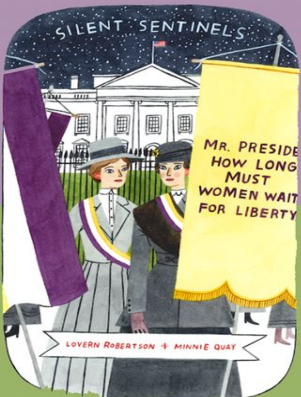


## Sisterhood of Nurses



MEDICINE MILITARY

## The Silent Sentinels



ACTIVISM

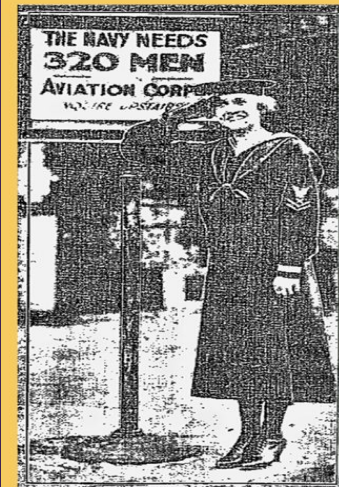
# UTAH WOMEN'S ROLES IN WORLD WAR ONE

## Maud Fitch



MILITARY PHILANTHROPY

## Female Yeomen



MILITARY

**BETTER DAYS**  
*utahwomenshistory.org*

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## *State Standard: 4.4.6*

Use case studies to explain how national or global events between 1896–1999 (for example, World War I, the Spanish Flu Epidemic, the Great Depression, World War II, Japanese American Incarceration, the Cold War, civil rights movements, Americans with Disabilities Act) had an impact in their local communities and state.

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**UTAH**

**WOMEN'S**

**HISTORY**

**PAST – FUTURE**

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## *Learning Objectives:*

1. Understand the broad impact of WWI on the United States, particularly Utah.
2. Appreciate the diverse roles women played during WWI.
3. Recognize the changes in society and women's rights that resulted from WWI.
4. Develop research skills by exploring different women's stories.

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The logo is a teal square containing the text 'UTAH', 'WOMEN'S', and 'HISTORY' stacked vertically, each word separated by a horizontal line. Below these words is the text 'PAST - FUTURE'.

**UTAH**  
**WOMEN'S**  
**HISTORY**  
PAST – FUTURE



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# US INVOLVEMENT IN WWI

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For a long time, the United States wanted to stay out of the war. This is called being neutral. The United States joined the British and French troops (Allies) in 1917. Over 4 million American men were drafted into service. The fresh American troops and resources provided a much-needed boost to the worn-out Allied forces. Their involvement helped tip the balance towards the Allies, leading to the end of the war in 1918.

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# WW1 Virtual Exhibit



## Great Women of the Great War

Utah Women's Participation in World War 1

Brought to you by Better Days

The United States only officially fought in World War I (WWI) for a year and a half, but there were big changes for the country during that short time. Every woman in Utah was directly affected by these changes in one way or another.

WW1 mobilized women in the nation in unprecedented capacities. For the first time in United States history, women from every class and community had the opportunity to demonstrate their patriotism and contribute directly to the war effort. Some witnessed the violence of the war firsthand on the frontlines. Many went to work in jobs they hadn't been able to access before the war, and many others served with community organizations to support the war effort. Some used the opportunity to continue blazing the trail toward universal civil rights and social justice.

**In this exhibit, you'll get to meet several women who represent some of the many ways that Utah women experienced and participated in World War I. They're all very different! They had different personalities and backgrounds, looked different, and were different ages. But what they had in common was that they all had a positive impact on their communities. And so can you!**

Scroll through the exhibit to learn about all women's efforts, or take this personality quiz to find out which one fits you the best!

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# Utah Women in Wartime

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**Take the WW1  
Personality Quiz!**





## Women on the Front Lines

As the nation sent millions of men overseas to fight in the war, many women wanted to serve closer to the action like their husbands, fathers, and brothers. While women volunteers had provided essential services near battlefields since the Revolutionary War, WW1 marked a dramatic increase in the number of women providing official non-combat service on the front lines. It was also the first time that women wore military-issued uniforms, emphasizing their official role in the war effort.





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[click to learn more about...](#)

**Nurses** from Utah who volunteered during World War I

**Maud Fitch**, a WWI ambulance driver

**"Hello Girls,"** women of the Army Signal Corps

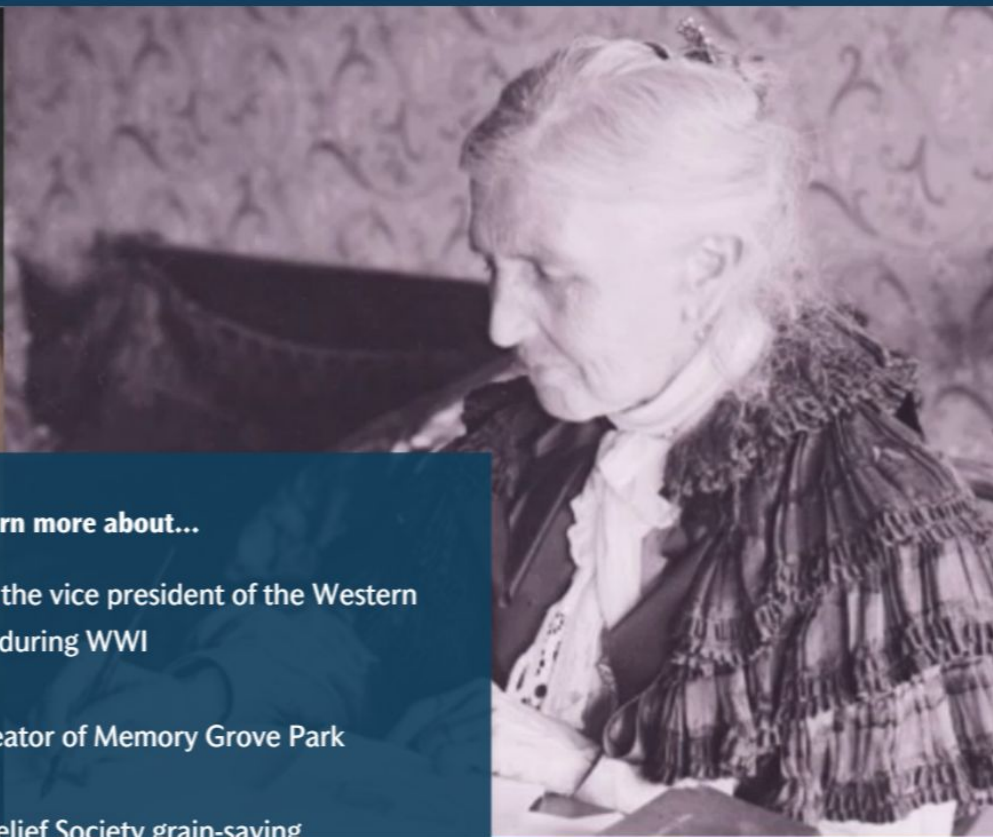
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## Women on the Home Front

The Progressive Era fostered the dramatic expansion of the national women's club movement, as women in all communities mobilized to pursue a wide range of social reform efforts. During World War 1, millions of women on the home front used these organizations to help them more effectively contribute to the war effort. Many of these organizations, like the Young Women's Christian Association and the Latter-day Saint Relief Society, still exist today. Women's organizations arranged liberty bond drives, initiated food conservation programs, hosted social events, and sewed and knitted hospital clothing, socks, and bandages.





click to learn more about...

**Gertrude Stevens Lancaster**, the vice president of the Western Federation of [Black] Women during WWI

**Annie Payne Howard**, the creator of Memory Grove Park

**Emmeline B. Wells** and the Relief Society grain-saving movement. (To learn even more about Emmeline, [Click Here](#))

## Women at Work

Even before WWI, more and more people were moving to cities to work in industrial jobs. The war increased demand for agricultural, industrial, and military production, but there was a shortage of workers because so many men were soldiers. Before this, it had been considered inappropriate for women to work in most jobs outside the home, but the majority of Americans agreed that the war called for some adjustments.



As women entered the workforce, many also became involved in growing union activity. Because they weren't working in their own homes anymore, laborers lobbied the government to pass laws that would protect workers, including women and children. In 1917, Utah passed a law saying that unionizing was legal. Unions are groups of laborers that make sure workers have fair pay and good working conditions.





click to learn more about...

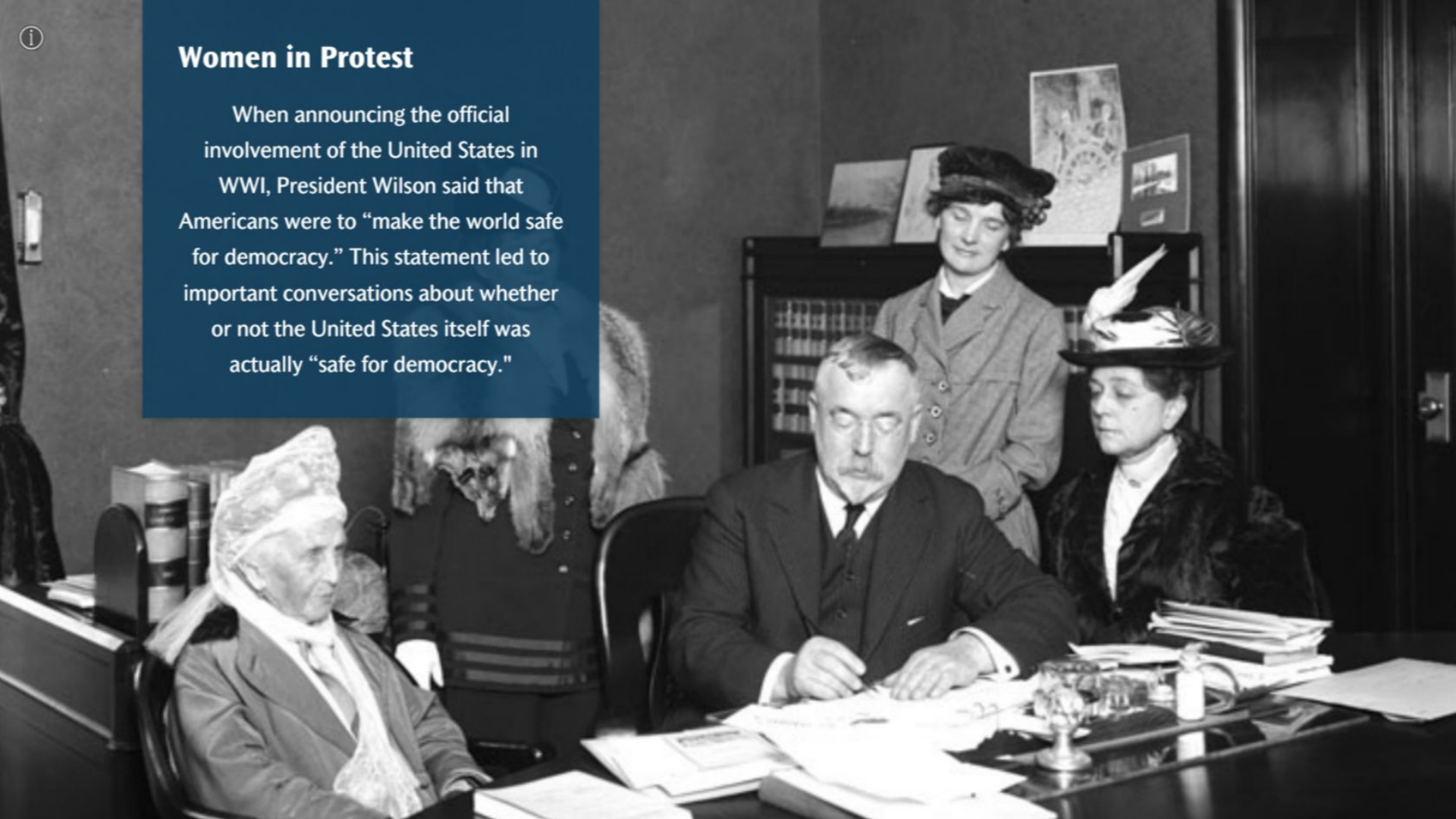
**"Female Yeomen,"** the first women to enlist in the U.S. Navy

**Working women** who labored in wartime industries

**Union women** who participated in labor strikes

## Women in Protest

When announcing the official involvement of the United States in WWI, President Wilson said that Americans were to “make the world safe for democracy.” This statement led to important conversations about whether or not the United States itself was actually “safe for democracy.”





click to learn more about...

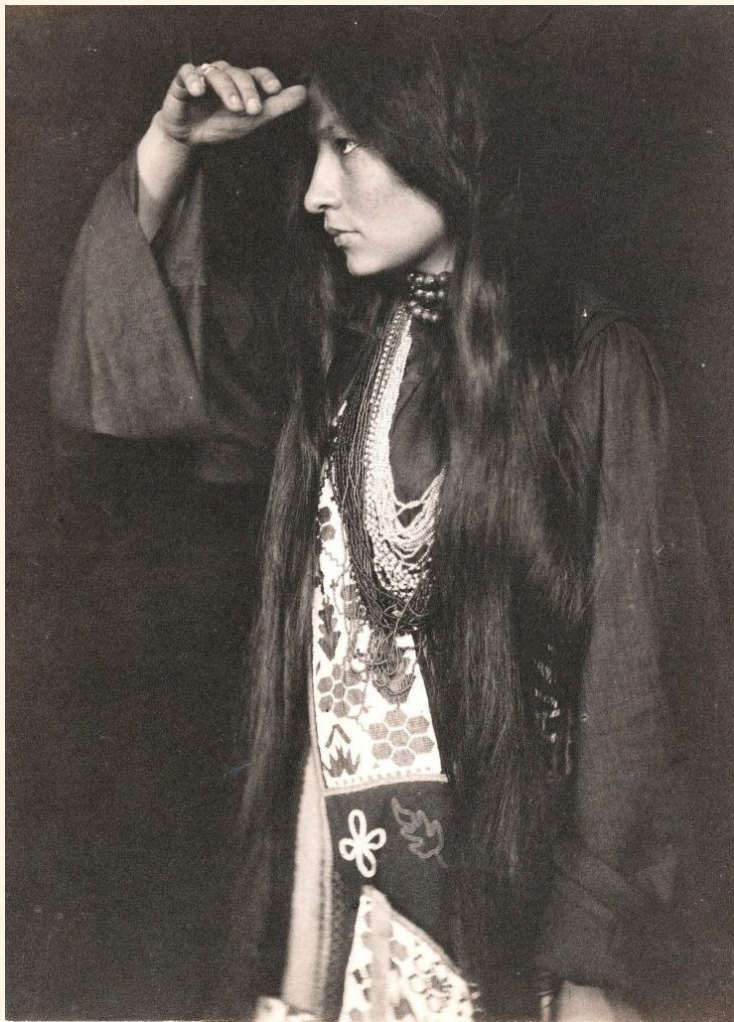
[Women's Peace Party](#) in Utah

[Goshute women](#) who protested the draft

[Utah's "Silent Sentinels,"](#) suffragists protesting the White House

[Zitkala-Šá,](#) a Native civil rights activist





## Zitkála-Šá

- Advocate for Native American civil rights and citizenship
- Lived in Utah for 14 years
- Composed an opera with BYU professor about Native American culture
- Helped secure Indian Citizenship Act of 1924
- Founded and served as president of National Council for American Indians
- Will be featured on upcoming quarter

# Zitkála-Šá - Centennial of Indian Citizenship Act of 1924



# Activity- Design A Quarter

My Quarter Design



BETTER DAYS  
atallwomenofhistory.org



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# *Biographies*

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# Maud Fitch

Maud, a Utah native, volunteered as a WWI ambulance driver, spurred by a longing for adventure. Her service, exemplifying women's courage at the war front, earned her a French medal. Unlike most Utah women, who served as nurses, Maud's driving and repair skills led her to join a group of elite women in New York, destined for France. Initially working at a Red Cross station, she later joined the British women's ambulance group.



Utah Historical Society.

# Maud Fitch

Maud's daily tasks involved ferrying wounded soldiers from front-line aid booths to hospitals, a 40-mile journey. She enjoyed the thrill and did not shy from the challenges she faced. Despite the army officers' condescension, she proved her competence, like other unpaid female drivers. Her dedication and courage was recognized when she was awarded the French Cross after just a month of driving. The citation praised her for her calm and bravery as she got a wounded man out during a heavy bombardment. After 14 months of service, Maud returned to Eureka as a war hero when WWI ended.



Salt Lake Tribune, 1919.

# Hello Girls

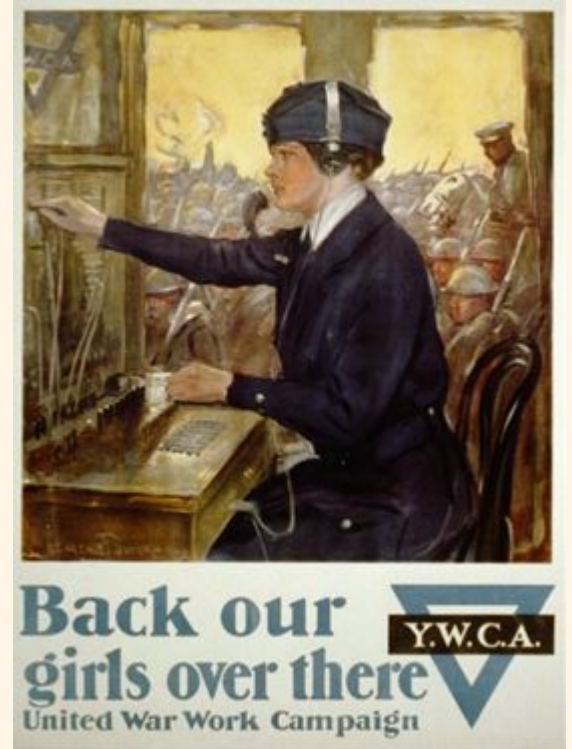
During World War 1, the U.S. Army recruited 223 women, including Utah natives Emelia Lumpert and Mary Marshall, as "Hello Girls." These women, proficient in French and skilled in operating telephones, helped rebuild France's destroyed phone system and facilitated vital communications near war zones.





# Hello Girls

Despite facing dangers like air raids and initial disrespect, they proved invaluable, connecting hundreds of calls an hour, translating messages, using codes, and even training men. Despite their hard work, the U.S. government didn't recognize their service until many years later. Now, people in Utah are advocating for the “Hello Girls” to be honored with the Congressional Medal – an effort that you can join [here](#)!



# The Silent Sentinels

Utah suffragettes Lovern Robertson and Minnie Quay were among the "Silent Sentinels" protesting for women's rights at the White House from 1917 to 1919. Robertson and Quay were among 41 women arrested and sentenced to 30 days in prison for obstructing traffic during their demonstrations. While there, they were subjected to harsh treatment during the infamous "Night of Terror."



The National Woman's Party picketing the White House in 1917. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

# The Silent Sentinels

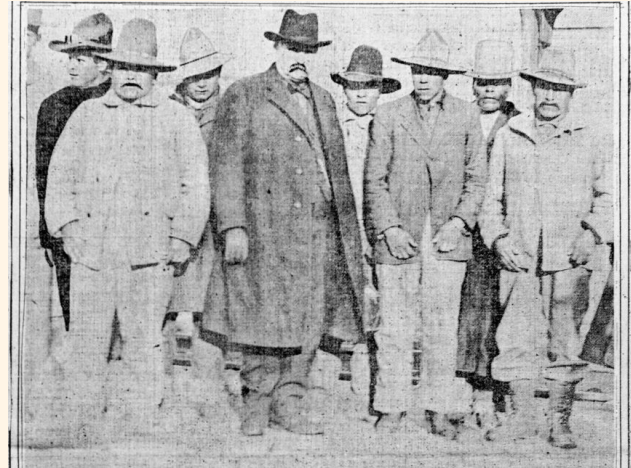
Their conviction to be steadfast and committed to the suffrage cause with nearly 2000 other women fueled public sympathy, influencing President Wilson to support women's suffrage. The suffrage amendment passed in 1920, vindicating their efforts and setting a precedent for future civil disobedience.



Utahn Lovern Robertson (4th from left) stands with her fellow suffragists, The Silent Sentinels, on November 10, 1917. Library of Congress.

# Goshute Women Protesters

Native Americans, previously confined to reservations and denied voting rights, were compelled to register for the draft during WWI, leading to over 10,000 serving in the military. This service was praised as patriotic assimilation. Yet, some Natives saw this as a violation of their freedom and treaty rights, opposing the idea of sacrificing for a government that had oppressed them.



# Goshute Women Protesters

On Utah's Goshute Reservation, numerous men resisted registration, leading to arrests. Goshute women protested these actions and sought to expel white officials enforcing the law. Among the arrested, three registered for the draft, while others agreed to farm for the military in exchange for their release. Today, Native women protest against injustices such as child removal and industrial pollution, contributing to a more equitable society.

SQUAWS ON RAMPAGE IN GOSHUTE RESERVATION  
RESENT THE ARREST OF INDIAN DRAFT DISSENTERS

# Gertrude Stevens Lancaster

Gertrude Stevens, a prominent figure in Salt Lake City's Black community in the early 20th century, contributed significantly to World War I efforts and local community-building initiatives. She participated in the Booker T. Washington War Savings Association, where she helped raise funds for the war by selling government-issued stamps.



# Gertrude Stevens Lancaster

As a leader in the Western Federation of Colored Women, she facilitated the cooperation of local Black women's clubs, with up to 250 women involved in charity work. She was also part of Amity, a segregated Red Cross unit, where women gathered weekly to knit and sew supplies for soldiers and managed their households in ways supportive of the war effort. This included going without certain foods like milk and eggs so they could go to the soldiers instead. This community provided friendship and empowerment for Black women like Gertrude.



# Utah's Female Yeomen

In response to German U-boat threats, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Naval Act of 1916, unintentionally allowing women into the U.S. Navy due to ambiguous language. Interpreting "all persons" as inclusive of women, the Navy Secretary saw an opportunity to free men for combat. Naval districts began recruiting women, marking their first formal inclusion in the U.S. Military. The women would enroll as yeoman second class and be referred to as "female yeoman" or "yeoman (F)." They underwent the same training and received equal pay as men. This historic change saw thousands of women, including five from Utah, join the Navy, primarily in clerical roles.





# Utah's Female Yeomen—Beatrice Viola Timmins and Norma Bessie Long

Two female yeomen from Utah, Beatrice Viola Timmins and Norma Bessie Long, were friends before the war.

Both graduated as qualified stenographers and applied to do similar work for the U.S. Navy. Norma is listed in one Utah newspaper as the first woman in America to ever wear the Navy uniform.

The Navy continued to be part of both women's lives after the war. Viola participated in a celebration of the Armistice on the U.S.S. Wasatch, where she was asked to "christen the ship with a bottle of the strongest liquid obtainable."





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