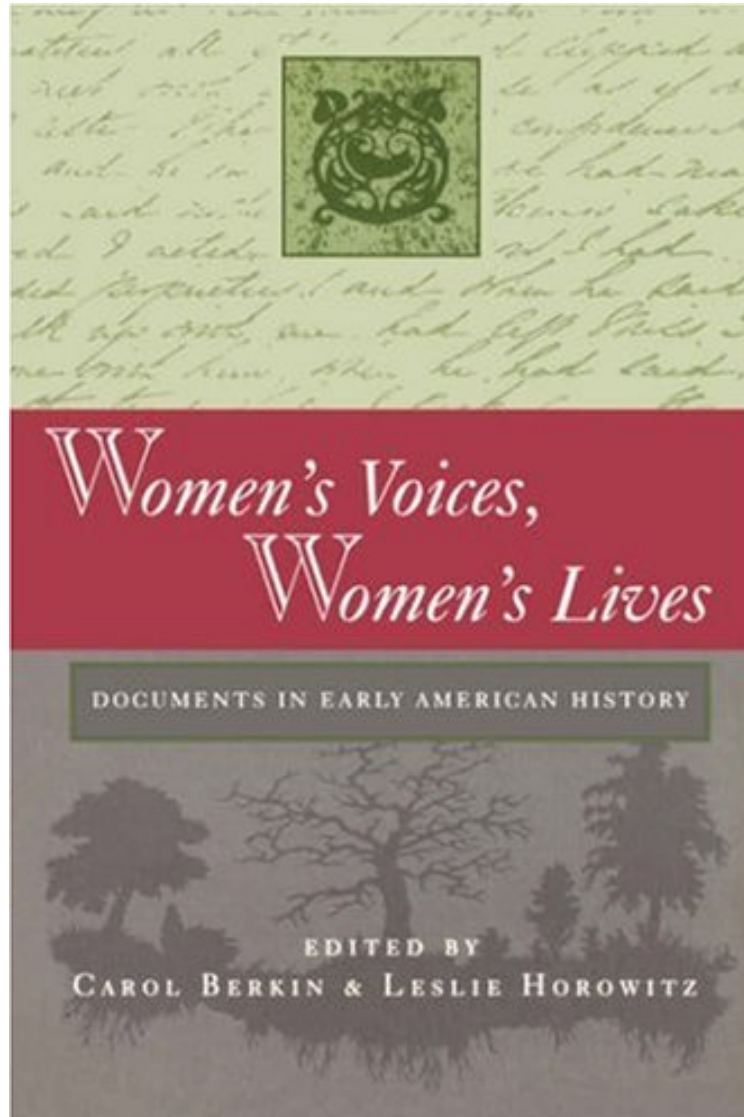


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Women's Voices, Women's Lives: Documents in Early American History

From Brand: Northeastern

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From Brand: Northeastern : Women's Voices, Women's Lives: Documents in Early American History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women's Voices, Women's Lives: Documents in Early American History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Synopsis and ReviewBy Nick and LaurenSynopsis: This book offers a wealth of primary sources on women's experiences in colonial American. Carol Berkin and Leslie Horowitz gather

together a broad spectrum of documents that crosscuts race, class, and region, presenting the voices of African American, European, and Native American women, the rich and the poor, and the women in the south, the middle colonies and New England. (from the back of the book) Review: This book appeared in the bibliography of every single book I've read on women in colonial America. I figured, I should read it. I'm glad I did. Organized by subjects, each chapter each chapter begins with a short exposition of the subject and the general overview. It's followed by reprints of a variety of documents, each with a short explanation. This makes it easy to understand what you are reading, as colonial English can be a bit challenging to the modern reader. I enjoyed Berkin and Horowitz opinions, and the way they attempted to include everyone, not just the white elite. They were honest about the lack of documents from Native American and Negro sources, doing their best to include what they had. I recommend this book as a good starting point for study about colonial females.

The editors draw on diaries, letters, essays, court documents, sermons, wills, plantation records, newspapers, fiction, and advice manuals to reconstruct women's lives and roles during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In addition to sources that convey women's experiences in their own words, the work includes prescriptive and proscriptive materials, most written by men, to further illuminate women's behavior and attitudes. The book is divided into six thematic chapters: sex and reproduction, marriage and family, women's work, religion, politics and the law, and changing gender ideologies. Introductory essays by the editors place each section within historical, cultural, and social context, and each source is annotated with information about the document's author and insightful interpretation of its typicality or its special circumstances. This enriching collection fills a major gap in the study of early American women, and it is sure to stimulate further discussions about both the common and diverse aspects of their lives.