Empowering Students with Primary Sources
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Women and Social Movements Library

Provides researchers with unique content about some of modern history’s greatest activists and the movements they shaped.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Social Movements, International, 1840-2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires Since 1820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Social Movements, Development in the Global South, 1919-2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

Primary Source Collections for Women’s Studies
Document projects provide exclusive faculty created collections that contribute to the preservation and uncovering of historical perspectives. This collaborative partnership to ensures that our content remains at the forefront of academic research and scholarship, maintaining its currency and relevancy within the ever-evolving discipline of women’s and gender studies.

Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000 is an online journal dedicated to advancing scholarly debates and understanding about U.S. history and U.S. women’s history. Project combines, primary documents, books, images, essays, website and book reviews, teaching tools, and more.

- Published twice a year since 2004
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The Extraordinary and the Representative Women

Opportunities to explore the stories of the known and unknown
‘Do not toss this letter away’: Women's Hardship Petitions to the U.S. Federal Government during the Civil War

Documents selected and interpreted by

Cayla Regas, Rebecca Jo Plant, and Frances M. Clarke

Spring 2023
The significance of primary sources
William J. Davies, January 31, 1862, Addison Files 1848-62, Letters Received Relating to Soldiers, Entry 416
Re: Davis, Wm
To the Honorable Secretary of the army the undersigned would Moste condescendingly ask if you will grant me my discharge I have bin sick nearley all the time sence i have bin enlisted in the servis. I am not able to Do a solgers duety. Further i Am cursed by the men in My company becaus they have to do it for me. i am not Worth the salt i eat to the Goverment therefor i pray to you for god sake to release Me and let me returne to My home ware i a wife dependent solely on me fore suport Who is in miserable condition When in listed i had bin Drinking and was erasey And did not know [w]are i was Until found myself in Carlisle Barik [wish] to my god That i had never seen that Place. No more at present But remain a humble and Miserable retch. William J Davis.
Apz-10-1862, Mary J. Austin to “Most Hond Sir,” December 19, 1862, Enlisted Branch, Letters Received, 1862-1889, Entry 409, Box 1.
William J. Davies, January 31, 1862, Addison Files 1848-62, Letters Received Relating to Soldiers, Entry 416
Re: Davis, Wm
To the Honorable Secretary of the army the undersigned would Moste condescendly ask if you will grant me my discharge I have bin sick nearly all the time since I have bin enlisted in the service. I am not able to do a soldier's duty. Further I am cursed by the men in my company because they have to do it for me. I am not worth the salt I eat to the Government therefore I pray to you for God's sake to release me and let me return to my home where I a wife dependent solely on me for support. Who is in miserable condition. When in listed I had bin drinking and was careless and did not know [w]here I was. Until found myself in Carlisle Barik [wish] to my god. That I had never seen that place. No more at present. But remain a humble and miserable retch. William J. Davis.
"I implore you do write to me and say you will & you shall have the best thanks & prayrs from me a poor sick friendless abused wretched Woman an[d] child I might say do oh do send relief to me a poor lone suferer"

Pamela Gould
Document #13
"To the one that has Authority to release my Husband be it Governor or Secretary or President I care not who all the fire of my indignation is aroused and I must express myself but what language shall I find appropriate what words Oh! the agony of my soule at this time is beyond the power of words"

Frances Utter
Document #25
I heard that Mrs Mastic got a letter from you last March. I saw her and she denied knowing anything about you. I believe that she lied and it is my candid opinion that if such people get to heaven, hell need not to have been made.

Mary Spinks
Document #23
Mary Blount
Document #6

Bkn-499-64 Mary A. Blount, 14
December, 1864, RG94: Office of the
Adjutant General, Entry 409, Records
of the Enlisted Branch, Letters
Received, 1862-1889, Box 80
my house is not fit for to winter in and I am not able to fix it as I am all most run down and I rely think that I see the hardest times of any womin that is left. I have all redy frozen my feete so that I can hardly ware my shoes. My feeede is all to hall a bout one and a half mile and to morrow I will have to go and hall some Corne to feeede with.

Mary Blount
Document #6
there was stout men enuff in the principle to fill the Call if thà would have taking them but the rich men Could get off for thare money and the poor men had to fill thare plaes whether fit or not fit

Mary Blount
Document #6
Why Document Projects?

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- Opportunity for students to get involved in research projects
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Opportunity for students to get involved in research projects. Professors can share the workload with students.
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Jemima Feathers
Document #12
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Inspiring Advocacy

Students as Impetus
Inspiring Advocacy

Students as Impetus

Giving Students Responsibility
Students as Impetus

Giving Students Responsibility

Mentorship Opportunities
Practical Approaches
Practical Approaches

Integrating Into Syllabus
Practical Approaches

Integrating Into Syllabus

Thematic Approaches
Integrating Into Syllabus

Thematic Approaches

Seminar v. Large Lecture Course
Q&A
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