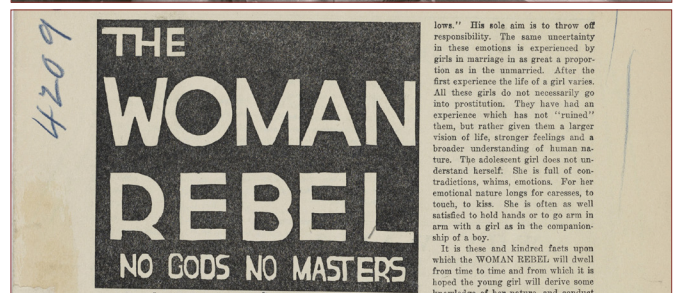
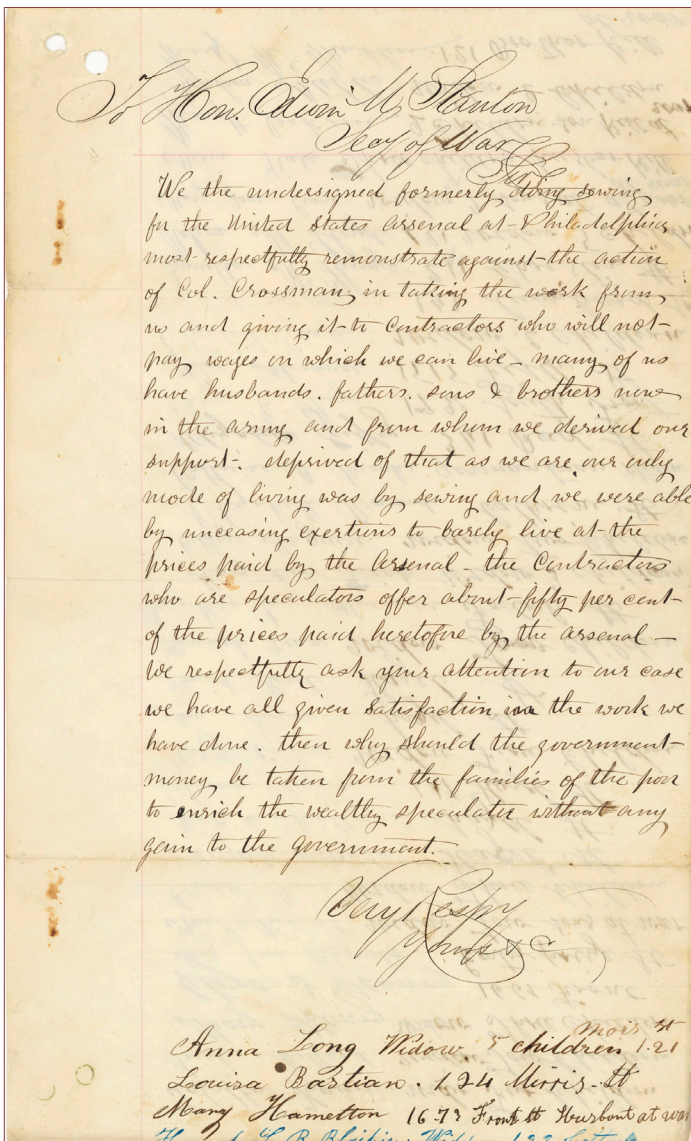




One Half of the People: Advancing Equality for Women

When our Constitution was written, it was silent on women. Excluded from most of the rights and privileges of citizenship women operated in limited and rigid roles while enslaved women were excluded from all. Yet women have actively participated as citizens—organizing, marching, petitioning—since the founding of our country. Sometimes quietly, and sometimes with a roar, women’s roles and the opening words of the Constitution “We, the People” have been redefined. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, “One Half of the People” explores the stories of women’s struggles to achieve full citizenship. From the decades-long campaign for voting rights to expanding social and economic equality through legislation, see how those before us obtained the rights and privileges of citizenship promised to women today.



Exhibition Details

Content:

48 framed facsimile documents and photographs, 29 graphic panels, 48 identification labels, 4 fabric banners/murals, and 3 video units.

Curator:

Jennifer N. Johnson, National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES)

Supplemental Materials:

Educational and promotional resources, including an education and resource guide, marketing resources, installation manual, and exhibit-related products through the National Archives Store.

Rental Fee:

\$3,500 for 7-week display

Security Requirements:

Limited security and environmental controls

Shipping:

Exhibitor is responsible for all outgoing shipping costs

Size:

The exhibit requires a maximum of approximately 250 linear feet of exhibit wall space to fully install.

Number of Crates:

5 crates - 1,506 lbs

Insurance:

Insured by the National Archives

Tour Dates:

One Half of the People: Advancing Equality for Women is on tour through 2022.

Project Status:

On the road and fully booked.

More About this Exhibition

Drawing on National Archives' records, "One Half of the People" illustrates the involvement of American women to secure their essential citizenship rights.

Winning the Vote

First introduced in Congress in 1878, a woman suffrage amendment was continuously proposed for the next 41 years until it passed both houses of Congress in 1919 and was ratified by the states in 1920. The campaign for woman suffrage was long, difficult, and sometimes dramatic, yet ratification did not ensure full enfranchisement. Many women remained unable to vote long into the 20th century because of discriminatory laws.

After the Vote

Three years after the ratification of the 19th amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was initially proposed in Congress in an effort to secure full equality for women. It failed to achieve ratification, but women gradually achieved greater equality through legal victories that continued the effort to expand rights, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ultimately codified the right to vote for all women.

Redefining Roles

From Civil War soldier Sara Emma Seelye and an 1864 petition signed by seamstresses asking for better pay, to the creation of the WAVES, WACs, and WASPS in the 20th century and the millions of women who joined the workforce, discover some of the rich and diverse stories of women redefining the roles assumed of them.

National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service

www.archives.gov/exhibits/nates

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