

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS**

**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

1997

Revised 2010 March

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms998020>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78041210>

Prepared by Audrey Walker

Revised by Karen Linn Femia

Collection Summary

Title: Elizabeth Cady Stanton Papers

Span Dates: 1814-1946

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1840-1902)

Creator: Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, 1815-1902

ID No.: MSS41210

Extent: 1,000 items ; 10 containers plus 1 oversize ; 4.3 linear feet; 5 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Reformer and feminist. Correspondence, speeches, articles, drafts of books, scrapbooks, and printed matter documenting Elizabeth Cady Stanton's career as an advocate for women's rights. Includes material on her efforts on behalf of women's legal status and women's suffrage, the abolition of slavery, rights for African Americans following the Civil War, temperance, and other nineteenth-century social reform movements.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence.

Blatch, Harriot Stanton, 1856-1940.

Cady, Daniel, 1773-1859--Correspondence.

Channing, W. H. (William Henry), 1810-1884--Correspondence.

Child, Lydia Maria Francis, 1802-1880--Correspondence.

Cobbe, Frances Power, 1822-1904--Correspondence.

Davis, Paulina W. (Paulina Wright), 1813-1876--Correspondence.

Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895--Correspondence.

Garrison, William Lloyd, 1805-1879--Correspondence.

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 1823-1911--Correspondence.

Howe, Julia Ward, 1819-1910--Correspondence.

Mott, Lucretia, 1793-1880--Correspondence.

Pankhurst, Emmeline, 1858-1928--Correspondence.

Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884--Correspondence.

Pike, Elizabeth E.--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, 1861-1948--Correspondence.

Sargent, John Osborne, 1811-1891--Correspondence.

Smith, Elizabeth Oakes Prince, 1806-1893--Correspondence.

Smith, Gerrit, 1797-1874--Correspondence.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, 1815-1902.

Stanton, Henry B. (Henry Brewster), 1805-1887--Correspondence.

Stone, Lucy, 1818-1893--Correspondence.

Swinton, John, 1829-1901--Correspondence.

Tilton, Theodore, 1835-1907--Correspondence.

Weed, Thurlow, 1797-1882--Correspondence.

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892--Correspondence.

Subjects

African Americans--Civil rights--History--19th century.

Antislavery movements.

Feminism.

Social problems--United States--History--19th century.

Temperance--United States--Societies, etc.--History--19th century.

Women's rights.

Women--Legal status, laws, etc.--History--19th century.
Women--Suffrage.

Occupations

Feminists.
Reformers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, reformer and leader in the woman's rights movement, were acquired by the Library of Congress chiefly as a gift from Susan B. Anthony in 1903 and from Stanton's daughter, Harriot Stanton Blatch, in 1927-1928. The Library acquired smaller accessions of material by gift and purchase through 1957.

Processing History

The papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton were arranged and described in 1979. The register was revised in 1997.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as a part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Elizabeth Cady Stanton is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on five reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1815, Nov. 12	Born, Johnstown, N.Y.
1832	Graduated, Emma Willard's Seminary, Troy, N.Y.
1840	Married Henry B. Stanton Attended World Anti-Slavery Convention, London, England
1846	Moved from Boston, Mass., to Seneca Falls, N.Y.

1848	Organized the first Woman's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, N.Y., which adopted, at her instigation, the first public resolution for woman suffrage
1851	Met Susan B. Anthony; enlisted her in woman's rights cause
1852	President, Woman's Temperance Convention, Rochester, N.Y.
1866	First female candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives
1868-1870	Joint editor with Parker Pillsbury of the weekly <i>Revolution</i>
1869	A founder and first president of the National Woman Suffrage Association; provided leadership (usually as president) until its merger in 1890 with the American Woman Suffrage Association
1881-1886	Published with Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joslyn Gage, <i>History of Woman Suffrage</i> (New York: Fowler & Wells. 3 vols.)
1888	Helped organize the first International Council of Women, Washington, D.C.
1890	Elected president, National American Woman Suffrage Association
1895, 1898	Published <i>The Woman's Bible</i> (New York: European Publishing Co. 2 vols.)
1898	Published <i>Eighty Years and More (1815-1897), Reminiscences of Elizabeth Cady Stanton...</i> (New York: European Publishing Co. 474 pp.)
1902, Oct. 26	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

Although the papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) cover the years 1814 to 1946, most of the material is concentrated between 1840 and 1902. The collection is composed of correspondence, speeches, articles, drafts of books, scrapbooks, and printed matter relating to Stanton and the woman's rights movement. This material reflects Stanton's role as a social reformer and a leading proponent of woman's rights for more than half a century. Stanton spoke and wrote widely about the political, economic, religious, and social wrongs perpetrated against women and provided leadership in organizations devoted to securing rights for women, particularly the right to vote.

Married to an abolitionist, Henry B. Stanton, Stanton was active in the antislavery movement in the decades preceding the Civil War and a proponent of Negro rights during Reconstruction. Denied a university education because of her sex, she was an early proponent of higher education for women. A supporter of the temperance movement, though not particularly active in it, she insisted that drunkenness should be a cause for divorce. That drunkenness and cruelty, not divorce, were the real enemies of marriage, that the churches and canon law retarded women's progress, that laws must be changed to ensure property rights for married women, including the right to their own wages, that women must take their rightful place in business and the professions, that "self-development is a higher duty than self-sacrifice," and that women and men should be equal before the law, in churches, and in society were among the basic themes which brought her widespread denunciation as well as many followers. Overall, however, she sought woman's right to vote as basic to all other rights and worked arduously for state laws and a constitutional amendment to that effect.

The collection elucidates the goals, tactics, and activities of many of the men and women associated with the woman's rights movement and depicts the external opposition as well as the internal division which the movement encountered. The [correspondence](#) provides glimpses into Stanton's family life illustrating how she balanced her family responsibilities with

the demands placed on her as a leader in the movement. Her [speeches and writings](#) document in detail her stand on woman's rights and her concern for other contemporary social issues.

Those papers donated by Harriot Stanton Blatch and originally arranged in scrapbooks have been dismantled and interfiled with the other papers that make up the collection. Blatch's notes on various items have been retained and are filed with the relevant manuscripts. The scrapbooks which were prepared by Susan B. Anthony (see [Miscellany](#)) have been kept as units except for the holograph material they contained. This material has been removed and interfiled in the papers with identifying notes.

Prominent correspondents represented in the collection include Susan B. Anthony, Daniel Cady, W. H. Channing, Lydia Maria Francis Child, Frances Power Cobbe, Paulina W. Davis, Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Julia Ward Howe, Lucretia Mott, Emmeline Pankhurst, Wendell Phillips, Elizabeth E. Pike, Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, John Osborne Sargent, Elizabeth Oakes Prince Smith, Gerrit Smith, Henry B. Stanton, Lucy Stone, John Swinton, Theodore Tilton, Thurlow Weed, and John Greenleaf Whittier.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1814-1928](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1848-1902](#)
- [Miscellany, 1840-1946](#)
- [Oversize, undated](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	<u>General Correspondence, 1814-1928</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-8 REEL 1-5	<u>Speeches and Writings, 1848-1902</u> Drafts of books, drafts and holograph and printed copies of articles and speeches, published letters, and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 8-10 REEL 5	<u>Miscellany, 1840-1946</u> Biographical data, certificates, printed matter, speeches by others, and scrapbooks. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject name.
BOX OV 1 REEL 2	<u>Oversize, undated</u> Handwritten draft of <i>The Woman's Bible</i> . Described according to the series, folder and box from which it was removed.

Container List

Microfilm edition available. Shelf no. 17,781

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	General Correspondence, 1814-1928 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1814-1928, undated (11 folders)
BOX 2-8 REEL 1-5	Speeches and Writings, 1848-1902 Drafts of books, drafts and holograph and printed copies of articles and speeches, published letters, and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Books <i>Reminiscences</i> , handwritten drafts of chapters Nos. 7-12 (3 folders) Nos. 16-17 Nos. 19, 21-22, 26 Nos. 30-32 (2 folders) Nos. 34-36 (3 folders) Nos. 41-44 Nos. 47-48, 50-51 Nos. 56-57 Nos. 60-64, 66, 68 No. 70 Marriage and divorce Miscellaneous
BOX 3 REEL 2	<i>The Woman's Bible</i> , handwritten draft, undated <i>See Oversize</i> Description available. Genesis Items available. Exodus Items available. Numbers Items available.

Matthew

Items available.

Articles

1869, 8 Apr., "The Man Marriage" and "What Possible Value Would Suffrage Be to Woman?" *Revolution*

1886, 11 Mar., "Religion for Women and Children," *The Index*

[1890's], "The Bicycle [sic] Era"

1890

4 July, "Wyoming, the First Free State for Woman"

30 Aug., "What Woman Suffrage Means," *Woman's Tribune*

1892, Mar., "Shall the World's Fair Be Open on Sunday," *National Bulletin*

1893, Feb., "Shall the World's Fair Be Closed on Sunday?" *National Bulletin*, with draft

1894

Jan., "An Appeal to the Women of New York," *National Bulletin*

Apr., "Women Do Not Wish To Vote," *National Bulletin*

"An Appeal to Young Women"

1895, 14 Feb., "Educated Suffrage," *The Independent*, with typescript

[1895?], "Is the Woman's Bible a Success?"

1899, "Great Men's Wives," *Omaha Republican*

1900, Mar., "Are Homogeneous Divorce Laws in All the States Desirable?" *North American Review*, with earlier article, 20 Nov. 1898

1901

29 June, "Self-Government the Best Form for Self-Development"

8 Dec., "Home Life a Century Ago," *Philadelphia Sunday Press*

1902

5 Oct., "An Honored Place for the Bible in English Literature," *New York American and Journal*

13 Oct., "How Shall We Solve the Divorce Problem," *New York American and Journal*

Undated

"Home Patriotism," undated

"Jails and Jubilees," *The Open Court*, undated

"Shall Women Ride the Bicycle?" undated

"What Should Be Our Attitude Towards Political Parties," *Woman's Tribune* with draft, undated

"Worship of God in Man," *The Open Court* with draft, undated

"The Woman's Bible," undated

Miscellaneous articles in newspapers

Speeches

1848, untitled

[1850s], "Education," address delivered before village lyceum, Seneca Falls, N.Y.

[1856?], "Woman"

[1860?], "Antislavery"

1861

4-5 Feb., "Free Speech," Fourth Annual New York State Anti-Slavery Convention, Albany, New York

8 Feb., address on divorce bill before the Judiciary Committee, New York State Senate

BOX 4
REEL 2-3

Speeches and Writings, 1848-1902

Container

Contents

1861, speech in Orleans County and speech on slavery
[1861-1864?], "What Can Woman Do for the War?" New York, N.Y.
[1861-1865?], "The Future of the Republic," Boston, Mass., with partial draft of another speech
1863, address before Woman's Loyal League
[1863?], untitled
[1865-1869?], untitled
1866, 10 Oct., speech to electors of Eighth Congressional District, New York
1867
May, speech at hearing before the Judiciary Committee of the New York Senate
Address on right of women to vote for delegates to constitutional convention, New York
First speech in suffrage campaign in Kansas
Untitled speech in Kansas campaign
1868, "Labor"
1869, 19-20 Jan., address before first convention, National Woman Suffrage Association, Washington, D.C.
[circa 1869], speech before club of men and women in New York, N.Y.

1870
17 May, speech on the McFarland trial, Apollo Hall, extract
[June], "The True Republic"
Speech before Young Men's Suffrage Association, Plympton Hall
[1870's], extract from a lyceum lecture
1872, 12 Jan., speech before Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senate
[1872]
"Co-education"
"Our Young Girls"
"Presidents and Parties"
[circa 1874], "Self-Government"
[1875], "Our Boys"

1876, "Prison Life"
[circa 1876], "The Subjection of Woman"
1878, 11 Jan., "Address on National Protection for National Citizens," before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, U.S. Senate
1878, 19-20
July, Third Decade Meeting of Woman's Rights Convention, Rochester
[Aug.], "Home Life," Providence, R.I.
8 Feb. 1861, address on divorce bill before the Judiciary Committee of the New York Senate
1885, 12 Nov., "The Pleasures of Age," an address delivered on her seventieth birthday
[1880-1890], "Taxation"
1883 June, Princess Hall, London, England
1884, Washington, D.C.
1888
25 Mar. -1 Apr., welcome address, International Council of Women, Washington, D.C.
2 Apr., statement at hearing before the Committee on Woman Suffrage, U.S. Senate
1889, 21 Jan., speech to members of National Woman Suffrage Association

BOX 5
REEL 3-4

BOX 6
REEL 4

Speeches and Writings, 1848-1902

Container

Contents

- 1890
- 15 Feb., address before U.S. Senate Special Committee on Woman Suffrage, *Woman's Tribune*
- BOX 7** 23 Feb., "Change Is the Law of Progress," National American Woman's Suffrage
REEL 4 Convention, Washington, D.C.
- 4 Dec., speech to National American Woman Association Suffrage Association convention
- 1891, "The Degradation of Disfranchisement," National American Woman Suffrage Association convention, Washington, D.C., with clipping
- 1892
- 18 Jan., "Solitude of Self," address delivered before Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Congress
- Dec., First Foremothers' Celebration, New York, N.Y.
- 1893
- 16 May, "The Antagonism of Sex," World Congress of Representative Women, with article of same title
- 19 July, "Emma Willard, the Pioneer in the Higher Education of Women," Chicago, Ill.
- Sept. "The Ultimate Religion," New York, N.Y., also entitled, "Worship of God in Man"
- 22 Dec., "Christmas on the Mayflower," Foremothers Dinner, New York, N.Y.
- "New York Constitutional Convention in 1867 "
- 1895, 12 Nov., Metropolitan Opera House, New York, N.Y.
- 1900, 13 Feb., "Woman Suffrage," statement before Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives
- 1902, 24 Feb., "Are Homogeneous Divorce Laws in All the States Desirable?" National Legislative League, Washington, D.C., revision of 1898 article of same title
- Undated
- "Fear
- "Reconstruction"
- "Suffrage: A National Right"
- "Woman in the Bible"
- Speech notes
- Sermons
- 1882, Sept., "Women's Position in the Christian Church," London, England
- 1883, 20 May, "Is the Bible Opposed to Woman Suffrage?" Street, England (near Bristol)
- Undated, sermon from Genesis
- BOX 8** Other writings
REEL 4-5
- Account of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's attempt to vote, 1880
- "An Interpolation?" undated
- "Annie Besant," undated
- Bible and Church Degrade Woman*, (pamphlet), also two articles on "The Christian Church and Woman, undated
- "Clerical Assumption," undated
- Drafts of resolutions for suffrage convention of 1875
- "My Creed," undated
- Published letters of Stanton
- Suggestions for the National Woman Suffrage Association, spring 1872
- Untitled, [1876]

Speeches and Writings, 1848-1902

Container

Contents

Untitled and undated
(5 folders)
Fragments, undated

BOX 8-10
REEL 5

Miscellany, 1840-1946

Biographical data, certificates, printed matter, speeches by others, and scrapbooks.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject name.

BOX 8
REEL 4-5

Address by Caroline Severance at Elizabeth Cady Stanton Memorial Service, Los Angeles, Calif., 15 Nov. 1902
Address by Moncure D. Conway at funeral services for Stanton, New York, N.Y., 1902
Biographical data
Certificates
Clippings
Elizabeth Cady Stanton As Revealed in Her Letters, Diary, and Reminiscences by Theodore Stanton and Harriot Stanton Blatch, 1922
Hearing of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, 28 Jan. 1896
Legal papers of Daniel Cady, 1840, 1854
The Lily, May 1852

BOX 9

Memorials and tributes
Miscellaneous ephemera
National Woman's Party's celebration of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, 1923
Protest Against the Unjust Interpretation of the Constitution by the Officers of the National Woman Suffrage Association, Philadelphia, Pa., 17 Sept. 1886
Scrapbooks

BOX 10
REEL 5

On the Woman's Rights Convention, prepared by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1848
#1, prepared by Susan B. Anthony
(4 folders)
#2, prepared by Susan B. Anthony
#3, prepared by Susan B. Anthony
Speeches
Blatch, Harriot Stanton, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton," Buffalo Convention, Buffalo, N.Y., 1915
Barney, Nora Stanton, "World Peace Through a Peoples Parliament," 1944 and "Women As Human Beings," 1946
Susan B. Anthony's appointment as agent of the Woman's New York State Temperance Society, 23 May 1852
The Una, Jan. 1855
"Woman's Half-Century of Evolution," by Susan B. Anthony, *North American Review*, Dec. 1902

BOX OV 1
REEL 2

Oversize, undated

Handwritten draft of *The Woman's Bible*.
Described according to the series, folder and box from which it was removed.

BOX OV 1

Speeches and Writings

Oversize, undated

Container

Contents

REEL 2

Books

The Woman's Bible, handwritten draft, undated (Container 3)