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Book Review: 101 Women Who Shaped South Carolina

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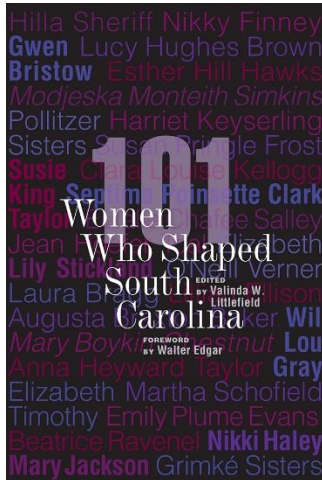
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101 Women Who Shaped South Carolina

Valinda Littlefield

University of South Carolina Press, December 2020, \$19.99

ISBN: 9781643361598



In the history classroom, we often hear the tales of male historical figures and how they shaped our society, and the history of South Carolina is no different. In this refreshing presentation, pulling from many entries of *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*, a history of South Carolina is presented through the brief biographies of the *women* that shaped the state. Women from all walks of life are represented, and several new entries were incorporated in this volume to increase the thoroughness of coverage within. Valinda Littlefield's experience working with publications that focus on women and the American South shines clearly in this neatly presented work that covers the shining achievements of the women of South Carolina.

Organized into six parts, *101 Women Who Shaped South Carolina* presents the female-focused history of the state through the lenses of their work - reformers, organizers, and leaders; writers, novelists, playwrights, and poets; artists, athletes, and entertainers; educators and activists; medical professionals; and legislators, jurists, and political activists. Each of the sections is preceded by a short

introduction, which puts the women featured within into context with one another and provides a concise narrative of the impact women had in the particular featured area.

Entries in each section of *101 Women* are arranged chronologically, telling the story of women's impact on South Carolina in the order events occurred. Details about their parentage, schooling, and life circumstances are blended with accounts about the women's contributions to history. Women are mentioned outside of their own stories where they interact with other notable women, giving a wider picture of networks formed by these historical figures.

101 Women contains fifteen black-and-white illustrations of women featured within its pages, complete with captions that provide context to the historical moment captured. The text is neatly arranged in a way where entries can be distinguished from one another, and a clearly labeled table of contents at the start of the book provides the page on which each individual woman included in the volume can be found. At the conclusion of each entry, the author's by-line and their sources are listed.

While *101 Women* provides only short essays on each individual woman, the volume as a whole provides an exciting entry point for those interested in women's history. The entries found in the book cover a wide range of time and activities, making this an excellent resource for those looking for comprehensive coverage of how women were involved in making the history of South Carolina. *101 Women Who Shaped South Carolina* is suitable for a general readership. This work would find a welcome home in history collections available to both scholars and the public.

Maggie Albro is a Science Librarian at Clemson University Libraries in Clemson, SC. She is passionate about women in STEM and other professional settings, as well as interpersonal relationships in libraries. She spends her free time in her garden or experimenting with new recipes in her kitchen.