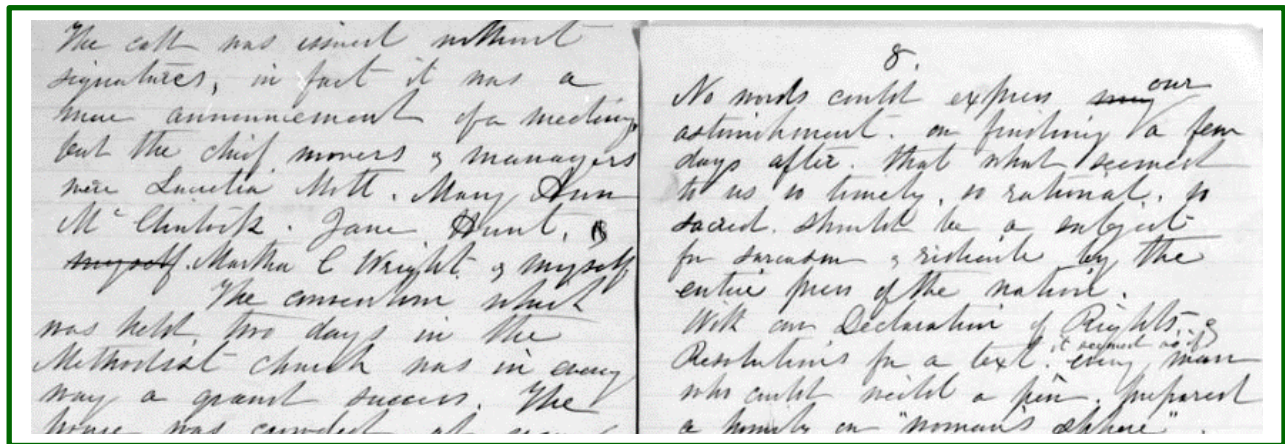


Transcribe-a-thon of Suffrage Papers
Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 1 to 4 pm
The Bennington Free Library Rotary Room.
Public Meeting, Bring Friends, and Your Laptop.



Above: A small sample of a draft by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, passed by Congress in June 1919 and ratified by the states in August 1920, giving women—at last—the right to vote. The words of the women who led the march toward suffrage and carried the battle over the finish line are preserved in the suffrage papers of the Library of Congress, which include some 16,000 historic documents that were the underpinning of the movement. The Library of Congress has already scanned the documents into a digital library, and is now asking volunteers to help transcribe them through a crowdsourcing platform called "By the People." Our branch, in partnership with the Bennington Free Library,

is sponsoring an afternoon Suffrage Transcribe-a-thon to help out.

The value of this nationwide project for scholars and the public is inestimable. It's often difficult and sometimes impossible to use a computer to search for a word in a scanned source, especially since decades-old documents often make for blurry scans. Transcribe-a-thon volunteers will type up the documents word for word, creating files that will make it easier to find and read original sources. The suffrage papers include diaries, letters and speeches from such well-known

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Transcribe-a-thon of Suffrage Papers

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suffragists as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as well as lesser-known activists. The Transcribe-a-thon and resulting searchable files will give today's volunteers and tomorrow's researchers a chance to engage in the collection and feel a connection to these pioneering women suffragists.

All volunteers are welcome, whether or not you can type. If you have a laptop computer, please bring it with the battery charged—though the library will also have several laptops available. Those without keyboard skills can help decipher cryptic handwriting, review transcriptions for accuracy, and suggest words and subjects to tag to make the documents more useful for researchers down the line. No experience is necessary: the afternoon will begin with an overview and training, you may work on your own or in small groups, and pre-trained volunteers will be on hand to help. Refreshments throughout the afternoon and periodic breaks will fuel the effort, and if you are unable to stay until the Transcribe-a-thon ends at 4 pm, feel free to leave.

Want to get a head start? You can learn about the Transcribe-a-thon, open your own account by clicking on "Register" in the upper right corner, and start practicing at home by clicking on the following link:
<https://crowd.loc.gov/topics/suffrage-women-fight-for-the-vote/>

What's included in the suffrage papers in the Library of Congress? Here are a few examples:

- Accounts from Carrie Chapman Catt, who took over for Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, about her experiences at the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Rome.
- Letters from actor and mountain-climber Anna E. Dickinson, the first woman to give a political address before Congress, probing the familial conflict that arose after her sister committed her to a Pennsylvania asylum.
- Diaries of Mary Church Terrell, a founder of the National Association of Colored Women, which shed light on minorities' laborious suffrage struggles and her own dealings with Civil Rights figures like W.E.B. Du Bois.

First Monday Meeting, November 4, 2019 at 12:30 pm

East Arlington Federated Church on Ice Pond Road

Bring a Sandwich for your lunch; dessert and beverage will be provided by Selma Milchen and Eve Kalagher.

The Scribble Sister will be sharing with us what they do and some samples of their writing. Copies of their books, which support our scholarship fund, will be available for purchase. To let us know that you will attend, please contact either Jan Day at mday2837@comcast.net (442-9299) or Nancy Schoerke at NTS1016@comcast.net (447-0829). We look forward to seeing you.

Support for Ride-sharing and Car-pooling from north of Bennington

Since joining AAUW Bennington Branch last year, I have been very impressed by the large area from which people come for AAUW events and meetings. There appears to be a vigorous network of car-sharing so that those who live in Shaftsbury and north toward Arlington and Manchester can get to AAUW gatherings - including First Mondays, Book Club, and AAUW public meetings - and also have fewer cars on the road.

Even with this network, I would like to determine if there are additional members who would like to come to meetings and events but are prevented from doing so by lack of transportation. In such cases, I may be able to offer help with transportation myself, or suggest others who might be able help. Please feel free to contact me at the email or phone number below.

Also, if there are members who are willing to offer occasional transportation to others in the northern areas, I would love to have your name. Just use my contact information below. Of course, I know all will understand that this is a very informal network and rides may not always be feasible or available. My hope is that we find out if there is a transportation need and – if so - how it might be met.

Thank you!

Beth Hardesty
519 Harrington Road
North Bennington, VT

hardestydyck@gmail.com (442-5612)

AAUW Calendar

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Public Branch Meeting at the Bennington Free Library. In this afternoon Suffragist Transcribe-a-thon, branch members and other community volunteers will transcribe documents in the Suffragist Papers held by the Library of Congress. No experience needed, training will be provided, and there are jobs for everyone, whether or not you can type. To help with a headcount and equipment inventory, please contact Julie Mackaman at jmackaman@gmail.com (823-5545) to tell her if you plan to come and whether you'll bring a laptop. See page 1 for details.

Monday, November 4, 2019 at 12:30 pm

First Monday Meeting with the Scribble Sister as our guest speakers. RSVP to Jan Day or Nancy Schoerke to let them know that you plan to attend. Additional details in box on page 2.

Wednesday November 13, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting. Information: Suzanne Kirpatrick suzykirkpa@gmail.com (314-496-5628).

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher. Information: Mary Feidner or Margaret Howland.

Saturday, December 7, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Branch Holiday Party at the Old First Church Barn. Refreshments, libations, music, and good cheer—with a suffragist twist!

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Holiday Party at Chauncey's Restaurant. After lunch, members will read or recite a favorite poem. Information: Mary Feidner or Margaret Howland.

Wednesday, January 15, 2010 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* edited by Paul Hawken. Please read whichever sections of the book interest you. We can't master the whole book.