

Fannie Fern Phillips Andrews

1867–1950



WHY SHE MADE HISTORY Fannie Fern Phillips Andrews supported peace and educational reform. She promoted education as a means of achieving international peace.



As you read the biography below, think about how Fannie Fern Phillips Andrews promoted peace. What role does education play in achieving peace?



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Following World War I, President Woodrow Wilson wanted to ensure peace. He believed that without certain measures war would certainly happen again. Fannie Fern Phillips Andrews was a pacifist and educational reformer with similar views. She dedicated much of her life to achieving peace in the United States and abroad.

Fannie Fern Phillips was born in Margaretville, Nova Scotia, in 1867. Her father was a shoemaker and church activist. Her family relocated to Lynn, Massachusetts, when Phillips was a young girl. She graduated from Salem Normal School (now Salem State College) in 1884, and began a career as a teacher. In 1890 she married Edwin G. Andrews, a local salesman.

Andrews' work as an educator led to an interest in reform. In 1907 she founded the Boston Home and School Association to help parents learn about the education of their children.

Andrews was also interested in peace. In 1908 she combined her interests and formed the American School Peace League, whose mission was to help teachers educate students in conflict resolution and international understanding—skills that Andrews believed would help to prevent war. Andrews wrote classroom materials for the league that were distributed by the U.S. Bureau of Education. She also promoted ideas such as singing peace songs, and presenting poems and speeches in schools, and observing a peace day. The league grew until it had chapters in 40 states, and under the name American School Citizenship League, it carried on its activities until 1950. In 1914, Andrews organized a similar organization in Great Britain.

Andrews hoped to establish an international bureau of education, and was planning such an organization with government representatives when World War I broke out in 1914. During the war, Andrews was even more

The First World War

Biography

outspoken in her efforts to promote peace through education. She was a founding member of the Woman's Peace Party and helped found the Organization for a Durable Peace in 1915. Because of her interest in international relations, Andrews studied international law at Radcliffe College during the war, earning a Ph.D.

After Germany's surrender, Woodrow Wilson chose Andrews as a delegate to the 1918 Paris Peace Conference. There she ardently advocated for Wilson's proposed League of Nations and for that league to include an education bureau. The league was created, but without the bureau. However, Andrews' work was instrumental in the creation of the International Bureau of Education in 1925, and Andrews served as a member of its advisory board.

After World War I, Andrews wrote "A Course in Foreign Relations" for the army and became recognized as an expert in diplomacy, one of the few women to be known for such expertise. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her to represent the United States at several international conferences on education. She traveled throughout the Middle East, eventually publishing a two-volume study about the region, *The Holy Land under Mandate*.

Andrews continued promoting the teaching of peace studies and international diplomacy until her death in 1950.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. **Identify** What are some of Fannie Fern Phillips Andrews' greatest achievements?

2. **Recall** What organizations did Andrews found or help to found?

ACTIVITY

Fannie Fern Phillips Andrews believed education played an important role in achieving peace. What do you think? Identify a current war or conflict in the news. Work in groups to answer these questions: What role could education play in ending this conflict? What other efforts could help promote peace?