The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union
and its Influence on Prohibition

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Group Website
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Our topic is the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and its role in the passing of the 18th and 21st Amendments and Prohibition. We chose our topic while searching for topics in our school’s library. We were originally going to do something in the 1960’s, because we had done research on it last year for another project. While in the library, Melanie suggested looking into the 1920’s because it was always interesting to the two of us. So, when looking into the era, we asked our teacher if there were any significant leaders in the Prohibition Era. Our teacher, Mrs. Polaschek, suggested the WCTU. We found the idea interesting so we did more research, and ended up choosing that for our project.

We had multiple types of sources, including many primary documents. Since our topic was set in the early 1900’s, there are not many photographs, and there are no videos. We struggled to find primary photographs, until we found all of the documents and handbooks that were sometimes handwritten even. They were great sources, since they were opinions of the women who wrote them. The Library of Congress website was very helpful for finding primary information. Another source that was very interesting was an audio recording. It was a secondary source, but represented how a woman would feel about her life and family at the time, with the powerful feelings in the words.

We chose to create a website because we live in different towns and it allows us to work together and be productive without having to worry about planning to meet in person. We made our website by first choosing pictures that we thought matched the page, and then writing the text. After that we would add our quotes. We placed an audio recording on our front page which relates to our topic well and captures the feeling of the movement. The most frustrating part of our project was trying to get all of the images on our page and then getting them to be the right
size. The images were not cooperating with us, and this made it hard to create the website.

Our topic relates to “Leadership and Legacy” because the women in the WCTU were leaders and chose to do what they thought was right, therefore taking the leadership in enforcing Prohibition. Since they were contributors in the 18th Amendment, the women promoted a legacy of not drinking for that time. The Amendment was repealed, so it did not have a long term legacy or impact, but still had a great effect on American History.


**Annotated Bibliography**

**Primary Sources:**

**Books:**


This was used to learn what the women had to go through to get into the Union, and what they had to do to stay in it.

**Documents:**


In this document, there is a correspondence between Frances Willard and Clara Barton (the founder of the Red Cross). It helped us know the thoughts and opinions of the two women during the time.


The document was used to learn how the president addressed the public. We also used this to learn what the Union thought about their group’s beliefs.


In this document, it showed an excerpt from a conference, about “The Do-Everything Policy” that they would talk about. This helped us with figuring out some background and figuring out the WCTU’s methods.

**Newspaper Articles:**

This article gave us the information about the union and what other people thought of them as well. It is a good primary source for our project.

**Photographs:**

<www.prohibitioninthe20s.weebly.com>.

This was used as an image on our page about the 21st Amendment.


The picture depicted Frances E. Willard. This image was used on our Important People page, because she was one of the most well-known women the Union.


We used this picture on our page about people important to Prohibition. The Anti-Saloon League worked alongside the WCTU to enforce the 18th Amendment.


This shows a sign that the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union had given to the members.


In this drawing we can see the propaganda that the WCTU used to persuade people to vote for Prohibition.


This was used as a picture on our page about the U.S.'s drinking problem. We thought this accurately depicted what the alcohol looked like back then.

We used this to show the emotions of the people when the 21st Amendment was official.


In the photograph, it showed two women holding up protest signs. This helped us know what types of protests these women did.


The photograph, shows how the union helped the people around them, by feeding them. It shows how caring they were toward the needy.


The source showed many pictures from the 1920’s and was helpful for representational images on our website


This image showed a few of the WCTU members from 1922. This let us understand more of what these women were like.


The picture shows a basin-monument that the WCTU created in honor of Frances Willard. It helped us to see a primary source for our project.

This is the Union’s logo. We used it to represent the Union and its work.

**Websites:**


This website, although not primary itself, gave us some links to brochures and articles by the WCTU. They helped us with figuring out opinions from the Union and how they thought things were.

**Secondary Sources:**

**Audio Recordings:**


The song showed how the typical woman would feel with her husband and family. It helped us explain the thoughts and feelings of the WCTU.

**Books:**


The book showed us everything about the 20’s related to Prohibition and the 18th Amendment. It really helped us with our information about the time and impacts.


Reading this gave us a basic outline of the 1920’s and Prohibition. It taught us important dates and people to Prohibition. It helped us learn about how Prohibition and the Volstead Act came to be.


We used the textbook to get a few small details to understand the Union better.

**Documents:**

In the document there was great basic information, along with some primary source documents, quotes, and speeches. This helped us with making our website more presentable.


Seeing the document let us know about the people in the union or dealing with it and what they did. It helped us with some background on the leaders and founders and the causes and effects of Prohibition.

Online Encyclopedias:


With information on this encyclopedia website, we found the definition and most important things about our topic. It helped with the impact and main message of our project.


This encyclopedia gave us some information on the formation of the union and some background before Prohibition. This gave us some information to lead up to the main idea.


We learned from this source about the purpose of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and what they brought to the United States, along with what they worked toward.

Quotes:

Eigen—Arnett Educational & Cultural Foundation Inc. "Eigen's Political & Historical Quotations." Anti Saloon League- Quote About 18th Amendment. Eigen—Arnett
This is a powerful quote that helped us represent not only the Anti-Saloon League, but the rest of the Anti-Prohibition parties.

Videos:


The video showed a man explaining the problems and solutions of Prohibition. It helped us with understanding what was going on, but in current terms.


This gave us some great quotes. It also gave us information on the two women, Frances E. Willard, and Mary Hanchett Hunt, and what they did to make alcohol illegal.

Websites:


We learned what different parts contributed to Prohibition becoming a law. The article helped us understand how many people went into the making of the 18th Amendment.


We used this article to show the whole timeline of events. It showed about how Prohibition happened and how that had an impact on the people.


In this website, there is the whole constitution, and the outline of all of the amendments. This helped us with our sections dealing with the 18th and 21st Amendments.

This taught us about why drinking was such a large problem in the 1800’s.


The website shared information mainly on Oklahoma. Even though that’s not the main point we are focusing on, it gave us some small information on how the state was for and against Prohibition at different times.


The website gave us the poll that told us on average how much an American drinks alcohol per week.


We used this site to give us information about Carry Nation, who was one of the women in the WCTU and who we wrote about.


This section showed us the basic information about the WCTU. It helped us with our thesis and the heart of the story.


In this site there was background information on the Amendments dealing with Prohibition along with the government thoughts. It gave us some informative videos on Prohibition and the groups joining the WCTU.


This taught us about the leadership of the WCTU. It also gave a basic timeline of the Union's movement.

The source gave us information about another group like the WCTU that worked toward the same things. It helped us with getting opinions from other people.


Reading this made us aware of how different causes like woman suffrage also worked in hand with working towards Prohibition. It helped us with our main focus and the impact it had on the people.


These quotes by Carry Nation were helpful because they gave us some primary information to put on the website. It also gave us some information about her personality.


This source gave us a great description of what the women did. They also had some very representational pictures that were very helpful.


The article on the website helped us understand how the WCTU came to be and what it did over the years.


We found out through this website, more about the effect of the WCTU’s work. This helped us with our impact on the topic.


In this article, we found more information about the Anti-Saloon League. It helped us with the information about the people involved in Prohibition.

The website gave a basic outline of the 18th Amendment. It also gave a brief biography of Andrew Volstead.


We used this to learn more about the Anti-Saloon League; a group who also worked to ban alcohol from the United States of America.


These quotes helped us envision what Frances Willard would say in specific situations. It helped us give some information on the tone of Willard’s speeches.


This helped us understand the beliefs of the WCTU from the perspective of the WCTU. It gave us good insight to the Union.