform Brassiere Company in Bayonne re-tooled to produce silk parachutes and net vests to transport courier pigeons overseas.

Still other women filled rolls otherwise held by men in education, medical facilities, and social service agencies. The horrors of the Nazi slaughter in concentration camps led many New Jersey women, including Alice Paul, to help Jews escape and resettle after the war.

Women were also recruited to serve in the Women's Army Corp (WACs), established by the U.S. Army in 1942. The first recruits were housed in Barracks #25 at Fort Hancock on Sandy Hook. Other WACs served at Fort Monmouth, Fort Dix, and Fort Kilmer. At least 10,000 New Jersey women served in the WACs or the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).

Women's presence in the armed forces became more culturally acceptable after Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, just two years before the outbreak of hostilities in Korea. The act allowed women to serve as permanent members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for the first time in American history. During the Korean War, 120,000 women served in the armed forces, one third of those in medical service. Similarly, during the Vietnam War, many women served in medical and support capacities. Their contributions are remembered in the Women Veterans Meditation Garden at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Museum.

The Changing Nature of Women in the Workforce

During the first half of the twentieth century, the role of women in the workforce was significantly impacted by the two world wars and the Great Depression. During the wars, women were needed not only to sustain the home front but also to take on jobs previously held only by men. In addition, beginning around 1910, Blacks from the south began to migrate in large numbers to cities in the northeast, drawn to work in expanding industries. Between 1910 and 1930, New Jersey's Black population grew by 133%. For the first time, Black women were employed as social workers and as teachers in mix-race schools. Black women also established separate social and activist organizations when they were denied entry into white counterparts. Black women in the Montclair area established their own YWCA in 1920, purchasing the Israel Crane House as their headquarters. Their story is now interpreted at the Montclair History Center.

The era also ushered in the first state legislation protecting women workers. The campaign by the New Jersey Consumer's League led to the passage of the Night Work Law of 1923, which prohibited women from working between the hours of midnight to 8AM. That legislation did not protect all workers; household servants and farm workers were exempted. The legislation was suspended during World War II to allow women to work in the defense production industries.

In another case of workplace safety, five women who worked in a watch factory in Orange challenged their employer in court due to the toxic nature of radium, which was used to paint watch dials. Known as the "Radium Girls," these women were instructed to "point" their brushes on their lips, consequently ingesting deadly radium from the paint. They settled the case out of court in 1928.

Agriculture remained a major industry, especially in rural central and southern New Jersey. Women workers, many of them migrant laborers, took on work in the fields

and in processing facilities. Two such locations, Double Trouble State Park and Historic Whitesbog Village, both blueberry and cranberry farms and packing facilities, were self-contained workers' villages with origins in the nineteenth century. In 1944, Charles Seabrook sought assistance from the Federal government to re-locate Japanese Americans, then living in internment camps in the west, to work at Seabrook Farm. The farm would grow to become the largest irrigated truck farm in the country. Nearly 2,500 Japanese Americans came to live at the farm and many women worked the farm and in processing the harvests.

During both the Depression and following World War II, the number of women in the workforce contracted, as the previous cultural norm of women's primary role in the domestic sphere returned. Women were seen as "taking jobs from men" as the economy contracted in the 1930s and then with the decreased demand for war production at the close of World War II. Even so, the increased availability of higher education for some women slowly opened professional careers to them. A small number of women entered fields such as medicine, law, and politics, in addition to expanded roles in education and social work. But it was not until 1956 that women could enter medical colleges in New Jersey, when eight women enrolled in the first class at Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry. Women were first admitted to law school in New Jersey in 1908, though a few, like Mary Philbrook, studied by reading law with an established attorney. In 1906, she went on to be the first woman from New Jersey to argue before the U. S. Supreme Court.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, women also began to pursue careers in horticulture. Besides Elizabeth Coleman White, who produced the first cultivated blueberry for sale in 1912, several others in New Jersey joined the field of landscape architecture. Similar to the law profession, early women pioneers in the field apprenticed in the practices of established male architects. Beatrix Farrand was one. She was hired in 1912 to oversee the landscape design for Princeton University, a position she held until 1943. Martha Brooks Hutcheson, one of the first women in the field, transformed her Chester Township farm into an influential country style garden, now part of the Morris County Park System. In the 1920s, Ellen Biddle Shipman established her own all-women landscape architecture firm in New York City. She was commissioned by the Reeves family in Summit to design their grounds. Though her designs were rejected, she went on to an illustrious career. Today, her life and work are interpreted at Reed-Reeves Arboretum. Women's commitment to horticulture was vocational, as well, evidenced in the many garden clubs around the state. The Plainfield Garden Club, founded in 1915, collaborated with the noted landscape architectural firm, Olmsted Brothers, to design and maintain the Shakespeare Garden in Union County. The club has been tending the garden for 95 years.

Some women found their calling in arts or sports. During the first decades of the twentieth century, Jersey City and then Fort Lee became favorite sites for the fledgling movie industry. Silent film actress Pearl White came to fame in the movie series, "Perils of Pauline," which was shot in various locations in northern New

Jersey. Two New Jersey women were instrumental in establishing regional theaters that still operate today. Antoinette Scudder, poet, painter and playwright co-founded the Papermill Playhouse, where she not only acted, but also served as wardrobe mistress and other behind-the-scenes rolls. Marjorie Cranston Jefferson served as co-founder and director of the Summit Theater for fifty-one years. Numerous other New Jersey women also benefited from the Depression-era Works Progress Administration's support for artists, including Enid Bell, who was commissioned to produce sculptures for post offices and other public buildings.

Two women reached milestones in the field of sports at Paterson's Hinchcliffe Stadium. Eleanor Kratiger, known as Eleanor Egg, entered track and field in the Paterson Girls' Recreation Program in 1923. She competed in the broad jump, the 100-yard dash and the shot put, setting the world record for the broad jump in 1927. Two decades later, Effa Manley gained notoriety for owning and co-managing the Newark Eagles baseball team with her husband, Abe Manley. The Newark Eagles were part of the Negro Baseball League and won the Negro League World Series in 1946, during the Manley's team ownership. Effa Manley was known for her financial management and marketing talents. For her contributions to the Negro League, she was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006, the first woman to gain the honor.

Domestic Life

Once World War II ended, many men and women looked to settle back into domestic life and families. In the 1950s, New Jersey's population growth was greater than that of the rest of the country. By the end of the decade, 47% of New Jersey's population lived in the suburbs. Like the early suburbs of the upper middle class in the late nineteenth century and the working-class streetcar suburbs of the 1920s, mid-twentieth century suburban growth drew more people away from the urban centers, setting up increasingly class and race-based segregation and pockets of poverty in New Jersey's cities, significantly impacting the lives of families who faced discrimination in housing, education, and gainful employment.

For those women and their families who were able to relocate to the new suburbs, life was substantially better. The purchase of consumer goods and services was marketed to these homemakers as a civic duty to bolster the post war economy. Advertisements in women's magazines promoted the idealized image of a women in a comfortable home, surrounded by the latest in labor-saving appliances and tasteful furnishings, whose job it was to care for the home and family. It was during this period, in the 1960s, that educator Elizabeth Sculthorp Force of Toms River became nationally renowned for her high school curriculum on family relationships and social behavior, known as the "Toms River experiment." The curriculum reinforced the focus on family life. Her life and work are now interpreted at the Ocean County Historical Society.

For many women, though, that ideal was elusive, as economic, and social reality intervened. By the late 1950s and into the 1960s, women who had been crucial to

wartime production but had lost those jobs, began to return to the workforce. In the 1950s, over 30% of women nationwide were in the workforce. By 1998, that figure was 60%, increasing only slightly by 2020.

1950 and Beyond: Into the New century.

The last half of the twentieth century was marked by the expanded range and scope of educational and career opportunities for women. In politics, New Jersey voted for its first female governor when Christine Todd Whitman was elected and served from 1994 to 2001. She later went on to serve as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency during George W. Bush's presidency. Millicent Fenwick, a pipe smoking outspoken advocate for civil rights, known for her sharp intelligence and wit, served first on the Bernardsville Town Council, then in New Jersey General Assembly in 1970 and the U.S. House of Representatives for four terms, starting in 1974.

Technology was changing quickly. Bell Labs, located in New Jersey, was at the forefront of computer technology. There, Erna Hoover's work led to the invention of the first telephone central office controlled by a computer, earning her one of the first software patents in the United States. Virginia Apgar, who grew up in Westfield and became the first woman to become a full professor at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1949, did groundbreaking work in obstetrics. Dr. Apgar was honored in 1994 with a U.S. postage stamp and inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York the following year.

The arts industry benefited from the talents of New Jersey women. Meryl Streep, Oscar award winning actress, hails from Bernardsville. Grammy Award winning singer Whitney Houston and multiple award-winning Queen Latifah grew up in Newark. Author Judy Blume, who grew up in Elizabeth, revolutionized young adult literature and, after some of her books were banned for taking on sensitive subjects, went on to advocate against censorship.

New Jersey is now the fourth most diverse state in the nation. Immigrants and the children of immigrants significantly contribute to a vibrant culture that's reflected in every aspect of life. In the field of sports, Ibtihaj Muhammad stands out. She is the first American athlete to compete in the Olympics in a hijab and the first Muslim-American woman to medal at the Olympic Games in 2016, winning bronze in the women's team saber competition. She grew up in Maplewood.

These and other talented women call New Jersey home. Some would say, though, that the real history makers are those whose unheralded and selfless work to improve life in New Jersey each day. As the stories of New Jersey women continue to unfold into the twenty-first century, preserving and interpreting the sites and landscapes that shaped them and their accomplishments will continue the long legacy of New Jersey history.

Acknowledgements and Further Reading:

This brief overview of women's lives and contributions to New Jersey history owes its origins to the work of Deborah Kelly and Ellen Schultz of Preservation Partners, whose work to produce a comprehensive survey of women's history sites in New Jersey led to the book, *Women's Place in New Jersey History,* published in 2004. Noted New Jersey historian Delight Dodyk authored the narrative history for the publication. My sincere thanks to each of them for their foundational work.

To explore New Jersey women's history further, the following sources may prove useful:

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. *Women's Spheres Symposia: Selected Papers.* (Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1985.)

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. *New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail* website: https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/whttrail2.htm

The Women's Project of New Jersey, Inc. *Past and Promise: The Lives of New Jersey Women.* (The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1990.)

To learn more about women's history sites, locations and short biographies, check out:

Maxine Lurie and Mark Mappen, editors. *The Encyclopedia of New Jersey.* (Rutgers University Press, 2004.)

For a short list of notable New Jersey women in last half of the twentieth century, visit:

https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/life/women-of-the-century/2020/08/13/new-jersey-history-woman-celebrities-inventor-author/4977801002/