Women in Cleveland

Morton, Marion

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In 1895 the city fathers of Cleveland formed the Cleveland Centennial Commission and included a separate Women's Department at the urging of Mary Bigelow Ingham. This led to the production of the groundbreaking study of women and the history of Cleveland entitled Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve.

Women in Cleveland: An Illustrated History, a project of the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, continues the work begun in the pioneering 1895 research. Now, however, thanks to modern technology and the rich array of picture sources, it is possible to put the emphasis on representations of the lives of women in Cleveland.

The author and editors have assembled more than 200 pictures, many of them organized in fascinating photo essays on the following topics: Growing Up, Sports and Recreation, Marriage and the Family, Work, Fashion, Clubs and Associations, and Growing Old.

The text covers women’s activities in various phases of Cleveland’s history: the difficult pioneer period of 1796 to 1830; a time of definition, religion, and reform from 1830 to 1865; the role of women in providing social services in the period from 1860 to 1930; women in the work force and professions; women as practitioners and patrons of the arts; the suffragette period; the Depression and World War II; the increased opportunities for women from 1850 to 1980; and the situation of women in Cleveland today.

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