

## Chapter 1 : Farmers' movement - Wikipedia

*The involvement of women in U.S. politics of the s, specifically in the Populist Party and the National Farmers' Alliance, is discussed in this paper. Women comprised a large percentage of membership in many of the sub-alliances of the National Farmers' Alliance and a number were national.*

Organization is becoming the key-note among the farmers of this nation. The farmers, slow to think and slow to act, are today thinking for themselves; they have been compelled to think. They have been awakened by the load of oppressive taxation, unjust tariffs, and they find themselves standing to-day on the very brink of their own despair. In all the years which have flown, the farmers, in their unswerving loyalty and patriotism to party, have been too mentally lazy to do their own thinking. They have been allowing the unprincipled demagogues of both the old political parties to do their thinking for them, and they have voted poverty and degradation not only upon themselves but upon their wives and their children. But today these farmers, thank God! The voice which is coming up to-day from the mystic cords of the American heart is the same voice which Lincoln heard blending with the guns of Fort Sumter. It is breaking into a clarion cry which will be heard round the world, and thrones will fall and crowns will crumble, and the divine right of kings and capital will fade away like the mists of the morning when the angel of liberty shall kindle the fires of justice in the hearts of men. An injury to one is the concern of all. You will wonder, perhaps, why the women of the West are interested so much in this great uprising of the common people, the mightiest uprising that the world has seen since Peter the Hermit led the armies of the East to rescue the tomb of the Saviour from the grasp of the infidel. I will tell you, friends: They accompanied their husbands, sons, and brothers; they came with the roses of health on their cheeks; they left home and friends, school and church, and all which makes life dear to you and me, and turned their faces toward the untried West, willing to brave the dangers of pioneer life upon the lonely prairies with all its privations; their children were born there, and there upon the prairies our little babes lie buried. And after all our years of sorrow, loneliness, and privation, we are being robbed of our farms, of our homes, at the rate of five hundred a week, and turned out homeless paupers, outcasts and wanderers, robbed of the best years of our life and our toil. Let no one of this audience for one moment suppose that this Alliance movement is but a passing episode of a brief political career. We have come to stay, for we are advocating the principles of truth, right, and justice. Our demands are founded upon the Sermon on the Mount, and that other command, that ye love one another. We seek to put into practical operation the teachings of Christ, who was sent to bring about a better day. Then there shall be no more coal kings nor silver kings, but a better day when there shall be no more millionaires, no more paupers, and no more waifs in our streets. Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography. Retrieved November 09, from Encyclopedia. Then, copy and paste the text into your bibliography or works cited list. Because each style has its own formatting nuances that evolve over time and not all information is available for every reference entry or article, Encyclopedia.

## Chapter 2 : Southern Farmers' Alliance: A Voice for the Farmers

*Farmers interested in combating the railroads' economic control of the Midwestern states formed the National Farmers' Alliance in the s. Speaking out against high shipping costs, outrageous tariffs, and high mortgage rates, the organization quickly garnered significant memberships in Illinois.*

Women played an integral part of the success of the populist movement during the s. The lives of some of the more prominent women activists are highlighted, and a collective biography is constructed from organizational records. This paper should not be copied or otherwise reproduced without the consent of the author. Copying or reproducing this paper without the consent of the author may be a violation of common law copyright and may involve the person copying or reproducing it in legal difficulties. These years saw a widely attended national convention, an expanded lecture system, the formation of the Reform Press Association comprised of the editors of hundreds of new or reorganized newspapers, and over one million members in twenty-seven states. Women contributed to this effort. Julie Roy Jeffrey estimates, no accurate individual state records exist, that in women totalled as many as one-third to one-half the members in some sub-alliances in North Carolina. And in several Nebraska sub-alliances and at least one in Kansas, women members outnumbered men. The women spoke at meetings, edited newspapers, lobbied legislatures, published novels, wrote political tracts, were elected to Alliance positions, ran for local office and in short, engaged in all political activity legally allowed them. Several states boasted national leaders; in others states women confined themselves to local politics. Many women worked together with their husbands and children on family farms where they often retained considerable responsibility for the management of the farm and kept the account books. Women saw themselves as improving the moral climate and bringing respectability to the Alliance. They believed the Alliance could strengthen the family and that women improved the Alliance. With the presence of women, family and moral issues would receive attention. Men too considered morality an important part of the ideology of the Alliance and Populist Party but emphasized different factors. For men "morality" referred to honest politicians and an equitable distribution of wealth. Women naturally supported these sentiments, but for them "morality" also included traditional family and religious values, temperance, and social purity. The newspapers of the Alliance and Populist Party acknowledged the presence of women as a positive force; opposition papers used the presence of women as one of their strongest arguments against the third party candidates. Representing a variety of professions, most of these middle-class women belonged to Protestant denominations and had received at least a high school education. Emery and Todd first worked in Michigan. Todd moved frequently, eventually resettling in Michigan. Valesh lived in Minnesota until after the election. All five married and raised children? Emery, Todd, and Valesh married men who were also active reformers. Unlike state leaders such as Luna Kellie in Nebraska and hundreds of other less prominent Populist women, none of the five farmed. Diggs, Emery, and Lease moved west as unaccompanied single women, meeting their husbands after settling and finding jobs. These five national leaders were white; however, there is no reason to believe that black women were excluded from the Colored Alliance in the South although little is known of them. Barton Shaw, for example, in his study of Georgia Populism, notes the presence of black women at Populist rallies. Black women seemed equally dedicated [as white women were] to the movement, sometimes being seen at Populist gatherings holding their babies aloft so that they might get a glimpse of Tom Watson [a Southern Populist leader]. In Sparta a number of 5 black women rushed Watson and breached southern etiquette by shaking his hand. For good reason Kansas blacks endorsed Populism slowly, watching carefully to see if the Populists awarded more recognition in the form of jobs to blacks than the Republican Party did. Even the nomination of a black Topeka minister, Blanche Foster, for the position of state auditor in did not win over a majority of blacks to the Populist cause. Presumably because of her assistance in the campaign of , Lytle received a patronage job as the assistant enrolling clerk for the 4 Populists in Scant documentation, however, exists for the remaining Alliance and Populist women. For some, birth and death dates, names of family members, residence, and primary occupation comprise the historical record. For others, only a name and the office a woman held, an announcement of a speech given at a local Alliance meeting or a

name included in a list of delegates remain. For eighteen Populist women leaders in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Texas, Montana, Michigan, and Minnesota, sufficient biographical information exists from which to construct a 5 collective biography. Although eighteen is a small number from which to make generalizations, these women are probably not atypical. The women, with the exception of Lytle, were white, and all espoused some form of Protestantism although Diggs and Lease had been raised Catholic. Each had obtained at least a high school education, and three attended a professional school in order to practice medicine or law; a fourth studied law at home. In their ages spanned from Eva Corning, a nineteen-year-old Kansas journalist to fifty-two-year-old Sarah Emery. All but two married; two were widows in the s, but for several their marriages were unsatisfactory; by the end of the Populist movement, five had divorced their husbands. Most women married men who shared their political interests; nine out of fifteen for whom there is information had husbands who worked in the reform movement. Out of sixteen, ten moved west as adults. Five unmarried women moved west alone, leaving family and friends behind. Only six had been born into farming families. In the s Bina Otis was the only one who neither farmed nor earned a living outside the home; Bettie Gay earned her living farming as did Luna Kellie; the remaining fifteen supported or partially supported themselves in jobs away from farm and home or t combined farming with other activities, some returning to full-time farming at the end of the Populist era. Half of them had at one time farmed; seven were farming in . Only one woman lived in an industrial city; the remaining who did not farm lived in rural villages or larger towns that formed the marketing centers for outlying farming regions; for example, five women lived in either Topeka or Wichita. Mari Jo Buhle argues that Populist women were city dwellers but does not make a distinction between industrial cities and cities whi!: Nor does she make a distinction between the leaders of the movement several of whom had farmed previous to involvement in party politics and the thousands of women farmers who belonged to local sub-alliances 6 and actively supported Populist candidates. Of Populist leaders only Marion Todd, Sarah Emery, and Eva McDonald Valesh came into rural-focused reform work without having had previous farming experience or having lived in a farming community. Even Mary Elizabeth Lease and her husband Charles farmed, if only briefly, on several occasions, eventually settling in Wichita, a farm-centered community in the s. Among the women Were one school superintendent, one doctor, and one practicing attorney; the others earned a living at journalism and various forms of writing, at politics as paid organizers and lecturers, and at combinations of these activities. With the exception of Montana attorney, Ella Knowles, all the women were writers. In addition to writing for newspapers, they wrote fiction, essays and treatises, poetry and songs. The women joined a variety of reform organizations. Seven out of eleven had previously belonged t-i a third party, five to the Knights of Labor. Only two had belonged to the less radical Grange. Nebraska provides the largest and most complete set of records for a state Alliance. These records, although inconsistent and incomplete, document membership from 7 Not all records exist for each year, and the method of keeping records changed as the record. Every three- months each sub-alliance was required to send in quarterly reports giving the number of female members and the number of male members, the numbers of suspensions, the names of officers, and the amount of dues collected. Some records compiled from quarterly reports are available for the years ; however, in many cases women members were not counted. Frequently a woman secretary would send ER? C 7 y t in a signed quarterly report omitting women members including herself entirely. Presumably, married women sometimes omitted themselves, counting married couples as a single member. Others may have omitted single women because women were not required to pay dues. Consequently one can assume that a large number of sub- alliances reporting only male members may indeed have had female members. Even with what appears to be a large number of omissions, recorded female membership in Nebraska attests to a substantial number of Alliance women. Out of sub-alliance quarterly reports submitted for September through January , twenty-six percent had women" officers and forty-eight percent of those women officers were related to another officer, probably husbands, possibly fathers or sons. Only two sub-alliances reported more than one woman officer. Fourteen percent of the sub-alliances had more female members than male members. Often the differences were small, with the number of women exceeding the number of men by no more than two or three. In some sub-alliances where women members exceeded male members for only a brief time, the secretary reported suspensions due to delinquent dues. As soon as the

dues were paid, the members were reinstated. These cases cannot be considered examples of sub-alliances with more women for the men probably continued coming to meetings and were considered members. Thirty-six percent of the sample sub-alliances reported no women members in and ; three of those reporting, however, listed women secretaries. One hundred five sub-alliances totalled 1, men compared to women or thirty-one percent. These women would attend the first state and national Alliance conventions in , voting as delegates to form a new political party, the Populist Party, and then returning home to work with men in gathering support for the new party, nominating state candidates and selecting delegates for the Populist conventions. Women not only expected "relief" with a new government, but they also expected to be part of the new government. As Lease expressed it, "no government can be complete 8 without woman, any more than can the home. Gene Clanton, "Intolerant Populist? A Profile" Kansas History 1 Spring University of Minnesota, ; Rhoda R. Oilman, "Eva McDonald Valesh: Minnesota Populist," in Women of Minnesota , eds. Barbara Stuhler and Gretchen Kreuter St. Willard and Mary A. Harvard University Press, Louisiana State University Press, , The editors included only six Alliance and Populist women: University of Illinois Press, ,

*The Alliances' work was grounded in the activities of local sub alliances, where farmers met regularly to discuss their grievances and needs. Women were prominent in such groups, constituting as much as 50 percent of members in some parts of the Plains, and Alliance picnics and family socials were.*

Blog The Grange Movement: He made an official trip through the South and was astounded by the lack of sound agricultural practices he encountered. Joining with other interested individuals in , Kelley formed the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, a fraternal organization complete with its own secret rituals. Local affiliates were known as "granges" and the members as "grangers. Growth was slow in the early years, but the attraction of social events was considerable. Farm life in the 19th century was marked by a tedium and isolation that usually was relieved only by church functions and the weekly trips to town for supplies. Following the Panic of , the Grange spread rapidly throughout the farm belt, since farmers in all areas were plagued by low prices for their products, growing indebtedness and discriminatory treatment by the railroads. These concerns helped to transform the Grange into a political force. Grange influence was particularly strong in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, where political pressure yielded a series of "Granger laws" designed to give legislative assistance to the farmers. Those laws received an initial blessing from the Supreme Court in *Munn v. Illinois* , but a later counteroffensive by the railroads brought the *Wabash* case , which wiped out those gains. During the s, the Grangers advocated programs such as the following: There were too many farmers and too much productive land; the advent of new, mechanized equipment only exacerbated the difficulties. A few perceptive individuals recognized that flooding the market with produce only depressed prices further. The Grange as a political force peaked around , then gradually declined. The Grange had played an important role by demonstrating that farmers were capable of organizing and advocating a political agenda. After witnessing the eclipse of its advocacy efforts by other groups, the Grange reverted to its original educational and social events. These have sustained the organization to the present day. Off-site search results for "The Grange Movement: The Grange As a result of economic downturns, such as the Panic of , the Grange began to decline in popularity. Many local Grange organizations had purchased too much machinery communally to pay off their bills. By , Grange membership had fallen to

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*At the state level, the Farmers' Alliances in the Midwest and West supported women's suffrage, and under Populist state governments women won the right to vote in Colorado in and in Idaho in*

Diggs The women prominent in the great farmer manifesto of this present time were long preparing for their part; not consciously, not by any manner of means even divining that there would be a part to play. In the many thousands of isolated farm homes the early morning, the noonday and the evening-time work went on with a dreary monotony which resulted in that startling report of the physicians that American farms were recruiting stations from whence more women went to insane asylums than from any other walk in life. Farm life for women is a treadmill. The eternal climb must be kept -up though the altitude never heightens. For more than a quarter of a century these churning, washing, ironing, baking, darning, sewing, cooking. Climb as they would, they slipped " down two steps while they climbed one. They were not keeping pace with the women of the towns and cities. The industry which once led in the. The Grange came on " a most noble order, of untold service and solace to erstwhile cheerless lives. Pathetic the heart-hunger for the beauty side of life. The Grange blossomed forth in "Floras" and "Pomonas. There was much burnishing of bright-witted women " not always listeners, often essayists. The Grange is dead. Long live the, Grange born again " the Alliance! The Granger sisters through the intervening years, climbing laboriously, patiently, felt their treadmill cogs a slipping three steps down to one step up. Reincarnate in the Alliance the whilom Floras and Pomonas became secretaries and lecturers. The worn and weary treadmillers are anxious, troubled. They have no heart for poetry or play. Life is work unremitting. There is no time for ransacking of heathen mythologies for fashions with which to trig out modern goddesses. These once frolicking Floras and playful Pomonas turn with all the fierceness of the primal mother--nature to protect their younglings from devouring, devastating plutocracy. Politics for the farmer had been recreation, relaxation, or even exhilaration, according to the varying degree of his interest, or of honor flatteringly bestowed by town committeemen upon a "solid yeoman" at caucus or convention. The flush of pride over being selected to make a nominating speech, or the sense of importance consequent upon being placed on a resolution committee to acquiesce in the prepared document conveniently at hand " these high honors lightened much muddy plowing and hot harvest work. Hence for them no blinding party ties. And therefore when investigation turned on the light, the women spoke right out in meeting, demanding explanation for the non-appearance of the home market for the farm products, which their good husbands had been prophesying and promising would follow the upbuilding of protected industries. These women in the Alliance, grown apt in keeping close accounts from long economy, cast eyes over the long account of promises of officials managing public business, and said, "Promise and performance do not balance. Though never venturing upon the platform, they contributed much to the inspiration and tenacity of the Alliance. In several states, notably Texas, Georgia, Michigan, California, Colorado, and Nebraska, women have been useful and prominent in the farmer movement, which indeed is now widened and blended with the cause of labor other than that of the farm. Kansas, however, furnished by far the largest quota of Active, aggressive women, inasmuch as Kansas was the theatre where the initial act of the great labor drama was played. This drama, which, please God, must not grow into tragedy, is fully set on the world stage, and the curtain will never ring down nor the lights be turned off, until there be ushered in the eternal era of justice to the men and women who toil. The, great political victory of the people of Kansas would not have been won without the help of the women of the Alliance. Women who never dreamed of becoming public speakers grew eloquent in their zeal and fervor. Kansas politics was no longer "dirty pool. It was religious to the core. Instinctively the women knew that the salvation of their homes, and more even, the salvation of the republic, depended upon the outcome of that test struggle. Every word, every thought, every act, was a prayer for victory, and for the triumph of light. Victory was compelled to come. Narrow ignoramus long ago stumbled upon the truth. Whereas the whole truth is, women should watch and work in all things which shape and mould the home, whether "money," "land" or "transportation. They say, "Our homes are threatened by the dirty pool. The pool must go. For where shall temperance or high thought of franchise be taught the children,

by whose breath the world is saved, if sacred hearth fires shall go out? The overtopping, all-embracing moral question of the age is this for which the Alliance came. Upon such great ethical foundation is the labor movement of to-day building itself. How could women do otherwise than be in and of it? Easily first among the Kansas women who rose to prominence, as a platform speaker for the political party which grew out of the Alliance, is Mrs. An Irishwoman by birth, Mrs. Lease is typically fervid, impulsive, and heroic. All the hatred of oppression and scorn of oppressors, which every true son and daughter of Erin feels, found vent in Mrs. Lease came to America when quite a little girl. Her father went into the Union army and died at Andersonville. We was educated a Catholic, but thought herself out of that communion, and is now over-weighted with reverence for the clergy of any sect. She not infrequently rouses their ire by her stinging taunts as to their divergence from the path marked out by their professed Master, whose first concern was for the poor and needy. Her husband is a pharmacist. Her children are exceptionally bright and lovely. Her eldest son, grown to young manhood, bids fair to follow his distinguished mother on the platform. A most trying experience of farm life on a Western claim taught Mrs. Turning from unprofitable farming, she began the study of law, in which she was engaged when the Union Labor campaign of claimed her services as a speaker. During this campaign she only gained a local notoriety. Further study, larger opportunity, and the bugle call of the Alliance movement roused her latent powers, and in the campaign of she made speeches so full of fiery eloquence, of righteous wrath, and fierce denunciation of the oppressors and betrayers of the people, that she became the delight of the people of the new party, and the detestation of the followers of the old. Seldom, if ever, was a woman so vilified and so misrepresented by malignant newspaper attacks. A woman of other quality would have sunk under the avalanche. She was quite competent to cope with all that was visited upon her. Indeed, the abuse did her much service. The people but loved her the more for the enemies she made. Her career on the public platform since that memorable campaign has been one of uninterrupted and unparalleled success. Her chiefest distinguishing gift is her powerful voice; deep and resonant, its effect is startling and controlling. Her speeches are philippics. She hurls sentences as Jove hurled thunderbolts. Her personal appearance upon the platform is most commanding. She is tall and stately in bearing, well meriting the title bestowed upon her at St. She has the characteristic combination which marks the beautiful Irishwoman, of black hair, fair complexion, and blue eyes, "sad blue eyes that seem to see and feel the weight and woe of all the world. Her style and subject matter of discourse are distinctively hers. She is neither classifiable nor comparable. Her torrent of speech is made up of terse, strong sentences. These she launches with resistless force at the defenceless head of whatever may be the objective point of her attack. Hers a nature which compels rather than persuades. In the to-be-written history of this great epoch, Mrs. Lease will have a most conspicuous place. Placid, lovable, loving mother of all the other women in this great reform is Mrs. What Elizabeth Cady Stanton is to equal suffrage and to her reverent suffrage disciples, such is Mrs. Emery to the Home Crusade and her most devoted co-crusaders. The low price and simple style of the little book made it available and effective. It was read more extensively than any other work of its class. It was one of those "poisonous" books which Ex-. Anthony, now the Republican nominee for congressman-at-large from Kansas, in a public speech berated his fellow Republicans and Democrats for having allowed the Alliance men to get behind closed doors-and-read. John seems to have found meat rather than poison in the book. He said "I learned more in relation to the financial history of our country during the past thirty years by carefully reading Mrs. Her father was a widely informed, warm-hearted man. He espoused the doctrines of the Universalists, in those days the extreme of heresy, and was subjected to much contumely therefore. The animating spirit of early Universalism was love "love all-conquering, love that refused to believe that evil or pain could eternally endure. The breath of life from earliest childhood for this strong, mother-hearted woman was loving kindness, tender solicitude, and entire hopefulness that all ills could be cured. Writing of her father, she says: Emery alternated between teaching and attending school. In Sunday schools and temperance societies she has always been an efficient worker. As a matter of course, she is an equal In Mrs. Emery was elected delegate-at-large to the State Greenback Convention of Michigan, the first woman thus honored from her state. Since that time she has been sent as delegate to national conventions of the Greenback and Union Labor parties. She was also a delegate to the Conference of Industrial Organizations at St.

**Chapter 5 : Women and Populism**

*A fraternal organization of white farmers and other rural southerners, including teachers, ministers, and physicians, the Farmers' Alliance began in Texas in the mids and swept across the entire South during the late s.*

Emery assaulted disparities in the economic order and barriers to equality for women. The letters give some idea of the concerns, thoughts and daily lives of ordinary women in the movement. They suggest that many women found community, mutuality and a stronger sense of self through participation in the movement. She supported the Democrats at first, then Populists, then the free silver movement. American History and Life, 20A: Louis conventions , Populists subordinated moral reform to practical politics. American History and Life, 24A: Waite gave her time and energy to aiding and protecting her husband. After his defeat for reelection, she spoke out bitterly against women who opposed the party that enfranchised them. American History and Life, 7: Sarah Christie Stevens, Schoolwoman. Pursuing the Myth of Equality. History and Life, 21A: Two years after Idaho enfranchised women in , three women were elected to the Idaho legislature: Wright, Democrat Harriet F. Noble, and Republican Clara L. All three women proved adept and skillful as legislators, making significant contributions to the fifth Idaho legislature. None ran for a second term. History and Life, In the s, U. These changes created opportunities for women, who became speakers and decision-makers in two third-party movements, Prohibitionism and Populism. Party loyalties fragmented the suffrage movement. Women provided a "moral element" in crusades against urban machines. Women failed to win significant power in the major parties, and depictions of Populist women as aggressive harpies discredited that party in the South and East. With the depression, Republicans won solid national control. More conservative views about gender and race relations won acceptance. Minnesota Historical Society P, Journalist and leading figure in Minnesota labor and farmer movements. History and Life, 16A: Johns Hopkins UP, DAI, 54 02A The urban-based Woman Movement activists espoused the ideology of a morally superior, all-inclusive non-partisan political sisterhood, yet its members ignored any connection with Populist farm women. Although many Alliance women were interested in the issue of woman suffrage, they were committed primarily to the economic and political reforms espoused by their party. Many women activists were prominent in both parties. History and Life, 23A: The Alliance rejected the traditional female stereotype of pale fragile gentility and encouraged female participation in its affairs, and proposed education and economic equality for women. Although the Alliance enlarged the traditional view of women, encouraged education and participation, it did not go further toward female equality outside farm life. History and Life, 15A: Selected Biographical Essays St. Minnesota Historical Society Pr. Her letters to her husband reveal her political acumen, concern for their family, events in their daily lives, and their financial circumstances. Women in the Tennessee Movements for Agrarian Reform, They simply joined their husbands in "the struggle against the trusts and monopolies. The absence of white women made interracial unionism possible. The sanctity of white womanhood was a crucial factor in promoting segregation. After 19 years teaching in black schools in Texas and Tennessee, she returned to Minnesota in She also participated in the local affairs of Red Wing. She was the Populist candidate for superintendent of schools in She bequeathed her estate to a black former student. History and Life, 20A: Hillmon, a resident of Lawrence, Kansas, was accidentally shot and killed by a friend at Medicine Lodge. Upon examination, insurance officials did not believe the dead man was Hillmon. His wife disagreed and pressed the matter in six court battles between and With the Populist movement the case took on political overtones his wife became the victim of eastern moneyed interests. Insurance firms eventually settled with her for 35 thousand dollars, including accumulated interest. Populists passed woman suffrage in Colorado. But, the next year Waite strangely turned against the issue. He believed most women voted against him in Only if women paid taxes and possessed enough intelligence to protest unfair laws did he think them qualified to vote. History and Life, 4: University of Iowa Press, Its women were often involved in public protests and organizing activities, pushing the gender boundaries they simultaneously used for their own protection. A Nineteenth Century Woman of Today. History and Life, 22A: She established a practice in Helena, and ran unsuccessfully as the Populist candidate for attorney general in Her Republican

opponent, Henry J. Haskell afterward appointed her assistant attorney general. They married, but later divorced. Free silver exponents wanted the female vote. Queen of the Populists: The Story of Mary Elizabeth Lease. Thornton, Emma and Adams, Pauline. History and Life, 18A: Often, their writings and speeches espoused traditional female values. They left home for long periods of time to campaign for the new party, often emphasizing temperance and woman suffrage. They did not perceive a contradiction between domesticity and political work, but incorporated the ideology of domesticity into the larger goals of Populism. Although Populist women did not win suffrage and temperance planks at national Populist conventions, they did acquire valuable political experience in the public sphere and form important networks with other women. Such organizations, however, also gave women a political voice. Agrarian Activism in Lewis County, Washington, Rural voters in Lewis county, Washington supported a series of radical third parties from the s. Women were active in those movements. They sought a government active in the interests of farmers and workers, lower taxes, and political and economic self-determination. Farmer organizations nurtured traditions of democracy as well as championed the political participation of women. From Memory to Vision. DAI 43 3:

Chapter 6 : Farmers' Alliance in Minnesota | MNopedia

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Progressive Farmer ; Subtreasury Plan. Its representatives first appeared in North Carolina in ; by more than , North Carolinians had joined. This spectacular growth resulted from several factors. Many North Carolina farmers relied on local merchants for credit, materials, and crop marketing. The monopoly of the local merchant resulted in high credit rates and high prices for goods purchased on credit. Market prices for agricultural products were often depressed by harvesttime gluts. Further, loans from the merchant were protected through the crop lien , a legal device that gave the merchant priority rights to crops to satisfy debts. It permitted men and women farmers, rural mechanics, teachers, preachers, and physicians to join; it expressly excluded lawyers and merchants. The occupational admissions test revealed a Republican-inspired faith in rule by agricultural producers. The North Carolina Alliance included more landowners than tenants or laborers. Most Alliance members, and particularly most Alliance leaders, were Democrats. The state railroad commission idea, which had been defeated in the General Assembly , was promoted in order to eliminate high intrastate freight rates and low taxation of railroad property. One source estimated that of the representatives in the assembly belonged to the order. Division within the North Carolina order developed on such fundamental issues as the Subtreasury Plan, which perhaps one-third of the membership opposed, and a new demand, adopted by the national organization in early , for federal government ownership of railroads. The latter proposal was criticized by many members, including a former president of the North Carolina Alliance, Elias Carr, who favored public regulation instead of ownership. In particular, members were divided over the duty of the order in national politics. In the summer of conflict over this issue climaxed, leaving the organization permanently shattered. The formation of Populist parties in other states contributed to the decline. Although the Alliance continued to hold annual meetings in North Carolina through the s, and remnants of the organization persisted until , the order never recovered from the political and ideological battles of A Political History, Courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina.

Chapter 7 : Women in the Farmers' Alliance (, by Mary E. Lease) | calendrierdelascience.com

*Farmers' Alliance History and Agricultural Digest also were useful in my effort to understand the Alliance. Annie Digg's Arena article on "The Women in the Alliance.*

There followed a rush to complete additional railway lines to open up new frontier areas for economic development, a situation in which the United States government and the great railroad companies of the day maintained a common interest. Rather than directly undertaking railroad construction as a public works project of the federal government, Congress granted cash loans and grants of public land to subsidize construction. New settlement had to be attracted to the virgin lands west of the Missouri River, which had been previously regarded by the public as worthless to the needs of agriculture due to insufficiencies of the soil as well as the arid climate. The state of Kansas grew from a population of just under 1,000,000 in 1850, to nearly a million people during the 1850s. Agricultural crisis in the southeastern US[ edit ] The agrarian and plantation-based economy of the Southern United States was virtually destroyed by the American Civil War. Those who had their fortunes invested in Confederate bonds and currency saw them lost, as did those whose wealth was tied up in the ownership of African American slaves. A new mode of production replaced the slave-based large-scale agriculture of the pre-war years. Now it would be small-scale agrarian enterprise that would proliferate and the emergence of the so-called "share system" or "cropping system," in which non-landowners paid rent for the use of the land they farmed in the form of a fixed percentage of the output generated. A crop-lien system emerged in which future crops would be mortgaged to merchants or landowners often one and the same in exchange for credit for current purchases. The Southern Alliance[ edit ] Dr. The adoption of a dues system in the middle part of the decade forced the Texas group to closely consider its organizational affiliation. Macune, the son of a Methodist preacher, emerged as the leader of this Texas organization when he was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Texas organization in 1886. The demands of the Southern Alliance were similar to those of its northern counterpart. They pressed for abolition of national banks and monopolies, free coinage of silver, issuance of paper money Greenback or Fiat money, loans on land, establishment of sub-treasuries, income tax acts, and revision of tariffs. Negotiations were begun to further unify forces by joining this newly expanded Southern Alliance with its Northern Alliance counterpart. The Colored Alliance[ edit ] Main article: Founders included Masons, Oddfellows and Pythians. Its program included trade reciprocity, protection of American industries, just pensions for Union veterans and disenfranchisement of those who accepted or offered a bribe for a vote. One of their circulars from 1887 reads: The people should organize at once in opposition to this gigantic scheme. As Southern Alliance leader C. Macune noted in 1887, the agenda of the organization was both amorphous and dynamic, a response to local problems and conditions: For example, many Alliance chapters all set up their own cooperative stores, which bought directly from wholesalers and sold their goods to farmers at a lower rate, at times 20 to 30 percent below the regular retail price. Such stores achieved only limited success, however, since they faced the hostility of wholesale merchants who sometimes retaliated by temporarily lowering their prices in order to drive the Alliance stores out of business. Such facilities allowed debt-laden farmers, who often had little cash to pay third-party mills, to bring their goods to markets at a lower cost. The national agenda[ edit ] The limited effects of the local policies of the Alliance did little to address the overall problem of deflation and depressed agricultural prices. By 1890, tensions had begun to form in the movement between the political activists, who promoted a national political agenda, and the political conservatives, who favored no change in national policy but a "strictly business" plan of local economic action. In Texas, the split reached a climax in August at the statewide convention in Cleburne. The political activists successfully lobbied for passage of a set of political demands that included support of the Knights of Labor and the Great Southwest Railroad Strike of 1892. Other demands include changes in governmental land policy, and railroad regulation. The demands also included a demand for use of silver as legal tender, on the grounds that this would alleviate the contraction in the money supply that led to falling prices and scarcity of credit see gold standard. The Alliance wanted to change the way Americans worked by pushing for an eight-hour workday. It did away with national banks so private, local banks could be formed. The Alliance

wanted an income tax, the freedom to coin its own money and the freedom to borrow money from the government to buy land. The Alliance also tried to do away with foreign competitors who owned land in America. It wanted to directly elect federal judges and senators. The Alliance gained powerful political strength and controlled elections in states in the South and the West. In the South, the agenda centered on demands of government control of transportation and communication, in order to break the power of corporate monopolies. From it also included a demand for a national "Sub-Treasury Plan" calling for the establishment of a network of government-owned warehouses for the storage of non-perishable agricultural commodities, operated at minimal cost to participating farmers. Treasury notes, under the plan. Meanwhile, the Northern Alliance stressed the demand for free coinage of large amounts of silver. The efforts and unification proved futile, however. Transition to the Populist movement[ edit ] As an economic movement, the Alliance had a very limited and short term success. Cotton brokers who had previously negotiated with individual farmers for ten bales at a time now needed to strike deals with the Alliance men for 1, bale sales. This solidarity was usually short-lived, however, and could not withstand the retaliation from the commodities brokers and railroads, who responded by boycotting the Alliance and eventually broke the power of the movement. The Alliance had never fielded its own political candidates. It preferred to work through the established Republican Party in the Midwest and Democratic Party in the South " although these often proved fickle in supporting the agenda of the Alliance. The Alliance failed as an economic movement, but it is regarded by historians as engendering a "movement culture" among the rural poor. This failure prompted an evolution of the Alliance into a political movement to field its own candidates in national elections. The Populists, who fielded national candidates in the election, essentially repeated all the demands of the Alliance in its platform. Marion Butler , one-term U. Senator from North Carolina, " Selected Alliance newspapers[ edit ].

**Chapter 8 : Farmers' Alliance | NCpedia**

*education hard work and new ideas raise standards of medical profession. role of women in progressive effort. womens clubs. the farmers alliances had an.*

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The Grange , or Order of the Patrons of Husbandry the latter official name of the national organization, while the former was the name of local chapters, including a supervisory National Grange at Washington , was a secret order founded in to advance the social needs and combat the economic backwardness of farm life. It was founded by Oliver H. Kelley, at that time an official working in Washington DC for the Dept. He had been sent to Virginia to assess Southern agricultural resources and practices. He found them to be generally poor, and became determined to found an organization of farmers for the dissemination of information. As a Government official from the North, he must have received a generally hostile reception, but he was a Mason, and ended by founding his organization on the structure of that order. He was in correspondence with his niece during the early period and both promoted the equal status of women and the principle of equal pay for equal work. The Grange grew remarkably during the early years: The causes of its growth were much broader than just the financial crisis of ; a high tariff, railway freight rates and other grievances were mingled with agricultural troubles like the fall of wheat prices and the increase of mortgages. The condition of the farmer seemed desperate. The original objects of the Grange were primarily educational, but these were soon overborne by an anti-middleman, co-operative movement. Nor was co-operation limited to distributive processes; crop reports were circulated, co-operative dairies multiplied, flour mills were operated, and patents were purchased, that the Grange might manufacture farm machinery. The outcome in some states was ruin, and the name, Grange, became a reproach. Nevertheless, these efforts in co-operation were exceedingly important both for the results obtained and for their wider significance. Nor could politics be excluded, though officially taboo, for economics must be considered by social idealists, and economics everywhere ran into politics. Thus it was with the railway question. Railways had been extended into frontier states; there were heavy crops in sparsely settled regions where freight-rates were high, so that given the existing distributive system there were over production and waste; there was notorious stock manipulation and discrimination in rates; and the farmers regarded absentee ownership of railways by New York capitalists much as absentee ownership of land has been regarded in Ireland. The Grange officially disclaimed enmity to railways: Though the organization did not attack them, the Grangers, through political farmers clubs and the like, did. In , the Grange began efforts to establish regulation of the railways as common-carriers, by the states. Such laws were known as Granger Laws, and their general principles, endorsed in by the Supreme Court of the United States , have become an important chapter in the laws of the land. In a declaration of principles in Grangers were declared not to be enemies of railroads, and their cause to stand for no communism nor agrarianism. To conservatives, however, cooperation seemed communism, and Grange laws agrarianism; thus, in , the growth of the movement aroused extraordinary interest and much uneasiness. Thus, by , it had already ceased to be of national political importance. About , a renaissance began, particularly in the Middle States and New England; this revival was marked by a recurrence to the original social and educational objects. The national Grange and state Granges in all, or nearly all, of the states were still active in , especially in the old cultural movement and in such economic movements, notably the improvement of highways as most directly concern the farmers. The initiative and referendum, and other proposals of reform politics in the direction of a democratic advance, also enter in a measure into their propaganda. The Alliance[ edit ] The Alliance carried the movement further into economics. The National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union , formed in , embraced several originally independent organizations including The Agricultural Wheel formed from onwards; it was largely confined to the South and was secret. The National Farmers Alliance , formed in , went back similarly to , was much smaller, Northern and non-secret. With these three were associated many others, state and national, including an annual, non-partisan, deliberative and advisory Farmers National

Congress. The Alliance movement reached its greatest power about 1890, in which year twelve national farmers organizations were represented in conventions in St Louis, and the six leading ones alone probably had a membership of 500,000. As with the Grange, so in the ends and declarations of the whole later movement, concrete remedial legislation for agricultural or economic ills was mingled with principles of vague radical tendency and with lofty idealism. Thus, the Southern Alliance in the chief platforms were the one at Ocala, Florida, and that of at St Louis, Missouri, in conjunction with the Knights of Labor declared its principles to be: In things essential, unity; in all things, charity. In the North the farmer attacked a wide range of capitalistic legislation that hurt him, he believed, for the benefit of other classes, notably legislation sought by railways. Practically all the great organizations demanded the abolition of national banks, the free coinage of silver, a sufficient issue of government paper money, tariff revision, and a secret ballot the last was soon realized. Only less commonly demanded were an income tax, taxation of evidence of debt, and government loans on lands. All of these were principles of the two great Alliances the Northern and the Southern, as were also pure food legislation, abolition of landholding by aliens, reclamation of unused or unearned land grants to railways, etc. The Southern Alliance put in the forefront a subtreasury scheme according to which cheap loans should be made by government from local sub-treasuries on non-perishable farm products such as grain and cotton stored in government warehouses; while the Northern Alliance demanded restriction of the liquor traffic and for a short time woman suffrage. Still other issues were a modification of the patent laws etc. All its work in the South was accomplished within the old-party organizations, but, in 1892, the demand became strong for an independent third party, for which various consolidations since had prepared the way. In the presidential election of 1892, it cast 1,000,000 votes in a total of 12,000,000, and elected 22 presidential electors, the first chosen by any third party since 1800. However, it accomplished a vast amount of good. The Alliance and Populist movements were bottomed on the idea of "ethical gains through legislation. It is not to be forgotten that owing to the movement of the frontier the United States has always been "at once a developed country and a primitive one. The same political questions have been put to a society advanced in some regions and undeveloped in others. On specific political questions each economic area has reflected its peculiar interests" Prof. The Farmers movement was the beginning of widespread, effective protest against "the menace of privilege" in the United States.

*Black Professional Alliance (BPA) helps Farmers attract and retain talented and well-informed business professionals by fostering education, awareness and leadership development of the Black/African American community and issues that cultivate a more inclusive product offering and customer experience.*

These groups sought to ameliorate debt, poverty, and low crop prices by educating and mobilizing rural men and women, engaging in cooperative economic organizing, and asserting their power in electoral politics. Formation of the Alliances The Alliance had its roots in the severe depression of the s. The so-called Northern Alliance had its roots in New York in the same year; founder Milton George, an editor of farm publications, moved the group to Chicago in The continuing decline of world cotton prices and severe drought on the Plains prompted thousands to join, and by the late s Alliance influence was widespread across the South and Plains. By Alliance organizers reached the Pacific Coast, winning particular success in California. Some groups undertook vigilante protests, destroying, for example, the barbed-wire fences of large landholders that prevented small farmers from letting their hogs and cattle range free. Women were prominent in such groups, constituting as much as 50 percent of members in some parts of the Plains, and Alliance picnics and family socials were popular remedies for rural isolation and grinding labor. Alliance men and women wrote essays and debated such political issues as monetary policy and temperance. Alliances helped build a vibrant network of alternative newspapers that furthered the work of education and reform. Membership is difficult to determine, but at their peak in the various Alliances probably represented well over one million families. Combined membership in Kansas and Texas alone was , and the separate Colored Alliance counted , Cooperative economic action was central to the Alliance vision. In Texas, Alliance leader Charles Macune organized the Texas Exchange, through which farmers bypassed middlemen and sold cotton directly to buyers in New England and Europe. The exchange lasted from to but failed for a lack of capital, caused by both the poverty of farmers and the hostility of banks to the cooperative venture. More successful was the jute boycott of Cotton farmers wrapped their bales in jute bagging and the monopolistic bagging manufacturer hiked prices 60 percent over two years. Outraged southern farmers created their own cotton bagging, temporarily forcing the jute cartel to reduce prices. A Turn to Political Action By , however, many Alliancemen had concluded they must take action in electoral politics to achieve lasting change. At a convention in Ocala, Florida, in December , movement leaders agreed on the "Ocala Platform," demanding a looser money supply, progressive income taxes on the wealthy, and other economic measures. In calling for "rigid" government oversight of railroads and public ownership if regulation failed to stem abuses, the Ocala demands echoed midwestern "Granger Laws" of the s. Meanwhile, Kansas Alliancemen, guided by editor William A. Ingalls, who was hostile to Alliance goals, and replaced him with Peffer. Southern Alliancemen sought action simultaneously through the Democratic Party, telling legislators they would be judged by the "Alliance yardstick. In February delegates from the various Alliances met in St. Much of its platform echoed the Ocala Demands of , set forth at a national Alliance conference in Ocala, Florida. Seeking reforms in "money, land, and transportation," Alliance leaders demanded government regulation or outright ownership of telegraphs and railroads; revocation of large land grants to railroads; various antitrust remedies; a federal progressive income tax ; direct election of U. In the South many Democrats resorted to violence and fraud to maintain power while playing on white racial prejudices to divide their opponents. The severe depression of the s was a blow to both the Alliance and the new party and the Alliances had largely disappeared by Nonetheless, the political agenda of the agrarian movement endured. Southern and western farm states provided crucial support for much of the landmark reform legislation of the Progressive era, particularly in the areas of antitrust, railroad regulation, taxation, banking, credit, monetary policy, and protection of labor. The Populist Moment in America. Oxford University Press, University of Minnesota Press, University of North Carolina Press, A Social History , â€” Hill and Wang, University of Kansas Press, Farmers, Workers, and the American State, â€” University of Chicago Press, Brothers and Sisters The time has arrived when we must have perfect harmony and unity of action throughout our entire order. If we hope for success in the demands of our just rights we must be true to

our motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," for in unity lies great strength. Why are the farmers getting poorer every year? We work harder, are more economical than we have ever been. A few years since[, ] money was plentiful, the demands for labor were great; now there is very little in circulation, laborers are more numerous, begging employment but the farmers are not able to hire them. What was once the common necessities of life are now high priced luxuries. Why is it that our produce when carried to market is priced by others? Why is taxation more burdensome than during the civil war? Have we less energy? Are we more effeminate? Are we less capable of managing our affairs? Are we truly the empty-headed class we are represented to be? Why have we not been respected as a class, as a great power in the land? Is it because we failed to organize at the proper time as all other classes and occupations and organizations have done? Or is it because we failed to pledge our means and sacred honor for the advancement of our just right? Is it not because we have placed all confidence in our representatives, thinking they had the interest of the whole country at heart? A few years since it was considered an honor to be an American citizen but we as a people have fallen into corruption and there is none so poor as to honor us. Our country is as productive as ever. There was an appeal for aid sent to congress last year for the drought stricken sufferers. Did they receive aid? Anna Gray, front-page essay in the Southern Mercury, 19 April Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.