

Woman Suffrage Projects

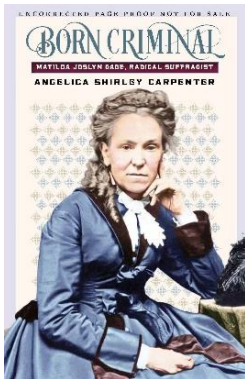
In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, securing women the right to vote, we have launched a statewide initiative that explores the generations-long fight for universal woman suffrage.

SUFFRAGE BOOKS.....\$45,000

In 2018, the South Dakota Historical Society Press published *Born Criminal: The Life of Rebel Suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage*. In 2019, the Press will publish an anthology concerning suffrage, *Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains*, and in 2020, a highly illustrated children's book, *The Voice of Liberty*, will feature the suffragist protests at the dedication of the Statue of Liberty.

Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist

(2018) For women in the United States prior to 1920, the struggle for voting rights was the cause



of a lifetime. For Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826–1898), it was part of a lifelong struggle for equality and social justice. Gage, a forgotten mother of the women's rights movement, was a contemporary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Together, the three of them founded the

National Woman Suffrage Association. During the 1880s, when all four of Gage's children moved to Dakota Territory, Gage visited often and promoted the cause. Son-in-law, L. Frank Baum, newspaper owner in Aberdeen and later author of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, supported Gage's ideas and woman suffrage. In return, she provided Baum with his social-reform vision for the imaginary world of Oz. In documenting Gage's rise and fall in the woman suffrage movement, biographer Angelica Shirley Carpenter carefully illuminates the impact of Gage's legacy on modern women's rights. Written for Young Adult readers, *Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist* is the first full-length biography of Gage to be published.

To purchase *Born Criminal* go to the Heritage Bookstore at www.sdhsf.org

Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains

(2019) Fifty-one years before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, the Territory of Wyoming became the first U.S. territory to grant woman suffrage (1869). New states and territories like Wyoming were willing to consider and grant women the vote, often in hopes of increasing their population. A few of Wyoming's neighbors in the Northern Great Plains shortly followed suit, granting women full or partial voting rights through constitutional amendments or legislative action: Montana (1914), North Dakota (1917), and South Dakota (1918). The history of these early suffrage successes has often

gone untold. Historians Molly Rozum (University of South Dakota) and Laurie Lahlum (Minnesota State University—Mankato) are now in the process of compiling and editing an anthology of essays highlighting the suffrage movements of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Through the editors' efforts, understudied champions of women's rights on the Northern Great Plains will receive attention.

Voice of Liberty

(2020) In October 1886, suffragists Katherine Devereux Blake and Matilda Joslyn Gage joined Lillie Devereux Blake (Katherine's mother and fellow suffragist) and the New York City Woman Suffrage Association to protest the dedication of the Statue of Liberty. "That statue is a woman, but she can't speak for herself," Lillie said. "I say, let's give her a voice." The women argued that the Statue of Liberty was the greatest hypocrisy of the nineteenth century. Liberty should not (could not!) be represented as a woman in a land where not a single woman had liberty. In her first picture book, *Voice of Liberty* author Angelica Shirley Carpenter centers on the actions and words of these three women as they, and others, board a filthy cattle barge and sail into the midst of the celebration. Waving their banners high, they find themselves front and center to the unveiling of one of the United States most important monuments. It is an exciting episode in the long struggle for woman suffrage in the United States, a moment in time worth remembering.



The South Dakota Historical Society Press has published over sixty books, for which it has received more than forty awards. Our 2014 release of *Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography* has sold over 165,000 copies and was on the bestseller lists in the *New York Times* and on Amazon.com.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT\$10,000

The suffrage centennial commemoration exhibit will open November 2019 in the Observation Gallery. The exhibit will focus on individuals from South Dakota and across the country who were involved in the women's suffrage movement, culminating in the 1920 national elections.

DIGITIZATION of women's records \$10,000

FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING EVENT...goal \$100,000

Next year we will begin planning for an event in 2020 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Funds raised at this event will ensure that the history of this important movement is widely disseminated and remembered by our next generations.

Join us by donating whatever you can to make these projects a reality.

For more information please contact Catherine Forsch (605) 773-6040 | Catherine.Forsch@state.sd.us