



Frances Dana Gage

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Frances Dana Gage (1808-1884) was born in Marietta, Ohio. Gage became a leader in the three great reform movements that reshaped American life in the years before the Civil War: the temperance movement, the women's rights campaign and the anti-slavery crusade. Gage helped to organize women's right conventions in McConnellsville, Mount Gilead and Chesterfield. At an 1850 convention, Gage and others drafted a request to remove the words "white" and "male" from the Ohio constitution where they referred to qualifications for voting. She also served as chairwoman of a convention in Akron, Ohio, in 1851 that was called to encourage the people who were re-writing Ohio's constitution to include more rights for women.

Important Dates

- October 12, 1808: Frances Dana Barker is born in Washington County, Ohio.
- January 1, 1829: Barker marries James L. Gage, an Ohio abolitionist lawyer.
- 1850: Gage holds a convention in McConnellsville which attempted to have race and gender requirements for citizenship and voting rights removed from the Ohio Constitution.
- May 29, 1851: Gage presides over woman's-rights convention in Akron, Ohio.
- 1861-1865: Gage helps injured in Vicksburg, Natchez and Memphis during Civil War.
- 1863: Gage records her recollections of 1851 Sojourner Truth speech, "Ain't I a Woman?", which became the standard textual account.
- 1862-1864: Gage becomes superintendent of Parris Island, South Carolina, a refuge for over 500 freed slaves. While here, she meets and befriends Clara Barton.
- 1867: Gage's husband died in Columbus, Ohio.
- November 10, 1884: Gage died in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Frances Dana Gage, Frances D. Gage, Francis Dana Gage, Francis D. Gage, Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?".
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific conventions Gage was involved in.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Suffragists' Fifty Year Fight Reviewed on Eve of Victory"](#) *Sun and New York Herald* (New York, NY), March 21, 1920, Image 89.
- ["Mrs. Frances Dana Gage"](#) *Western Reserve Chronicle* (Warren, OH), January 23, 1861, Image 1, col. 1-2.
- ["Some of the Noted Women who have Helped Make Ohio Famous."](#) *Marietta Daily Leader* (Marietta, OH), March 6, 1901, Image 6, col. 4-6.
- ["The National Women's Right Convention"](#) *Opelousas Patriot* (Opelousas, LA), November 24, 1855, Image 2, col. 5.
- ["Threescore and Five"](#) *Jeffersonian* (Stroudsburg, PA), November 8, 1855, Image 1, col. 4-5.
- ["My Scissors"](#) *Western Reserve Chronicle* (Warren, OH), October 13, 1858, Image 1, col. 6-7.