



Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality

By Andrea Moore Kerr

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No study of women's history in the United States is complete without an account of Lucy Stone's role in the nineteenth-century drive for legal and political rights for women. This first fully documented biography of Stone describes her rapid rise to fame and power and her later attempt at an equitable marriage.

Lucy Stone was a Massachusetts newspaper editor, abolitionist, and charismatic orator for the women's rights movement in the last half of the nineteenth century. She was deeply involved in almost every reform issue of her time. Charles Sumner, Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Julia Ward Howe, Horace Greeley, and Louisa May Alcott counted themselves among her friends. Through her public speaking and her newspaper, the *Woman's Journal*, Stone became the most widely admired woman's rights spokeswoman of her era. In the nineteenth century, Lucy Stone was a household name.

Kerr begins with Stone's early roots in a poor family in western Massachusetts. She eventually graduated from Oberlin College and then became a full-time public speaker for an anti-slavery society and for women's rights. Despite Stone's strident anti-marriage ideology, she eventually wed Henry Brown Blackwell, and had her first child at the age of thirty-nine.

Although Kerr tells us about Stone's public accomplishments, she emphasizes Stone's personal struggle for autonomy. "Lucy Stone (Only)" was Stone's trademark signature following her marriage. Her refusal to surrender her birth name was one example of her determination to retain her individuality in an era where a woman's right to a separate identity ended with marriage.

Of equal importance is Kerr's discussion of Stone's relationship with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as well as her revisionist treatment of the schism which eventually divided Stone from Stanton and Anthony. Stone urged legislators not to ignore the need for women's suffrage as they rushed to enfranchise black males. Stanton and Anthony dwelt only on the need for

women's suffrage, at the expense of black suffrage.

Women's historians, the general reader, and historians of the family will appreciate the story of Stone's attempt to balance the conflicting demands of career and family.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Stone, a dedicated, pioneering 19th-century suffragist, is zealously championed in this biography, which seeks to bring her out from the shadow cast by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. After working her way through Oberlin College, then a "hotbed of abolitionism," Stone became a paid lecturer for an anti-slavery society, sometimes addressing as many as two thousand people. Soon her interests--and her speeches--shifted to women's suffrage. She continued to tour (and kept her surname) after her marriage to Henry Browne Blackwell. Although Blackwell, as depicted here, was an annoying and financially incompetent man with a dash of charm, Stone was devoted to him and wanted him to stay out of the Civil War "at any price." But feminists became divided among themselves. When women's interest in obtaining the vote flagged in the 1870s, Stone blamed Stanton and Anthony; she found Stanton brilliant, but "disingenuous and damaging," while Anthony's dislike of Stone became almost "an obsession." Although this study lacks narrative fluidity, historian Kerr offers readers much to ponder regarding Stone's place in women's history. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Kerr, who holds a Ph.D. in American Studies, has written an excellent biography and the first scholarly treatment of Stone, one of the first female public speakers and advocates for abolition and women's rights. Alice S. Blackwell's biography of her mother is out of print, and Elinor Hays's *Morning Star* (Hippocrene, 1978, reprint of 1961 ed.) is aimed at a popular audience. Kerr utilized manuscript collections, including the Blackwell family papers; printed primary sources; and secondary sources to create a compelling story. She sensitively treats Stone's marriage and the compromises it forced on her. Her analysis, from Stone's point of view, of the split in the women's movement is particularly interesting. Highly recommended for all academic and large public libraries.

- *Sharon Firestone, Coll. of Law Lib. , Arizona State Univ. Tempe*

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Review

"A superb contribution to nineteenth-century cultural studies and to women's history... This biography resurrects a leading women's rights activist." -- *Carolyn Karcher, Temple University*

"An invaluable narrative; for those interested in the Gilded Age suffrage movement, it illuminates the fissures that riddled the fin-de-siecle women's movement in new ways..." -- *American Historical Review*

"Her analysis, from Stone's point of view, of the split in the women's movement is particularly interesting. Highly recommended for all academic and large public libraries." -- *Sharon Firestone, College of Law Lib., Arizona State Univ. Temp*

"Lucy Stone has not deserved the degree of historical anonymity that has befallen her. Kerr's lively biography will help reestablish Stone..." -- *From D. Yacovone, Choice*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawn Macdonald:

This Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality without we know teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Carolina Jones:

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Jeffery Whitley:

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Edward Davidson:

Why? Because this Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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