



Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962), wife of Franklin Roosevelt, president from 1933-1945, is known for much more than her role as First Lady. Both in private and public life, Mrs. Roosevelt manifested an unequal concern for others. She taught at a school she had set up for poor children, ran a factory for the jobless and was an ardent advocate of equal rights. As First Lady, she was an outspoken representative of the needs of people suffering from the Great Depression and many of her ideas were incorporated into the New Deal social welfare programs. During World War II, she worked at the United Nations to help found UNICEF and draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Later, she was named chairman of the Human Rights Commission and, at age 61, was asked to serve as a delegate to the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

*When you get to the end of your rope—tie a knot in it and hang on.*

**—Eleanor Roosevelt**

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, a professor of early American history at Harvard University, is the author of numerous articles and books, including *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1991. She also assisted in the production of a documentary film based on *A Midwife's Tale* that aired on the PBS series "The American Experience." Her most recent book, *The Age of Homespun: Objects and Stories in the Creation of An American Myth*, explores the production and consumption as well as the social meanings of textiles in pre-industrial New England. Her book entitled *Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History* was published by Knopf Publishing Group in 2007.

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*Well-behaved women seldom make history.*  
—Laurel Thatcher Ulrich





Margaret Mead (1901-1978) was the most famous anthropologist in the world by the time of her death. Indeed, it was through her work that many people learned about anthropology. She was born in Philadelphia in a household of social scientists with roots in the Midwest and earned a doctorate at in anthropology at Columbia, studying with Franz Boas and Ruth Benedict. Mead is best known for her field work in Samoa and New Guinea, which debunked previous notions about "primitive people" and the universality of gender roles and promoted the value of diversity and cross-cultural learning. Along with Benedict, she also pioneered the application of anthropological techniques to the study of contemporary cultures. Mead authored some twenty books and coauthored an equal number. She was much honored in her lifetime, serving as president of major scientific associations, including the American Anthropological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and receiving 28 honorary doctorates. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom following her death in 1978.

*A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

—Margaret Mead

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was an author and part of the New Negro cultural movement that came to be known as the Harlem Renaissance. During her early years in New York Hurston worked as an assistant to writer Fanny Hurst and studied anthropology under the renowned scholar Franz Boas at Barnard College. Her particular interest was in the area of folklore, and her background in Eatonville, the all-black town in Alabama where she grew up, provided her with rich material. Her work has gained in popularity and influence since her death and Alice Walker has said of her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, "There is no book more important to me than this one."



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*There is nothing to make you like other human beings so much as doing things for them.*

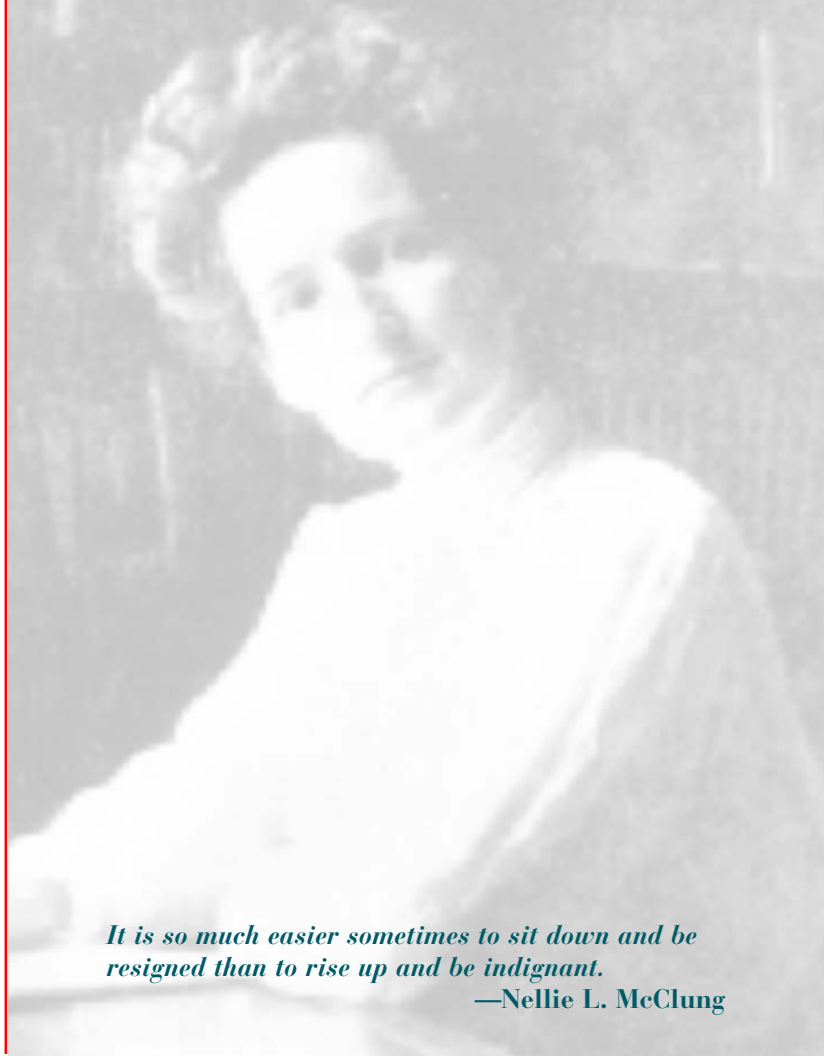
—Zora Neale Hurston



Nellie McClung (1873-1951) was a Canadian feminist, novelist, essayist and political activist. She was one of the founders of the Political Equality League, which fought for women's suffrage, and a tireless speaker for its speakers bureau. In 1915, she wrote *In Times Like These*, a collection of anecdotes and speeches based on the speaking tours she had done for the Political Equality League. She served as a Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly in Alberta in the early twenties, and reached thousands with her syndicated newspaper column, "Nellie McClung Says."



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*It is so much easier sometimes to sit down and be resigned than to rise up and be indignant.*

—Nellie L. McClung

Frances Willard (1839-1898) was an American temperance leader, suffragist, lecturer, writer, and educator. She was president of Evanston College for Ladies and dean of women at Northwestern University. After leaving the university, she helped organize the Chicago Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 1874, and became president of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 1879. In 1891 she was elected president of the World's Women's Suffrage Association and was later elected president of the National Council of Women, largely for her belief in women's right to vote. Willard is remembered among Methodists for her strong stance in favor of women's participation in the church.



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*It is better to wear out than to rust out.*

—Frances E. Willard

