



Dramaturgical Presentation

Haley Willits and Amanda Grissom

Susan Glaspell Biography

- 1876-1948 (*Life and Times* 4, 396).
 - Davenport, Iowa
 - Poor area near river (*Life and Times* 17).
- 1899 Drake University, Des Moines (*Life and Times* 35).
- 1902 University of Chicago (*Life and Times* 56).
- 1913 Greenwich Village (*Life and Times* 40).
- 1913 Married George “Jig” Cram Cook (*Life and Times* 63).
- 1914 Miscarriage and subsequent inability to have children (Noe 36)



Provincetown Players

- Founded 1916 (*Essays* 334).
- Created to sustain American unknown playwrights (Bryer et. al. 158).
 - “But it is not unlikely that the historians of American drama will point in 1975 to a curious period in the quaint America of 1916 when something ‘native’ began to stir in people, when all over the country native plays began to be written, began to be played, began to be published—something that had never happened before in this young country” (Bryer et. al. 160).
- Strict regulations for accepting plays (Bryer et. al. 29-30).
- Jig pushed Susan to write *Trifles* (*Life and Times* 172).
- Eugene O’Neill and the Millay sisters (*Life and Times* 172).



1916-1918

- “Trifles” premiers April 25th, 1916
- “Woman’s Honor” premiers April 26th, 1918
 - *Pieces of Glaspell* is the 101st anniversary and the 99th
- World War I
 - Amusement meant not supporting the war effort (Kennedy 88)
 - Closure of other playhouses
 - Armistice signed on November 11th, 1918



Gender Expectations of the Time

- Marriage (Matthews)
- Female jobs (Onion)
 - Clerks
 - Bookkeepers
 - Stenographers
 - Laundresses
 - Waitresses
 - Teachers
 - Nurses
 - Farmwives
- 19th amendment is ratified on August 18th, 1920 (19th ...(1920).”



“Trifles”

- Hossack Case

- Glaspell filed 23 stories on this case (*Life and Times* 42).
- Mother of 9 murders husband (*Life and Times* 41).
- Mrs. Margaret Hossack arrested at the funeral (*Life and Times* 42).
- Glaspell visited the Hossack farm (*Life and Times* 43).

- Nebraska

- https://www4.uwm.edu/FLL/linguistics/dialect/staticmaps/state_NE.html

- Possible autobiographical connections

- Evidence of difficult marriage to Jig
- Miscarriage/no children



“Trifles” Glossary

- “Queer” (*Trifles* 980): “Strange, odd, peculiar, eccentric” (“Queer” *OED*).
- “Red-up” (*Trifles* 984): “An act of clearing away or tidying up” (“Redd-up” *OED*).
- “Fur tippet” (*Trifles* 985): “A garment, usually of fur or wool, covering the shoulders, or the neck and shoulders” (“Tippet” *OED*).



Quilting and Sewing

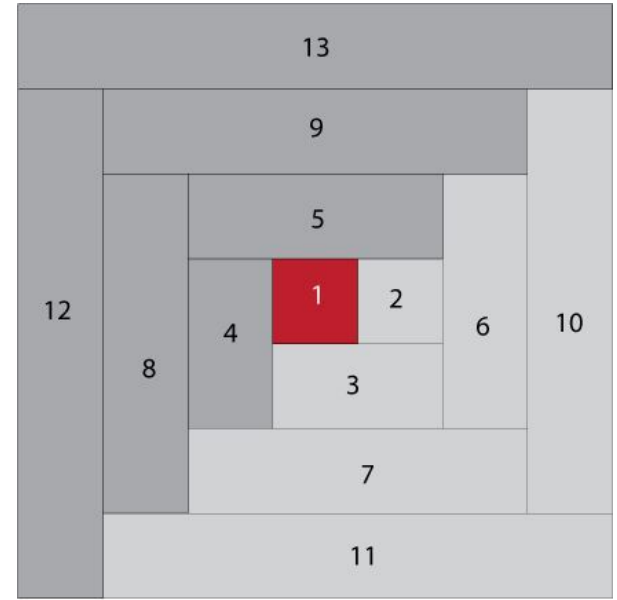
- Log Cabin Pattern
- Quilting vs. Knotting



<http://www2.fiskars.com/Ideas-and-How-Tos/Crafting-and-Sewing/Quilting/Log-Cabin-Quilt>



https://www.connectingthreads.com/tutorials/How_to_Tie_a_Quilt_Tutorial_D7.html



<https://www.thespruce.com/easy-log-cabin-quilt-block-pattern-2820934>

“Woman’s Honor”

- Legal process
 - Similar to today
- Prison clothes
 - Normal clothes
- Mug shots



<https://reuther.wayne.edu/node/13668>

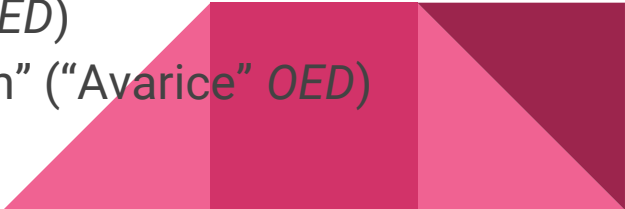


<http://mashable.com/2015/06/09/old-mug-shots/#ZHATGxD995q7>

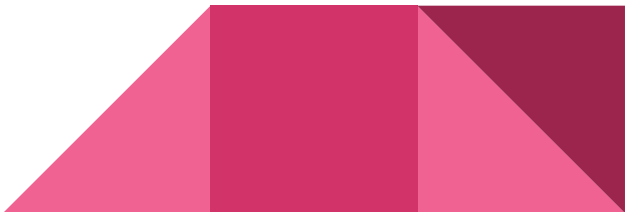
First Performed by the Provincetown Players,
April 26, 1918

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| MR. FOSTER, <i>The Lawyer</i> | . . . | JUSTUS SHEFFIELD |
| GORDON WALLACE, <i>The Prisoner</i> | . . . | CLARK BRANYON |
| BOY | | MURRAY COOPER |
| The SHIELDED ONE | } The Women { | MARJORY LACEY |
| The MOTHERLY ONE | | DOROTHY UPJOHN |
| The SCORNFUL ONE | | IDA RAUH |
| The SILLY ONE | | NORMA MILLAY |
| The MERCENARY ONE | | ALICE MACDOUGAL |
| The CHEATED ONE | | SUSAN GASPELL |

“Woman’s Honor” Glossary

- “Quaint” (*Woman’s Honor* 121): “Attractively or agreeably unusual in character or appearance” (“Quaint” *OED*)
 - “Languishes” (*Woman’s Honor* 123): “To live in an oppressive or dispiriting place, situation, or condition” (“Languishes” *OED*)
 - “Mufflers” (*Woman’s Honor* 130): “A wrap or scarf (frequently of wool or silk) worn round the neck or throat for warmth” (“Muffler” *OED*)
 - “Approbation” (*Woman’s Honor* 135): “The action of expressing oneself pleased or satisfied with anything; or the mere feeling of such satisfaction; approval expressed or entertained” (“Approbation” *OED*)
 - “Avarice” (*Woman’s Honor* 139): “[G]reediness of gain” (“Avarice” *OED*)
- 

“Woman’s Honor” Glossary cont.

- “Diffident” (*Woman’s Honor* 139): “[S]hy; modest, self-deprecating” (“Diffident” *OED*)
 - “Dope out” (*Woman’s Honor* 141): “[F]ind out, discover; to get the truth about” (“Dope out” *OED*)
 - “Sordid” (*Woman’s Honor* 142): “Corrupt, foul, repulsive” (“Sordid” *OED*)
 - “Desecrating” (*Woman’s Honor* 142): “[D]eprives of sacredness” (“Desecrating” *OED*)
 - “Stenographer” (*Woman’s Honor* 143): “A shorthand writer [or] typist” (“Stenographer” *OED*)
- 

Dramaturgical Display - Lobby

- “Trifles”
 - Mrs. Wright
 - Sewing, humming, fear of Mr. Wright.
 - Needs: fabric scraps, costume, head covering, needle and thread, rocking chair
 - Information sewn onto fabric walls
 - Cross stitch. Simple fabric.
 - Needs: fabric scraps, needle and thread.
- “Woman’s Honor”
 - “Newspaper clippings” posted information
 - Newsboy halfway through intermission
 - Newspapers for audience members
 - Needs: newsboy costume, newspapers.



Plate 7 [*bottom*]. Susan Glaspell, circa 1913, in front of her fireplace. Courtesy of the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

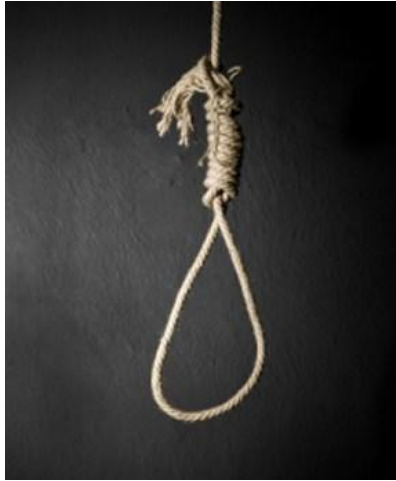


Plate 6 [*right*]. A sketch from life of Mrs. Hossack at her preliminary trial. Drawing by G. A. Proctor.



Dramaturgical Display - Windows

- Big window for “Woman’s Honor”
 - (<http://deathpenaltyusa.org/usa1/date/1918.htm>)
- Small window for show poster



Works Cited

“19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women’s Right to Vote (1920).”

OurDocuments. National History Day, The National Archives and Records Administration, and USA Freedom Corps. Web. 11 September 2016.

Ben-Zvi Linda, editor. *Susan Glaspell: Essays on Her Theater and Fiction*. University of Michigan Press, 1995.

---. *Susan Glaspell: Her Life and Times*. Oxford University Press, 2005.



Works Cited cont.

Bryer, Jackson R., Travis Bogard, Edna Kenton, and Bernadette Smyth. "The Provincetown Players and The Playwrights' Theatre." *The Eugene O'Neill Review*, vol. 21, no. ½, 1997, pp. 4-160. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/29784595.

Glaspell, Susan. "Woman's Honor." *McFarland & Company*, edited by Linda Ben-Zvi, J. Ellen Gainor, 2010.



Works Cited cont.

Glaspell, Susan. "Trifles." *A Pocketful of Plays*, edited by David Madden, Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.

Kennedy, Jeff. "Experiment on Macdougall Street: The Provincetown Players' 1918-1919 Season." *The Eugene O'Neill Review*, vol. 32, 2010, pp. 86-123. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/29784901.

Onion, Rebecca. "Vintage Infographics: Where Women Worked in 1920." *Slate*, 11 March 2013, www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2013/03/11/women_workers

Works Cited cont.

Oxford University Press. *Oxford English Dictionary*. 2017, <http://www.oed.com/>

Matthews, Rachel Leagh. "Women's Roles in 1912." *A Look Thru Time*, 1 June 2013, www.alookthrutime.com/womens-roles-in-1912/

Noe, Marcia. *Susan Glaspell Voice from the Heartland*. Western Illinois University, 1983.



Thank you!



Questions?

