

Women of Carbon County

Learning Objective: To understand the lives and professions of rural women in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, specifically those in Carbon County, Wyoming.

Topics: US History, Women's History, Western History, Rural History.

Age Group/Grades: Ten – Thirteen years old, 5th – 8th Grades.

Learning Objectives:

- Literacy: Students will read and research women in Carbon County, Wyoming who engaged in professional and non-traditional occupations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Writing: Students will use the printable sheets to create a “journal” of their selected subject, making their own booklets to create their own adventures of diaries of a woman based upon one of the women studied.
- Active Learning Activities:
 - Activity 1: Students will complete a poster, digital presentation, work of art, or a video based on their reading and research, utilizing their journals created using our template.
 - Activity 2: Students will complete the printable word search.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will analyze the historical roles rural, American frontier women played in their communities.
- Students will identify and research women who engaged in “non-traditional” occupations in the late nineteenth/early twentieth centuries.
- Students will create original work to examine and describe the lives of one of the women studied.
- Students will evaluate how the rural environment impacted the women's roles and careers.

Women to be Studied:

- Lillian Heath Nelson, MD
- Gertrude Huntington Merrell, Co-Editor, *The Platte Valley Lyre*
- Laura Huntington Heath, Co-Editor, *The Platte Valley Lyre*
- Lora Webb Nichols, Photographer

Online Resources:

Lillian Heath Nelson, MD:

Van Pelt, Lori, "Lillian Heath: Wyoming's First Female Physician Packed a Pistol." Published at WyoHistory.org. Access here:

<https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/lillian-heath>

Hill, Sharon, "Feisty Females: Dr. Lillian Heath." *Digging History* June 12, 2015 Access here: <https://digging-history.com/2015/06/12/feisty-females-dr-lillian-heath/>

Gertrude Huntington Merrell and Laura Huntington Heath:

Van Pelt, Lori, "The 'Lyre Girls:' First Women Newspaper Owners in Wyoming." Published at WyoHistory.org. Access here:

<https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/lyre-girls-first-women-newspaper-owners-wyoming>

Lora Webb Nichols

View the PBS program, "Wyoming Chronicle" to see their episode "The Photography of Lora Webb Nichols" here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0wc9t4Sht0>

Some of her photographs can be viewed here:

<https://www.wyominghistoryday.org/theme-topics/collections/lora-webb-nichols>

<https://www.instagram.com/lorawebbnichols/?hl=en>

Word Search: Carbon County Women

X T D W C E W L M A H A H N J
H U E S L O H C I N R T B A X
Y B S B M A S V S K A U H I P
B R C E H I C V I E E T A L M
H Y N Y E P P D H T A R G L K
X U K N A M Q W O E T C Y I Q
P H N O T P L T H C X F M L V
I I E T H D O G E R T R U D E
O V C G I A R U G P A O G J V
N N M N Z N A T L O O X R U T
E R W I E G G A M E D I C A L
E T G T P M T T G N I M O Y W
R X B N M T O O O C C N E C U
F X I U E Z V W G N Q Z T X X
K J S H Y E L L A V V T S D S

Word Key:

Doctor	Wyoming	Platte	Valley	Lyre	Laura
Pioneer	Women	Lora	Webb	Nichols	Gertrude
Heath	Huntington	Lillian	Medical	Photographer	

Creating a Journal:

Use the following pages to create your own fictional story of what you believe your subject did in one day of her life.

Write out what you feel a “typical” day in the life was like for your subject.

Where did she live? What were some of the places she went to during her days?

What did she do professionally during her day? Meaning, if she was a doctor, did she go out to see patients? If she was an editor of a newspaper, what steps did she go through to create her paper? If she was a photographer, how did she find subjects to photograph?

Describe what her town was like during the time she was working (you may need to do additional research to find old photographs and records).

Try to imagine the people your subject interacted with: family, friends, members of their church; explain how they would have visited and interacted with one another at that time.

Also, why is she an important part of Wyoming history?

Why am I an important person in Wyoming history?

What can others learn from me today?
