Women’s Historic Public Engagement: Finding Public Administration in the Peace and Suffrage Movements

Patricia M. Shields
Texas State University

Presented at the 2019 Fall Meeting of the National Academy of Public Administration, Arlington, VA Nov. 7 - 8.
Leaders in

- Suffrage
- Peace Movement

Hidden story of Public Administration

Jane Addams
1860-1935

Mary Livermore
1820-1905
Key Women’s Social Movements 1800 – 1920’s

• Ladies Aid Societies (provided underlying network).
• Abolitionist Movement (1800 – 1865)
• Suffrage Movement (1848 – 1920)
• Women’s Christian Temperance Movement (1874 – present)
• Settlement Movement (1880 – 1920...1970s)
• Federated Clubs (1892 – 1911) All states
• Women’s Peace Movement (1890s -1918)
A WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE
THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

1861-1865
Medical Crisis – Sanitation in camps/hospitals

Supply Crisis - Chaotic Volunteer response

1859  20,000
1865  2,000,000
US Sanitary Commission

Inspection – Camps/hospitals

Relief Supplies

10,000+ Ladies Aid Societies
Manager of Northwest Branch

- Coordinated relief supply effort
- Nurse
- Fundraising
- New programs

Abolitionist
US Sanitary Commission

- Inspection – Camps/hospitals
- Relief Supplies

  - Collect Supplies
  - Convalescence homes
  - Nursing sick
  - Messages to families
  - Fundraising

  - Warehouse supplies
  - Transport Wounded
  - Gardens to feed sick
  - Widows relief
  - Sanitary Fairs

Deliver Supplies

Managed by women

Network of aid societies (women’s clubs)

$25 Million

Nurse made $3 week (90 hour week)
8.33 million weeks of nursing time.
Nursing

• Doraetha Dix required nurses “be over thirty years of age, plain almost to repulsion in dress, and devoid of personal attractions” *(Livermore, 1887, 246)*.

• Mature women – **Mother role** use the **moral authority** of Mother to serve the Union’s Sons

Clean bedding, Clean clothes, Good food
Supply Transport
Wounded Soldier Transport
Fund raising – sanitary fairs
I registered a vow that when the war was over I would take up a new work – the work of making law and justice synonymous for women. I have kept my vow religiously (Livermore 1887/1995, 437).
After Civil War

• Published – Editor *Agitator* Books
• Speaker
  *My Story of War* – 25,000 miles year
• Leader Suffrage Movement
  President, American Women’s Suffrage Assoc.
• Help establish *colleges* for women
  *Next Generation*
• Active early Peace movement
Widespread
• Recognition
• Appreciation women’s competency
Urbanization & Industrialization

Women Organized around these Problems

- Sanitation
- Labor and factory abuses
- Child welfare
Jane Addams’s Funeral
Steps of Hull House

Leader of the Settlement Movement

Jane Addams
1860 - 1935
Active social reform

- Street Cleaning/garbage collection
- Water/Sewer
- Healthier workplace

- Child labor laws
- Playgrounds
- Juvenile Courts
Hull House (Chicago)

Residential Community Center
Primarily Young Women (6-25)

Immigrant Community
Labor/management disputes
Lab – conflict resolution

Bottoms up model of reform
Participatory democracy
drama classes, day care programs, Kindergarten, coffee house/theater, art and labor museum, Sunday concerts, Speaker Series, choir,

Urban Neighborhood Services
College Extension courses Voter Registration War on flies Playgrounds

Texas Women’s Clubs
Libraries School playgrounds City playgrounds Traveling Art Exhibits Literary groups Civic beautification “soap & water days” Concerts lectures
US Peace Movement (1890s – WWI)

- Establish International “Law and Order”
- Arbitration
- US Supreme Court as Model
- Peace Good for Business
- Christian Values
- Women’s social policy agenda
Peace Organizations (Elite)
Social conservative
National political figures
Important Businessmen

Ford
Roosevelt
Wilson

Addams
Livermore

Carnegie
Taft
World leaders actively sought new institutions, legal frameworks and policy tools
• multilateral treaties
• Permanent Court of Arbitration
• 1st formal statement laws of war, war crimes

War replaced by a system for the peaceful settlement of disputes among states.

International Peace Conference

The Hague 1899 & 1907
Sponsored by Baylor and Texas Federation of Women’s Clubs.
Roots of Women’s Peace Movement

Women organizing politically

North
Abolition
US Sanitary Commission
Women’s Clubs
Settlement movement

South
Literary Clubs
Women’s Clubs

Moral authority of the Mother
Women’ Peace Movement

Responded to outbreak WWI

Battle of Frontier
August 1914
Maternal Instinct

- Women have an instinctive and rational opposition to war
- Women & Children suffer but not at table
- Need increase participation of women in politics.
- Linked to Suffrage Movement

Woman’s Peace Party established – Jane Addams Leader

Women’s Peace March

Aug. 1914

Carrie Chapman Catt
International Peace Congress of Women at the Hague

April 1915

International Suffrage networks used to organize
1. Begin peace negotiations immediately
2. Organization “Society of Nations”
3. Acknowledge women’s suffering during war
4. Give women right to vote
5. Women participation in Peace Processes

*18 total resolutions

Women’s Peace Delegations -- Capitals
World War I

Like an extinction event

For Peace Movement

- German sympathizers/traitors
- Communist sympathizers
- Quick to judge/unsupported claims – press/politicians
Jane Addams Public Timeline

1889
 Celebrated

1915
 Demeaned
 Traitor
 Communist
 Silly old woman

1931
 Nobel Prize
 DOJ Surveillance
Suffrage Movement

Used WWI as a way

To Prove Women’s

value

War ended in 1918

19th Amendment 1920
Women’s Peace movement legacy

UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

Increased participation of women in decision making related to, prevention, management and resolution of armed combat.

Women Peacekeepers
Support “Peace” broadly defined by Targeting **family violence**


Livermore, M. A. (1890). *My Story of the War: A Woman’s Narrative of Four Years Personal Experience as Nurse in the Union Army, and in Relief Work at Home, in Hospitals, Camps, and at the Front, During the War of the Rebellion*. AD Worthington


