

North American Women's Letters and Diaries

North American Women's Letters and Diaries is the largest electronic collection of women's diaries and correspondence ever assembled. Spanning more than 300 years, it presents the personal experiences of hundreds of women. Complementing Alexander Street's *British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries*, the database will be used for research in women's studies, history, sociology, literature, genealogy, and other fields.

The writings provide a detailed record of what women wore, what they ate, what they read, the conditions under which they worked, and how they amused themselves. We can see how frequently they attended church, how they viewed their connection to God, and how they prayed. We can explore their relationships with lovers and with family and friends.

CONTENTS

The collection includes approximately 150,000 pages of letters and diaries from Colonial times to 1950, including 7,000 pages of previously unpublished manuscripts – all in electronic format for the first time. The material is drawn from more than 1,000 sources, including journal articles, pamphlets, newsletters, monographs, and conference proceedings, and much of it is in copyright. Represented are all age groups and life stages, a wide range of ethnicities, many geographical regions, the famous, and the not so famous. More than 1,500 biographies enhance the use of the database.

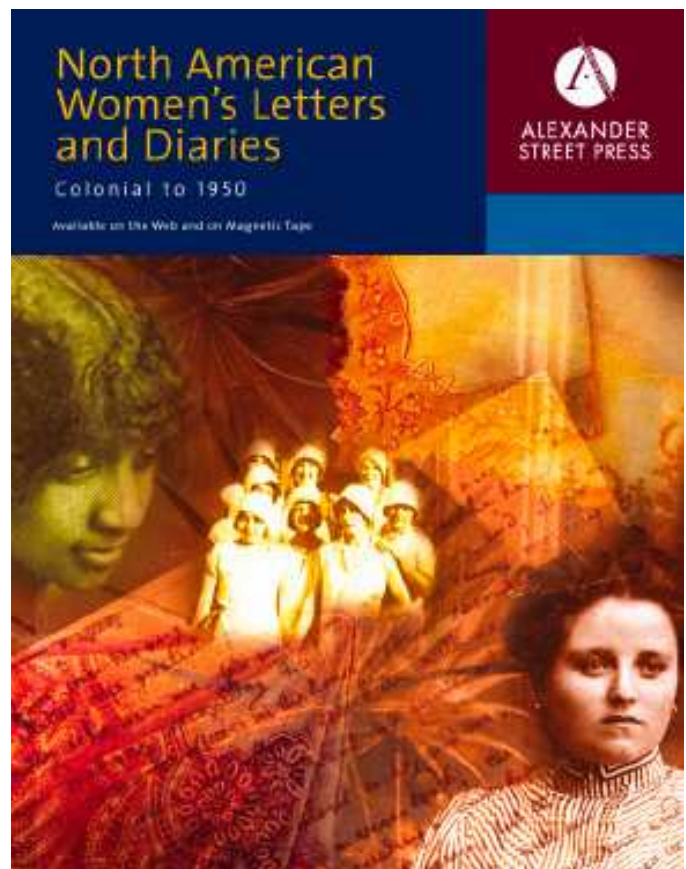
North American Women's Letters and Diaries aims to cover all published material and as much unpublished material as copyright and cost allow. The contents have been selected from the leading bibliographies (Joyce Goodfriend; Arksey, Pries, and Reed; and others), and numerous other sources.

The content of this database is extraordinarily rich – I know of no electronic resource even remotely comparable for women's history...

– Library Journal

EXAMPLES OF MATERIALS

- Extracts from the Journal of Mrs. Ann Manigault, 1754-1781
- Life of Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Julia Heller's Boyfriend Book, the 1932 diary of a Pennsylvania teenager
- Letters of Phyllis Wheatley
- Letters of Ellen Louisa Tucker to Ralph Waldo Emerson



- Letters of Margaret Fuller
- Memoirs and Letters of Dolly Madison, Wife of James Madison
- Letters of Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Ray Greene
- "I am Doom to Disappointment" [sic]: The Diaries of a Beverly, Massachusetts, Shoebinder, Sarah E. Trask, 1849-51

Mrs. Cary was imprisoned soon after his departure, and her daughter, Mrs. Switcher, or Sweetzer, gained access to her, and, by changing clothes, succeeded in restoring her mother to liberty. Assisted by her friends, she was put on board a ship ready to sail for London, and arrived in the Thames soon after her husband. He was on board his ship shaving himself when she entered the cabin. He started, and exclaimed, "My wife! I really believe you are a witch, and have come over in an eggshell." "Don't be a fool, Nat, like the rest of your countrymen," she replied. This is as my father used to relate the story, and they returned together to America, by which time the people had recovered their senses and deplored the many cruel deaths which had taken place.

– Letter from Margaret G. Cary to George Blankern Cary, January 23, 1843

ALEXANDER STREET'S SEMANTIC INDEXING™

Alexander Street's unique *Semantic Indexing*™ lets researchers easily find answers that have been virtually impossible to locate in the materials until now.

Six tables of contents allow the user to browse the collection from different entry points, including personal life events and a chronology of historical events. Full-text searching is extremely precise, through the use of numerous fields, including race, occupation, recipient's gender, geography, marital and maternal status, and more. Altogether, more than 80 fields have been indexed. Questions like these can be answered quickly and easily:

Show me...

- All diary entries and letters written between 1820 and 1900 that discuss childbirth.
- All materials written from 1941 to 1945 that mention war.
- All correspondence from women in the Northeast to their husbands in the Northwest during the Gold Rush.
- All letters written by African Americans who were educators.
- All letters sent by Abigail Adams that mention Boston.
- All diary entries by suffragettes that have women's rights issues as subjects.
- Diaries and letters, written by women younger than twenty, which mention marriage.

The potential for innovative and in-depth searching is remarkable.

– The Charleston Advisor, April 2002

PUBLICATION DETAILS

North American Women's Letters and Diaries is available on the Web, either through one-time purchase of perpetual rights or through annual subscription. It contains 150,000 pages of text, including 7,000 pages of previously unpublished manuscript material.

ALEXANDER STREET PRESS

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