

Woman Suffrage Projects

To celebrate anniversaries of women achieving the right to vote, the South Dakota Historical Society Press will, with your help, publish three books detailing the struggle of women for liberty: *Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist* in 2018; *Voice of Liberty* in 2019; and *Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains* in 2020. Women fought long and hard to win the right to vote. Help us tell their stories. Join us by donating whatever you can to make these books a reality. Our goal this year is to raise \$150,000. That is fifteen hundred \$100 donations, or one hundred \$1500 donations, or ten \$15,000 donations.



"From those women to whom much has been given, much is expected; from those women to whom little has been given, a little is expected; from all we look for something."

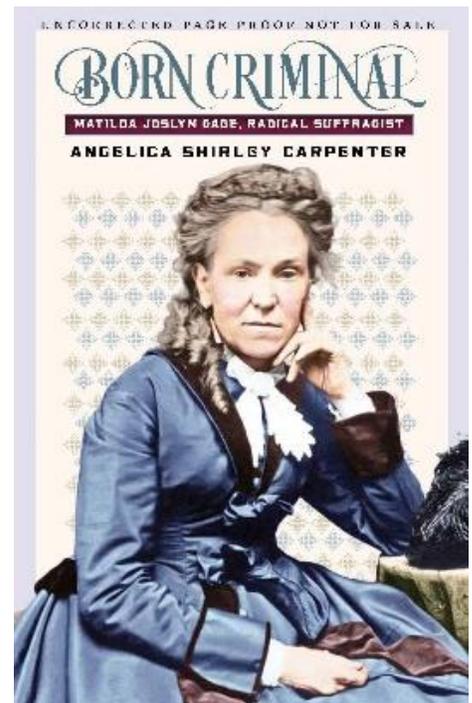
- Matilda Joslyn Gage

(while rallying financial support for the women's movement in the 1800s)



1. ***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.



2. *Voice of Liberty* (2019)

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.

3. *Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains* (2020)

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.



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.

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