

Oberlin's Women:

A Legacy of Leadership & Activism

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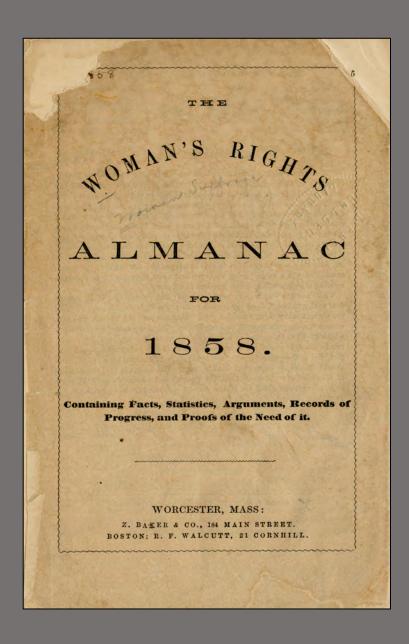
- Inspiration from the Smithsonian Institution's educational materials
- Traveling Exhibits (e.g., Milt Hinton and Mary Church Terrell)
- Broader view of women's suffrage and leadership our work is an important contribution
- The importance of a Social Media campaign
- Charge to the Oberlin College Libraries' Working Group
- Our projects engage on Scholarly, Pedagogical, Curatorial, and Professional levels
- Our programs are supported through fundraising and collaboration with groups (e.g., the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries)

Co-education Monument, Oberlin College, c. 1937

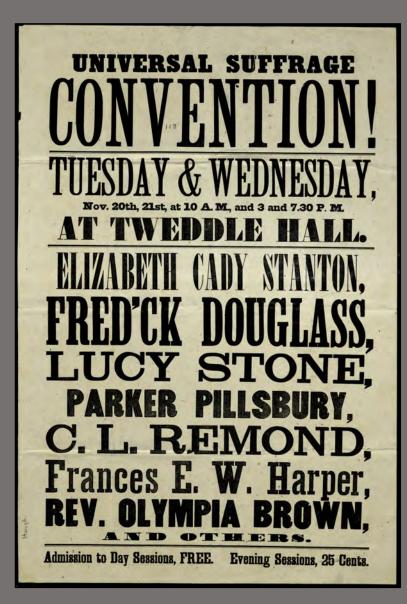


Lucy Stone
Oberlin Collegiate Institute,
Class of 1847



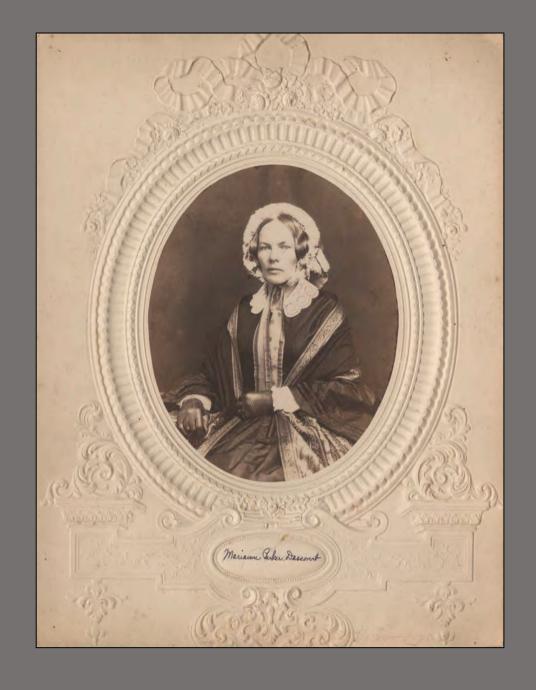


The Woman's Rights Almanac for 1858 Special Collections, Terrell Main Library

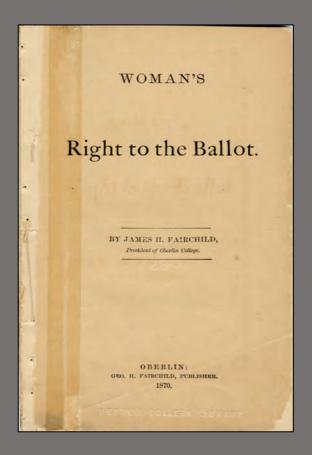


Universal Suffrage Convention, 1866
Special Collections, Terrell Main Library

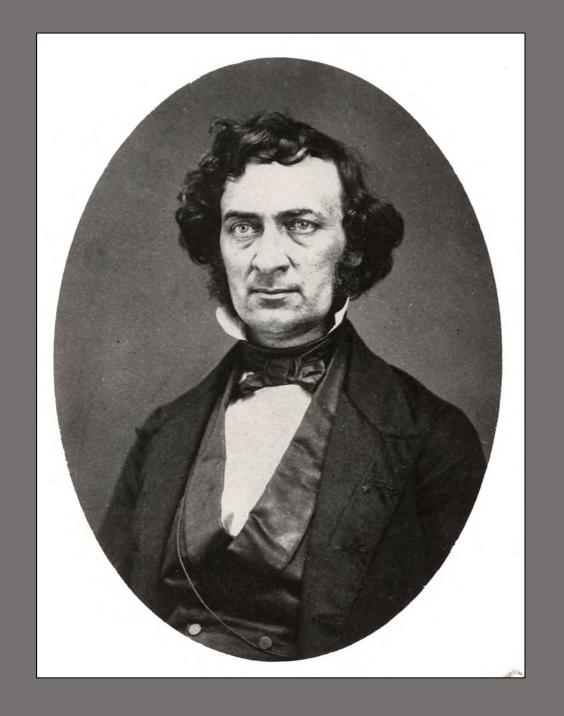
Marianne Dascomb Principal, Ladies Department (1835-36, 1852-1870)



James Harris Fairchild
Oberlin College graduate, A.B. 1838
faculty member (1839-1898),
President (1866-1889), and
Trustee (1889-1901)



Woman's Right to the Ballot James Harris Fairchild, 1870



Mary Church Terrell Oberlin College, Class of 1884



National Women's History Museum Panel Discussion Oberlin College, March 10, 2020



Equal Rights League, Oberlin College Chapter *Hi-O-Hi* Yearbook, 1910



Equal Rights League

Oberlin Gollege Chapter

President IRENE T. MERRICK
Vice-President
Secretary and Treasurer
FACULTY MEMBERS

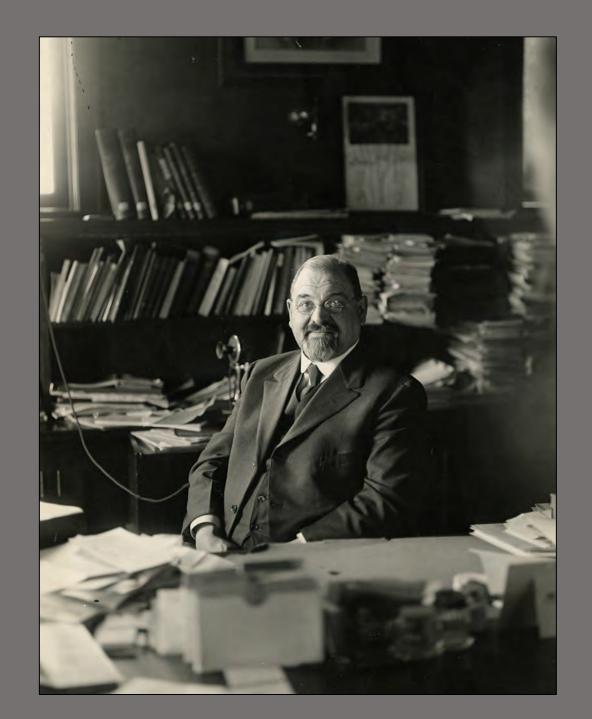
Albert B. Wolfe Azariah S. Root Mary E. Sinclair Antoinette B. P. Metcalf Caro B. Bugbey Esther N. Close

STUDENT MEMBERS

Evelina Belden
Adelaide Breckenridge
Charlotte B. Crary
Adol A. Nixon
Caroline R. Nixon
Emma L. Nixon
Ada Ruso
Della M. Stewart
Joy K. Smith
Florence T. Waite
Edith L. Whitman

E. Louise Whitney
Laura M. VanCleve
Edith D. Goodenough
Elizabeth Hughes
Grace D. Leadingham
Mary M. Lindsay
Grace E. Nickerson
Rheba D. Nickerson
Dora E. Packard
Helen B. Todd
Mary Kitner

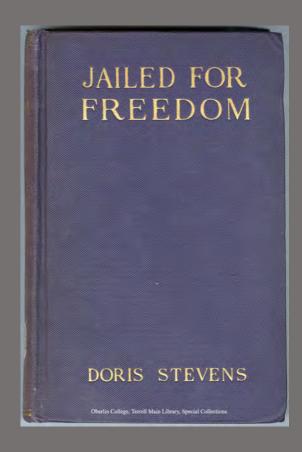
Azariah Smith Root
Oberlin College Class of 1884 and
College Librarian (1887-1927)



Suffrage Parade outside of Carnegie Library, Oberlin College, 1915

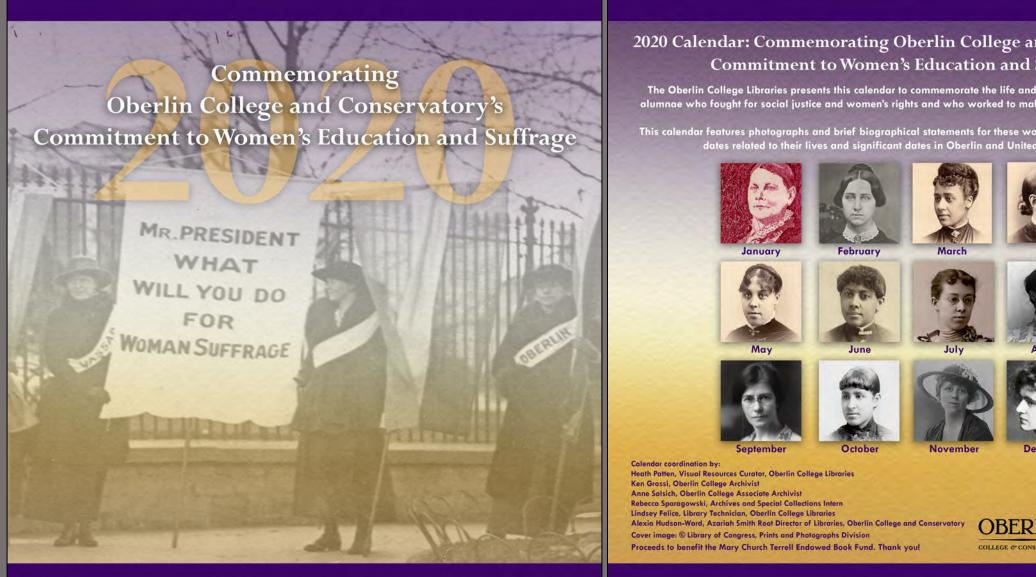


Doris Stevens Oberlin College Class of 1911 The "Silent Sentinels"





Oberlin College Libraries' 2020 Commemorative Calendar Project



2020 Calendar: Commemorating Oberlin College and Conservatory's Commitment to Women's Education and Suffrage

The Oberlin College Libraries presents this calendar to commemorate the life and legacy of Oberlin College alumnae who fought for social justice and women's rights and who worked to make a difference in our world.

This calendar features photographs and brief biographical statements for these women and includes important dates related to their lives and significant dates in Oberlin and United States history.





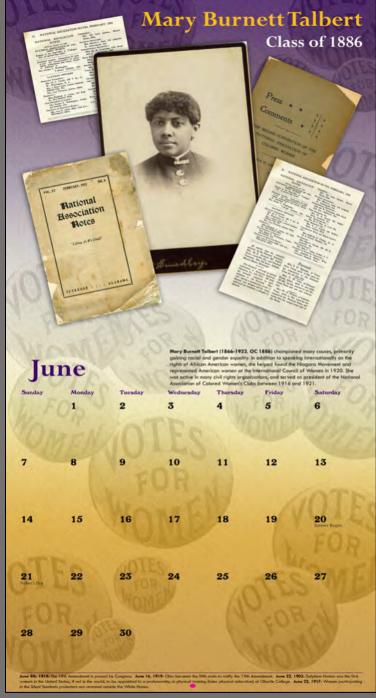


Lucy Stone
Oberlin College Class of 1847

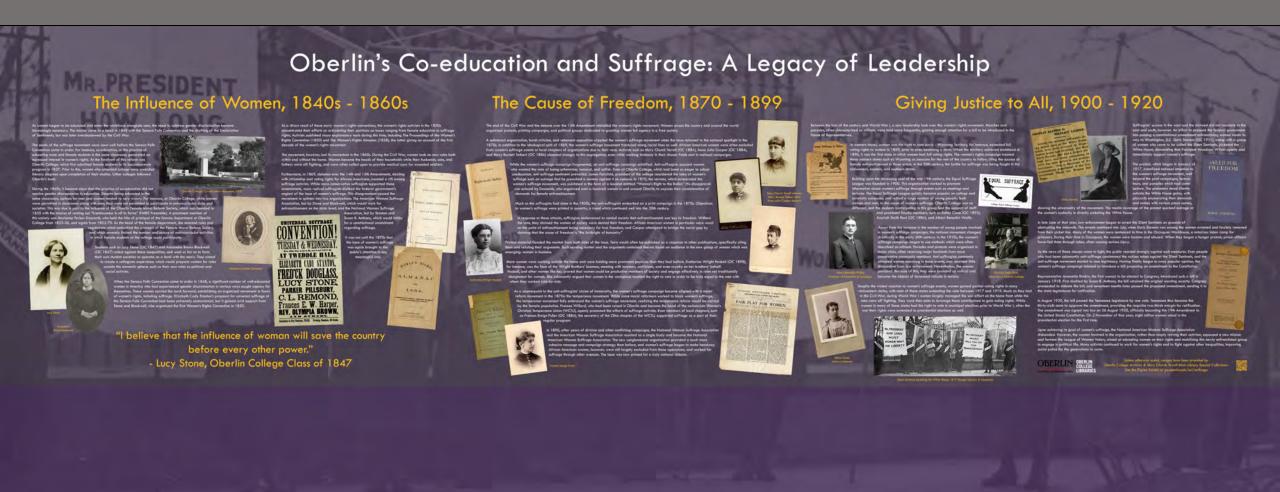
January page

Mary Burnett Talbert
Oberlin College Class of 1886 *June page*

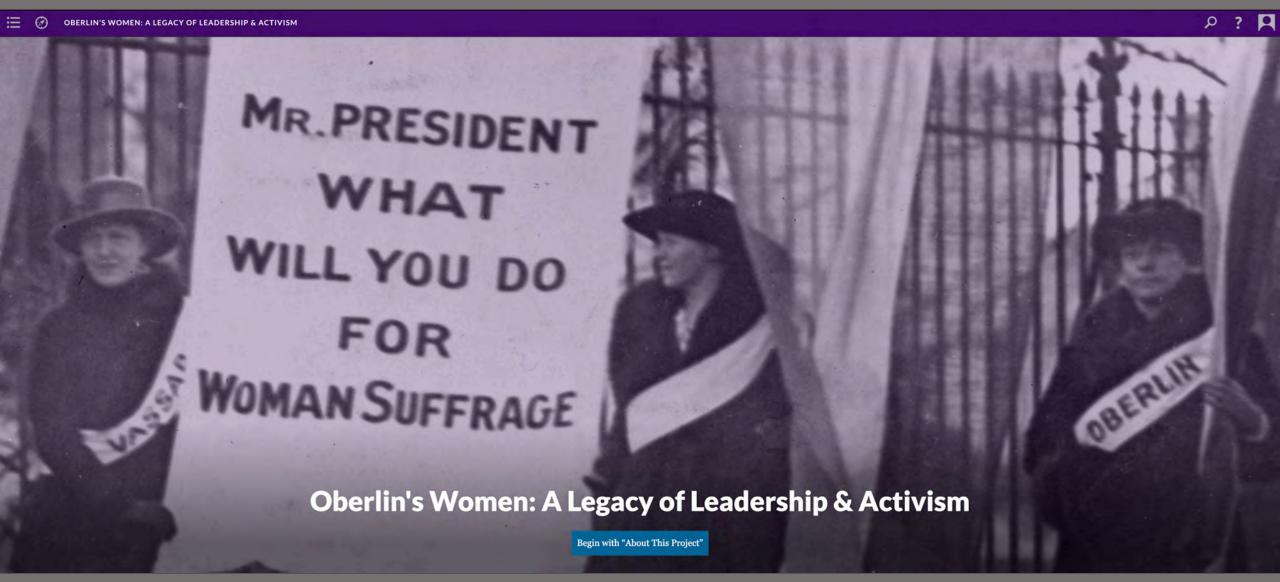




Oberlin College Libraries' Traveling Exhibit



Oberlin College Libraries' Digital Exhibit



Oberlin College Libraries' Digital Exhibit



COEDUCATION DEUFFRAGE ILM

The Influence of Woman, 1840-1860s

I believe that the influence of woman will save the country before every other power. — Lucy Stone, Oberlin College Class of 1847

Introduction

As women began to be educated and enter the workforce alongside men, the need to address gender discrimination became increasingly necessary. The matter came to a head in 1848 with the Seneca Falls Convention and the drafting of the Declaration of Sentiments, but was later overshadowed by the Civil War.

The seeds of the suffrage movement were sown well before the Seneca Falls Convention came to order. For instance, co-education, or the practice of educating male and female students in the same classroom, generated an increased interest in women's rights. At the forefront of this reform was Oberlin College, which first admitted female students to its baccalaureate program in 1837. Prior to this, women who attended college were awarded literary degrees upon completion of their studies. Other colleges followed Oberlin's lend.



Source: Oberlin College Archives, RG 0/0, Series 26, Box 6

During the 1840s, it became clear that the practice of co-education did not resolve gender discrepancies in education. Despite being educated in the same classrooms, options for men and women tended to vary widely. For instance, at Oberlin College, while women were permitted in classrooms along with men, they were not permitted to participate in extracurricular clubs and societies. This was due in part to the influence of the Oberlin Fernale Moral Reform Society, which was founded in 1835 with the mission of rooting out "licentiousness in all its forms" (FMRS Preamble). A prominent member of this society was 12 Marianne Parker Dascamb, who held the title of principal of the female department



COEDUCATION & SUFFRAGE!

The Cause of Freedom, 1870s-1899

The cause of freedom...is the cause of humankind, the birthright of humanity.

— Anna Julia Cooper, Oberlin College Class of 1884

Introduction

The end of the Civil War and the debate over the 15th Amendment rekindled the women's rights movement. Women across the country and around the world organized protests, printing campaigns, and political groups dedicated to granting women full agency in a free society.

A splintered organization, harsh criticism, and vehement opposition crippled the women's suffrage movement when the issue returned to the national spotlight in the 1870s. In addition to the ideological split of 1869, the women's suffrage movement fractured along racial lines as well. African American women were often excluded from women's suffrage events or local chapters of organizations due to their race. Activists such as Mary Church Terrell (OC 1884), Anna Julia Cooper (OC 1884), and Mary Burnett Talbert (OC 1886) [pictured below] objected strongly to this segregation, even while working tirelessly in their chosen fields and in national campaigns.









While the women's suffrage campaign fragmented, an antiauffrage campaign solidified. Anti-suffragists accused women who wanted the vote of being unfeminine, immoral, and selfish. Even at Oberlin College, which had been so eager to adopt coeducation, anti-suffrage sentiment prevailed. James Fairchild, president of Oberlin College, considered the idea of women's suffrage such an outrage that he preached a sermon against it on OEDUCATION & SUFFRAGE 13/4

Giving Justice to All, 1900-1920

All know that no permanent peace will triumph until all are ready to do justice and give justice for all.

- Mary Burnett Talbert, Oberlin College Class of 1886

Introduction

Between the turn of the century and World War I, a new leadership took over the women's rights movement. Marches and parades, often characterized as militant, were held more frequently, gaining enough attention for a bill to be introduced in the House of Representatives.



Woman Suffrage is Here! Source Ober in College Terrell Main Library, Special Collections

In western states, women won the right to vote early—

Wyoming Territory, for instance, extended full voting rights to women in 1869, prior to even becoming a state. When the territory achieved statehood in 1890, it was the first state in which women had full voting rights. The women's rights campaign treated these western states such as Wyoming as beacons for the rest of the country to follow, citing the success of female enfranchisement in those areas. In the 20th century, the battle for suffrage was being fought in the midwestern, eastern, and southern states.

Building upon the increasing zeal of the late 19th century, the Equal Suffrage League was founded in 1900. This organization worked to promote information about women's suffrage through events such as meetings and lectures. The Equal Suffrage League quickly became popular on college and university campuses, and

rallied a large number of young people, both women and men, to the cause of women's suffrage. Oberlin College was no different, and the students participating in this group had the support of staff and prominent faculty members, such as © Esther Close (OC 1893), ② Azariah Smith Root (OC 1884), and ② Albert Benedict Wolfe.

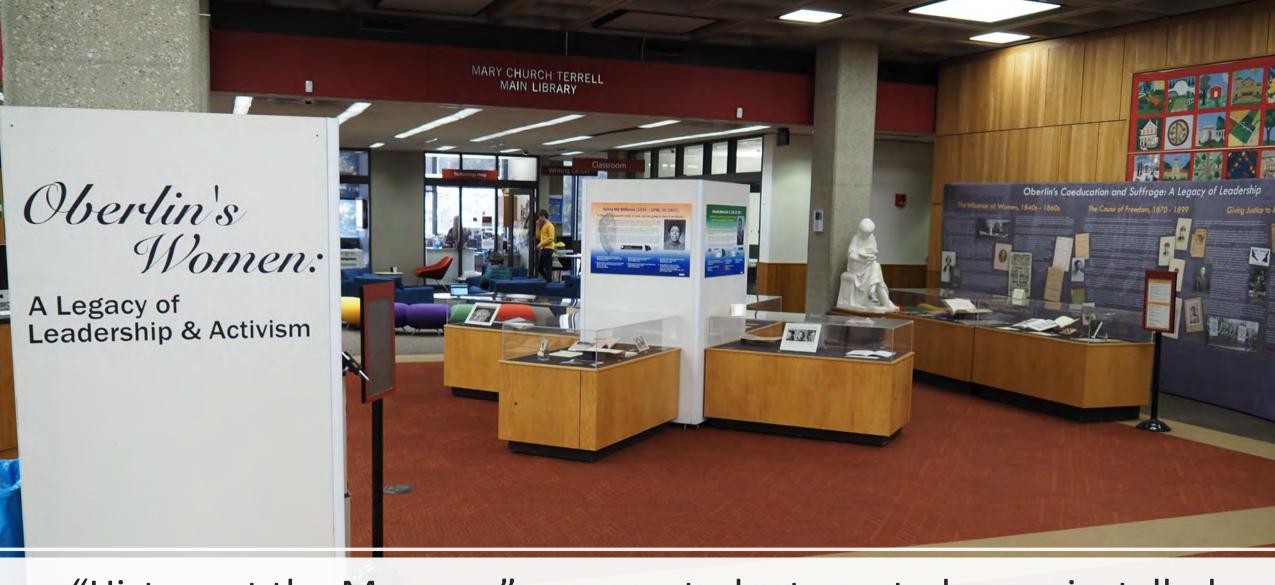
Apart from the increase in the number of young people involved in women's suffrage campaigns, the national movement changed drastically in the early 20th century. In the 1910s, the women's suffrage campaign began to use methods which were often described as militant. Parades and protests were organized in major cities, often receiving major backlash from more conservative community members. Anti-suffragists commonly attacked women marching in these events, and received little distincentive from law enforcement. Nevertheless, the women persisted. Because of this, they were branded as



Portrait of Esther Close Source: Oberlin College Archives, Rt 32/3, Class of 1885 file

"History at the Museum" course Winter Term, January 2020





"History at the Museum" course, student-curated cases installed





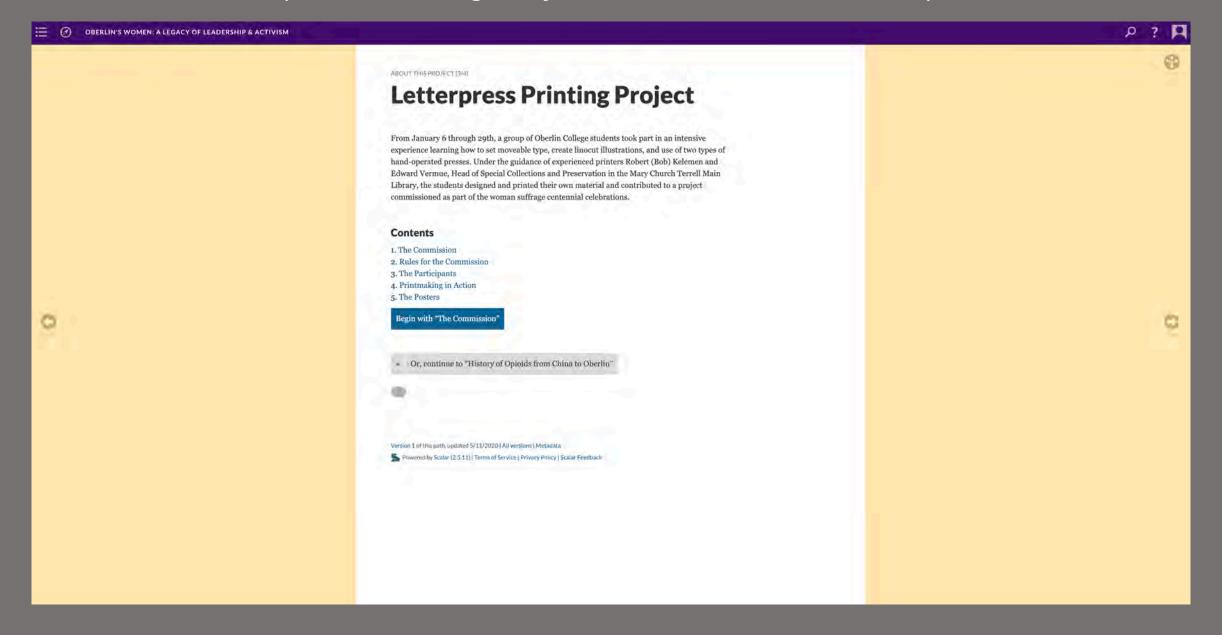
Women in Leadership exhibit homepage



Oberlin Women in Leadership exhibit, Sylvia Hill Williams, Class of 1957



Letterpress Printing Project, Winter Term, January 2020









Examples of the Students' handbills and posters





"With a keen sense of the RESPONSIBILITY which we shall continue to assume, we look forward to a FUTURE large with PROMISE & HOPE."

Mary Church Terrell

VOTE 2020

Dorigned & Printed by Allison Schmitt in the Interpress Winter Term, January 2020

THE FIGHT IS NOT DONE

Sixty-sixth Congress of the British States of America; At the First Semion,

Secretary of the Secretary Secretary

and Chromatol Asia Strangers, and Secured

VOINT ERIODITTION

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"The count or stream of the Franch terms as now shall not be record or simplest to the County Same before the experience of sec. "August 4840 have proved to record the best or appropriate light (100).

VOTE 2020



Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May, one thousand nine bundred and nineteen.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

"ARTICLE _____.
"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or

apridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Printed by Junta Hoover in the Lemopress Wigner Term Juntary 2021

2020

100 YEARS

471 FEDERAL OFFICES

4 STATES THAT STILL STIL

OREASONS NOT VOTE TO

Covid-19 Response: Creation of Virtual and Virtual Reality Exhibits & Experiences



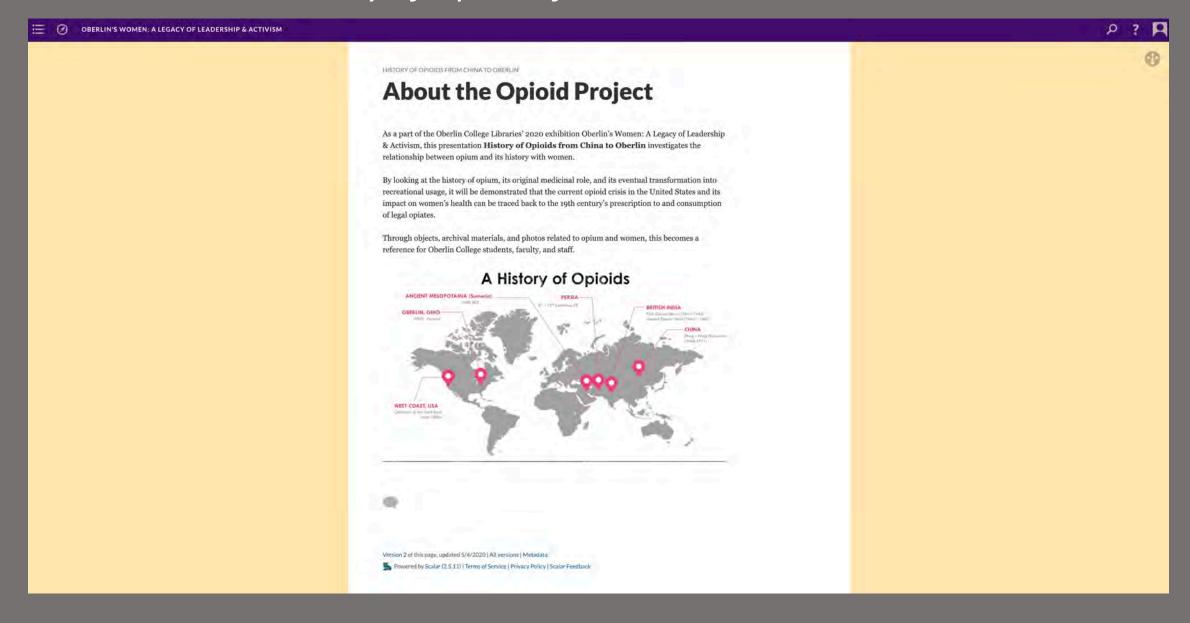


History of Opioids From China to Oberlin 鸦片的历史-从中国到欧柏林

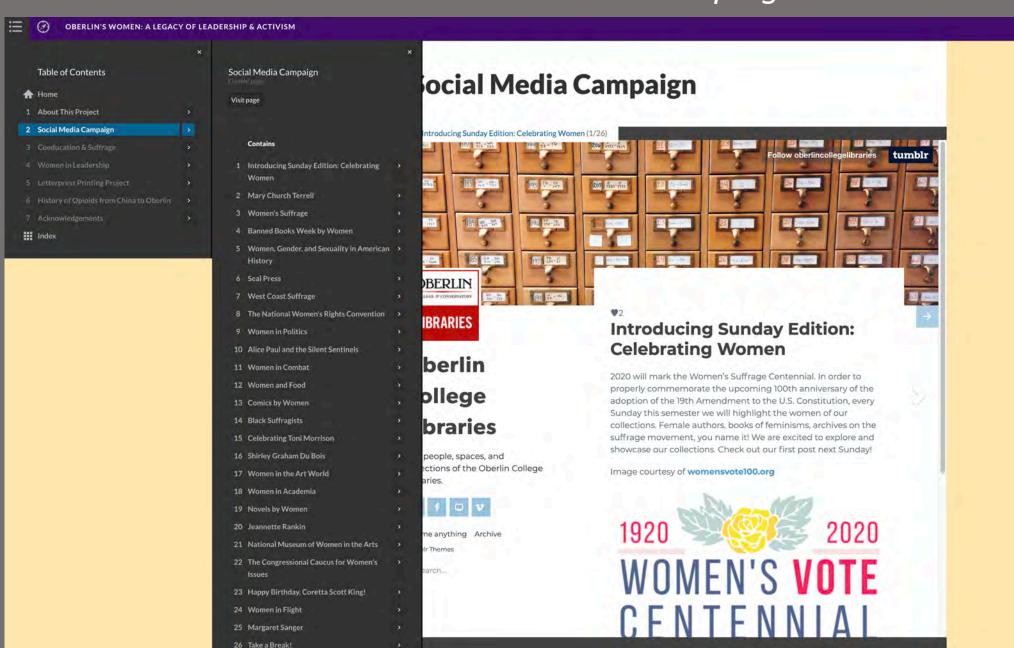


created and presented by: Runxiao Zhu, East Asian Studies Librarian Heath Patten, Visual Resources Curator

History of Opioids from China to Oberlin



Social Media Campaign



Acknowledgements

Unless otherwise indicated all materials are from the Oberlin College Archives or the Special Collections in Mary Church Terrell Library.

Members of 2020 Women's Suffrage and Leadership Working Group

Deborah Campana, Head, Conservatory Library, Tri-Chair of Committee

Ken Grossi, Archivist, Tri-Chair of Committee

Cynthia Comer, Academic Commons Coordinator, Tri-Chair of Committee

Alison Ricker, Head of Science Library

Barbara Prior, Head of Clarence Ward Art Library

Megan Mitchell, Academic Engagement & Digital Initiatives Coordinator

Heath Patten, Visual Resources Curator

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Kathleen Abromeit, Public Services Librarian

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Alexia Hudson-Ward, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries