

Women in transatlantic history have made substantial contributions to society over the centuries. Other women like Jennie Jerome, Marie Leiter, Mary Endicott, and Consuelo Vanderbilt utilized their social standing to influence others in positions of power to prevent wars from breaking out, while others like Margaret Fuller use their profession and knowledge to travel throughout Europe as reporters to emphasize the importance of an Italian revolution across the Atlantic. Likewise, there were also the British war brides who emigrated to the United States to begin new lives and create friendly relationships between Americans and the British. Finally, throughout the 1940s during the Cold War, women in power former Prime minister Margaret Thatcher who wanted help from the United States to convince the United Nations to add sanctions on the Soviet Union in order to cripple their economy.

During the nineteenth century, American women impacted society by marrying male aristocrats in Europe, specifically England. American women Jennie Jerome, Marie Leiter, Mary Endicott, and Consuelo Vanderbilt all traveled to England and married British aristocracy.¹ When they got married, their union was referred to as an Anglo-American marriage. One of the most known women of the group was Jennie Jerome. She was the daughter of a successful American financier and a socially ambitious mother who took her daughters from America to England so that her daughters could have a better life. Jennie married Lord Randolph Churchill in 1874 and became Lady Jennie Churchill. Both of their parents were disappointed with their marriage.²

¹ Cooper, *Country by Birth, Country by Marriage: American Women's Transnational War Efforts in Great Britain, 1895-1918*, (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Republic of Letters Publishing BV, 2010), 38.

² Cooper, *Country by Birth, Country by Marriage*: 38.

One year later, in 1895, the Venezuelan boundary dispute occurred, and the United States wanted Great Britain to arbitrate.³ The British argued back, which almost caused an all-out war to occur. Lady Jennie Churchill, the original leader of the Anglo-American marriages, felt patriotic towards both her birth country and her new country so she devised a plan to prevent the pro-war propaganda efforts. She created a series of secret dinner parties and invited both political American & British political leaders, as well as influential newspaper editors, and convinced them that the pro-war propagandist was creating false pro-war rumors.⁴ Lady Jennie, as a U.S. citizen married to Lord Churchill, felt compelled to take action to prevent war. To assist in her efforts, she had American women assist her at her parties. Although she attempted to keep them a secret, the press eventually got wind of these dinner parties. The *Boston Post* even called her “America's Best Ambassador.”⁵ In the end, she was able to persuade both sides, preventing the conflict from taking place.⁶

Another example of a woman impacting history is Margaret Fuller. Margaret Fuller Ossoli was born in 1810 in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, into a middle-class family. She was an author, feminist, and Transcendentalist. Surprisingly, she was given a male education by her father.⁷ One of her famous books is “*Woman in the Nineteenth Century*”.⁸ (1845) Which was a mature amalgamation of political, intellectual, economic, and sexual aspects of feminism. She bore a son in April of 1848 and traveled back to the United States in 1850. On her way back, she died in a shipwreck off Fire Island, which is located near New York.

³ Cooper, *Country by Birth, Country by Marriage*: 40.

⁴ Cooper, *Country by Birth, Country by Marriage*: 41.

⁵ Cooper, *Country by Birth, Country by Marriage*: 41.

⁶ Cooper, *Country by Birth, Country by Marriage*: 42.

⁷ Cooper, *Country by Birth, Country by Marriage*: 42. (Check)

⁸ Mary, Schriber, S., “*Caroline Kirkland*” Northern Illinois University Press, 1995, 99.

During her lifetime, she sailed all over Europe. Leaving from England on August 1, 1846, later that year, in November, she traveled to France, and a year later, she traveled to Rome in April 1847, where she became an active member of the revolutionary movement there.⁹ When Fuller arrived in Rome in April 1847, she was the first woman journalist for the American newspaper *The New York Tribune*. Fuller was tasked to inform Americans about the revolutionary fervor that was burning throughout the Tyrrhenian Sea area.¹⁰ When she arrived in Rome, she commented on the Papal States' politics. Pope Pius IX's election and the changes he instituted. She became a volunteer coordinator at a Fatebenefratelli Hospital, which allowed her to become an informant for the US, and she reported events of the 1848 revolutions, also known as "Spring of Nations."¹¹ Their goal was to dethrone the monarchy and institute a new liberal government.

The Italian revolutionary movement made Fuller understand that the hardships of the Italians mirrored those of American slaves and women in the United States.¹² Fuller contributed to the revolution by increasing awareness in the United States about the need for an American presence in the Italian Revolution to establish a liberal administration in Rome.¹³ Her journalistic contribution brought awareness to Americans at home due to her letters that she wrote back to the *New York Tribune*. Years after her death, her writings and efforts created a safe environment

⁹ Schriber, "Caroline Kirkland," 99.

¹⁰ Serena, Mocci, "An American in Rome During the Risorgimento: Reforms and Manifest Destiny in Margaret Fuller's Dispatches from Rome (1847-1849)" 35.

¹¹ Mocci, "An American in Rome During the Risorgimento," 36.

¹² Mocci, "An American in Rome During the Risorgimento," 38.

¹³ Mocci, "An American in Rome During the Risorgimento," 39.

for women to continue their job of bringing about change in the world. Also sparked new perspectives on the ideal concepts of liberty and equality that America represents.¹⁴

Similarly, over half a century ago, the British war brides was a trend during the 1940s when young British women that emigrated to the United States and began their new lives with their American husbands.¹⁵ British war brides were taught American societal rules in Red Cross clubs in Britain. One of the most well-known Red Cross clubs was located in London at Rainbow Corner. These sites were known for being one of the first war bride classes in the country. The American Red Cross established these classes for British war brides to have a better grasp of American women's culture. Furthermore, orientations focused on topics such as current women's fashion that could help the war brides better assimilate to American life.¹⁶

One of the most significant culture shocks for Britons who married and moved to the United States was afternoon teatime. Afternoon teatimes were a tradition not a common occurrence in America. In some areas in the U.S, there was a lot of prejudice towards Brits. The First Lady, Mrs. Roosevelt herself, warned the war brides that to be ready for America, they must face this prejudice head-on by having a valid answer to give if someone were to question their afternoon teatime. Unfortunately, not all women who wanted to become Britain's war brides could attend the clubs in Britain. Fortunately, there were similar orientations that were offered in bride ship boats that were headed to America.¹⁷ These ships were sponsored by both the American Red Cross and the U.S Army. Similar to the Red Cross clubs in Britain, these ships would also teach women a variety of issues including how the American political system

¹⁴ Mocci, "An American in Rome During the Risorgimento," 41.

¹⁵ Janel Virden. *Transitions in Good-bye Piccadilly: British War Brides in America*. (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1996): 107.

¹⁶ Virden, *Transitions in Good-bye Piccadilly*: 108.

¹⁷ Virden, *Transitions in Good-bye Piccadilly*: 109.

functioned, as information on the sorts of meals these women would experience, which would vary based on where they lived in the United States.

One of the most challenging problems for war brides was the perceptions they had about America. Some British war brides, for example, June Parter, imagined their lives would be those shown in Hollywood films.¹⁸ For others, fiction books *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell and *The Virginian* by Owen Wister described America as a contemporary cattle country.¹⁹ These books, while popular readings on the ships, gave a false impression of America. To have a better illustration of modern 1940s America, the ships began to give out non-fiction books: *The American Culture* by Margaret Mead, and *How America Lives* by J.C. Furnas.

When British war brides arrived in America, most received a warm welcome from their new in-laws, as well as from their neighbors.²⁰ Some had already contacted their new family by mail and were familiar with them. In one case, British war bride Margaret Wharton was in by a local newspaper when she arrived at her new home, as well as greeted by her new family and friends to welcome her home. Similar to the British war brides during World War II, back in England during the height of the Cold War, Margaret Thatcher was prime minister of the United Kingdom between 1979 to 1990. She was also in office when U.S president Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan visited Windsor Castle.²¹ Reagan visiting Windsor Castle marked a momentous occasion for President Reagan's career, but for Prime Minister Thatcher, it meant a chance to reinforce the already strong relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States. Furthermore, Thatcher sought U.S help in finally ending the Cold War with the Soviet

¹⁸ Virden, *Transitions in Good-bye Piccadilly*: 107.

¹⁹ Virden, *Transitions in Good-bye Piccadilly*: 110.

²⁰ Virden, *Transitions in Good-bye Piccadilly*: 114.

²¹ Nicholas. Wapshott. *Cold Warriors, in Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. A Political Marriage*. (New York: Sentinel: 2007): 186.

Union. Thatcher wanted to end the war because she believed it was dragging on too long and needed to end soon.²² Furthermore, Thatcher sought U.S help in finally ending the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Thatcher wanted to end the war because she believed it was dragging on too long and needed to end soon. With the support of one of the world's most powerful superpowers, Thatcher was able to make a speech against the Soviet Union to the United Nations.²³ One of the key points was adding more sanctions to further cripple their economy.

In conclusion, women in transatlantic history have repeatedly made an impact to society in meaningful ways over the centuries. Jennie Jerome used her influence to host secret dinner parties to prevent the Venezuelan boundary crisis from creating another war between the U.S and England. Correspondingly, Margaret Fuller who grew up with a male education during the nineteenth century who highlighted the Italian revolution to the American audience to help promote and spread American ideals by joining the Italian revolution. Then there were the British war brides during World War II, when British women emigrated to the United States to begin new lives and created a stronger tie between the U.S and Britain. And finally, there was the former Prime minister Margaret Thatcher who developed a friendly relationship with America during the late stages of the Cold War and wanted to end the war by convincing the United Nations by adding sanctions to affect the Soviet economy and causing it to cripple and dissolve.

²² Wapshott, *Cold Warriors*, in *Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher*, 192.

²³ Wapshott, *Cold Warriors*, 193.

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