

Women in Buffalo History

Selected Sources in the Grosvenor Room



Notable Local Women

Several prominent and notable women have called Western New York home, including those listed below. More information on each of these women, as well as many others, can be found in the Grosvenor Room.

Zorah Berry (1889-1969)

Local concert promoter who brought hundreds of musical performers to Buffalo during her 40-year career.

Louise Blanchard Bethune (1856-1913)

First female architect to practice in the U.S. She designed the Hotel Lafayette on Washington Street.

Taylor Caldwell (1900-1985)

Novelist who wrote more than 40 works of fiction. Her books sold an estimated 30 million copies.

Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005)

First black woman elected to the US House of Representatives and the first African American to run for US president.

Katharine Cornell (1893-1974)

Broadway actress called the "First Lady of the Theater" and best known for her portrayal of poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning in "The Barretts of Wimpole Street."

Marian DeForest (1864-1935)

One of the first female newspaper reporters in Buffalo, she later became an accomplished playwright, founded the Zonta Club, promoted orchestra concerts, and served on the Boards of the SPCA and the Buffalo Public Library.

Anna Katharine Green (1846-1935)

Bestselling author of detective fiction who helped popularize the genre with well-constructed plots based on realistic criminal law.

Ann Montgomery (~1891-1978)

Successful business owner who established the Little Harlem nightclub, which hosted notable jazz performers and became a local landmark.

Maria Love (1840-1931)

Local philanthropist and social services pioneer; In 1881, she established the Fitch Crèche at 159 Swan Street, nationally recognized as the first day care center in the U.S., providing care for the children of the working poor.

Mary Burnett Talbert (1866-1923)

One of the most accomplished women of her time, Talbert was a civil rights activist who founded the Niagara Movement, a predecessor of the NAACP.

Selected Publications in the Buffalo Collection

The Grosvenor Room local history collection contains information on Buffalo women and local women's organizations. Items from this collection must be used in the Grosvenor Room and may not be borrowed. Please see staff to access items that are in the Rare Book Room or Closed Stacks.

<p>Buffalo HD 6059.U5 B8 Brown, Mrs. E. Arts, Professions and Industries of Women in Buffalo Buffalo, NY: Times Printing House, 1888</p>	<p><i>Includes advertisements for women's businesses, as well as recipes, prose, poetry, advice and advertisements geared towards women.</i></p>
<p>Buffalo HQ 439 Eve: The premier women's magazine of western New York Winter 2000 - Summer 2002</p>	<p><i>Profiles of women leaders in business, education, and the arts.</i></p>
<p>Buffalo HQ 1439.B8 K3 1992 Kanes, Candace A. Swornest chums: Buffalo women in business and the arts, 1900-1935 Thesis (M.A.), State University of New York at Buffalo, 1992.</p>	<p><i>Includes biographical information on Marian DeForest and Mai Davis Smith—both active in the music business.</i></p>
<p>Buffalo HQ1439.B8 R63 1999 Rockwell, Mary Rech "Let Deeds Tell": Elite women in Buffalo, 1880-1910 Thesis (Ph. D.)--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1999.</p>	<p><i>The education, marriage rituals, activities, and clubs of Buffalo's elite women.</i></p>
<p>Buffalo CT 3260.W66 2001 Magid, Annette and Rosa Gonzalez, eds. Women of Accomplishment: A legacy project of the Women's Pavilion Pan Am 2001 [Buffalo, NY] : Women's Pavilion, 2001</p>	<p><i>Biographical sketches of Western New York women who have been influential in the 20th and 21st centuries.</i></p>
<p>Buffalo F 129.B853 A227 2002- Brooks-Bertram, Peggy and Barbara Seals Nevergold, eds. Uncrowned Queens: African American Women Community Builders of Western New York Buffalo, NY: Petit Printing, 2002...</p>	<p><i>This 3 volume set honors the lives and accomplishments of African American women who have been influential in the local community.</i></p>
<p>Buffalo F129.B8 G277 1988 The Garret Club: History and manual [Buffalo, N.Y.: The History Committee, 1988]</p>	<p><i>Includes, newsletters, rosters, and activities of this women's social club, 1902-1988.</i></p>
<p>Buffalo LD 7501.B9 B35 1994 Bailey, Judith A. A very special place: The Buffalo Seminary: Its history and the experiences of the women who attended, 1913-1985 Ph. D., State University of New York at Buffalo, 1994.</p>	<p><i>History of one of the few all-female non-denominational high schools in the U.S. Includes graduates' reflections, teachers, and administration.</i></p>

Local History File

This card index lists citations for newspaper and magazine articles about people, places, and things in Buffalo. Look up prominent individuals by their last names, and other topics by name or broader subject. Try these subject headings for information on local women:

Clubs—Women's
Sisterhoods
Suffragettes
Women
Women and War
Women in Business and Industry
Women in Politics
Women's Athletics

Buffalo Fact File

Similar to the Local History File, this card index provides brief information on people, places, and events in Buffalo history. You can learn about the **first female council member, first woman bus driver, first policewoman,** and more by searching this file under *First Facts*.

Cards under the subject headings of *Woman* and *Women* have information on the Suffrage movement in Buffalo, women in politics, and women in government.

Scrapbooks

The Buffalo scrapbooks in the Grosvenor Room were compiled roughly from 1900 to 1960 and are comprised largely of local newspaper clippings. All are indexed in the **Local History File**. The following scrapbooks are of special interest for information on local women.

Scrapbook Name	Call Number	Location
Anna Katherine Green	R:91.4 R-5	RBR
Clubs, Associations, and Fraternal Organizations of Buffalo, v. 1-12	*HS17 .B9	GRO
Daughters of the American Revolution, Buffalo Chapter	E202.5 .N53B824	STK
Katherine Cornell, v. 1-2 [microfilm only]	*PN2287 .C62B9	GRO
Local Biographies, v. 1-39, series 2-41	*F129 .B8B69265	GRO
Marion DeForest's Dramatization of Louisa M. Alcott's <i>Little Women</i>	*PS1017 .L5D42	RBR
Mrs. Fiske in <i>Erstwhile Susan</i>	*PN2287 .F5B9	RBR
New York State Federation of Women's Clubs-27 th Annual Convention, 1921	*HQ1905 .N7N7	GRO
Pan-American Exposition: Women, v. 1-3	*T485 .C1P35	RBR
YMCA and YWCA	*BV1050 .B9B9	GRO
Woman suffrage : newspaper clippings May, 1900-Nov., 1910	JK1896 .W658 1900	RBR

RBR=Rare Book Room, **GRO**=Grosvenor Room, *STK*=Closed Stacks

Vertical File

The Vertical File offers folders of loose articles, pamphlets, and clippings on a variety of Local History subjects. Below is a list of the files that contain material on local women & women's organizations.

Architects--Bethune, Louise

Artists (Includes many local women)

Authors--Belfer, Lauren

Authors – Caldwell, Taylor

Authors – Green, Anna Katharine

Authors – Lincoln, Lucy

Authors – Sims, Betty

Authors – Watson, Evelyn

Biography A-L, M-Z (Includes many local women)

Cemeteries – Forest Lawn – Women's History of Forest Lawn

Clubs –YWCA

Clubs-- Buffalo City Federation of Women's Clubs

Clubs-- Women's Educational & Industrial Union

Pan American Exposition – Board of Women Managers

Women (Includes articles on various women & organizations, from historical to present day.)

Selected Websites

Uncrowned Community Builders [Uncrowned Queens biographical information]

<http://www.uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com/biographies>

Women in Forest Lawn Cemetery

<http://www.buffaloah.com/a/forestL/kav/kav.html>

Women in Buffalo's Architectural History

<http://www.buffaloresearch.com/essays/20thcentclub.html>

Women's History Month Information

<http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

Grosvenor Room
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1 Lafayette Square
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www.buffalolib.org
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