

Speaking with an Equal Voice

The Reform Efforts of Milwaukee's Mary Blanchard Lynde

By Ellen D. Langill

The lake schooner bearing Mary Blanchard Lynde to Milwaukee's shore rocked gently. The quiet rhythm of Lake Michigan and the darkness of the June night allowed the twenty-one year old her final moments of contemplation as each second she moved closer to her new home. These would also be the final moments of her honeymoon, if one could apply that romantic a term to the succession of boat trips she had taken over the last few weeks: from her hometown of Tuxton in upstate New York, where she and William Pitt Lynde had just married, to Buffalo on an Erie Canal packet boat, and then to a vessel that had carried them from Lake Erie, across Lake Huron, and nearly the entire length of Lake Michigan. Apparently, there would be one more change of ship before they reached land. Milwaukee in the year 1841 had no wharves large enough for lake schooners to land.



Milwaukee County Historical Society

Although she was married to a prominent politician, Mary Blanchard Lynde was no mere "token representative of the softer sex." She provided leadership and a voice for the disenfranchised in Wisconsin for nearly fifty years.

Mary Blanchard Lynde had a good deal to contemplate as around her preparations for the final leg of the trip were being made. Only a few weeks ago she had been Miss Mary Elizabeth Blanchard, a valedictorian of the class of 1839 at her female seminary, and daughter of Dr. Azariah Blanchard, a physician, and Eliza Blanchard. Her prize-winning valedictory essay, "On the Advantages of the Study of Mathematics," was read at her graduation ceremony by New York Senator William Seward (later Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln), since young ladies were not supposed to deliver public addresses.¹

Her essay's theme resounded with Mary Blanchard's own particular sense of mission, to establish the intellectual equality of men and women. Because "scientific reasoning" was so important to her (at age 20 and throughout her life), she used the essay as a platform to argue "that women [as well as men] should taste the purer, higher pleasures of the intellect." Foretelling her lifelong commitment to reason based on data, Mary argued that "woman has the same need for decision and firmness in her sphere [as man]" and that "the same general principle of intellectual rigor should operate in all minds." If mathematical reasoning "strengthen[s] and ennoble[s] the mind of man, [it] will strengthen and ennoble the mind of woman."²

Engaged to William Pitt Lynde since her schooldays, Mary's life had been similar to many young upper middle-class women growing up in the "burnt-over district" of central and upstate New York in the early nineteenth century. The millennial furor of the Second Great Awakening had infused a generation of young women with a spiritual passion for societal reform that took different roads: abolition, women's suffrage, and temperance were among many others that held the attention and drew the efforts of so many.

The idealism of the age was gaining great momentum as predominantly Yankee men and women left the Northeast to settle the Great Lakes region of the Old Northwest Territory. Just five years before Mary Blanchard Lynde sailed to Milwaukee's shores, the region had gone from being part of the Michigan Territory to becoming part of the Wisconsin Territory. It would be seven years after her arrival that Wisconsin would become the nation's thirtieth state. The Milwaukee that welcomed them in June 1841 was a forlorn and primitive sight to the young couple. Mary Lynde recalled that after the light tug docked at a small wharf around midnight, William and she were met by his two older brothers, who had already established themselves in the village of Milwaukee, set up a law partnership, and started to invest family money in land. "We have no carriages here," the young couple learned that first night, as the older Lynde brothers escorted them on foot to their frame home on the northeast corner of Mason and Jackson Streets.³

The village had only fifteen hundred inhabitants, dirt roads and footpaths, pigs and cattle roaming loose, and no bridges across the Milwaukee River. The Lyndes' first Sunday found them on a scow, being pulled by ropes across the river

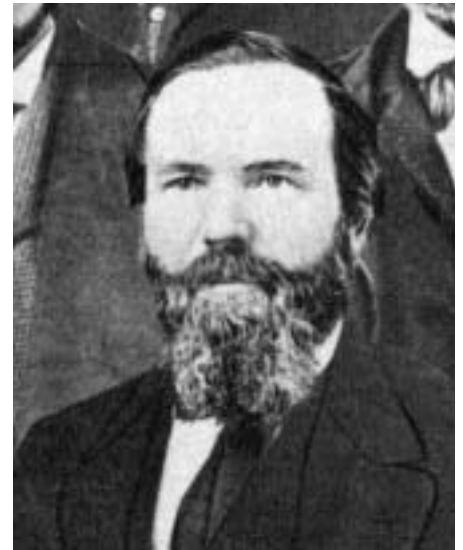
to attend a church service, which was constantly disrupted by the sound of cow bells outside the windows. It was a crude settlement, indeed. Clearly, the field lay open for the combined talents of Mary and William, who had just completed a law degree at Harvard.

They boarded initially with Charles Lynde and his wife, but were soon left alone as the two elder Lynde brothers and Charles's wife made a trip back to New York to see their parents and discuss their Wisconsin ventures. Their return trip to Wisconsin ended tragically when their steamship, the *Erie*, exploded just hours out of Buffalo, killing both of the Lynde brothers and critically injuring William's sister-in-law. William and Mary Lynde were stranded without family in Wisconsin and debated long and hard about whether to stay alone or to return to New York.

Their decision to remain and to work together to build lives in Wisconsin is an indication of the strength of their partnership, as well as their shared sense of mission to create a new and better world

on the midwestern frontier. William Lynde soon found a new law partner, Asahel Finch, and established a thriving practice. Mary Lynde, however, was faced with carving a different niche for herself. In the years before Wisconsin joined the union, voters in the territory considered—and rejected—women's suffrage. Mary Lynde realized that without the right to vote, the fulfillment of her dreams to make a difference in her new home state depended on her ability to build a bridge between the public sphere where her power was limited by tradition and law, and the private sphere where her influence would be considerable.⁴

In her initial work Mary Lynde turned toward the private sphere, on behalf of safer streets, paved roads (instead of dirt paths), and an end to the free roaming of cattle, which was noisy, filthy, and dangerous for children. She asked her husband's influential friends to work with her and improve street conditions and sanitation. She also witnessed her husband's legal work to halt the liquor trade with the Potawatomi Indians, and she was one of several women in the village who fed and clothed the small number of native people who had remained despite the removal acts of the 1830s. She recalled



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William Pitt Lynde in his 1866 portrait for the Wisconsin Assembly. Ten years later he would introduce legislation for women's suffrage into the U.S. Congress.

these people coming into town “to sell baskets and to beg.” Their custom of playing dice games and gambling, however, offended her Protestant sensibilities.

Her early work for civic betterment took a back seat by the mid-1840s as the first of her seven children, four girls and three boys, began to arrive. (One of the girls, Fanny, died in infancy.) William Lynde’s rising political star took him to the U.S. House of Representatives as a member of Wisconsin’s first Congressional delegation in June 1848, just after the achievement of statehood in May. Still in mourning over Fanny’s death, Mary Lynde and her other children did not

its operations kept Mary Lynde at the forefront of institutional reform. She also found herself taking the lead in other Milwaukee causes, for just a decade after founding the orphan asylum, William’s political aspirations resurfaced with significant results on Mary’s career.

In 1860, leading a reform ticket after heavy debt crippled the newly chartered city, William Lynde was elected mayor of Milwaukee, and he and Mary entered the limelight together. Two events of this period shaped Mary’s political awareness and her social activism very dramatically. First, her husband fought off strong special interest groups to solve the city’s debt problem, even paying for a new fire engine out of his own pocket. The idea of fiscal conservatism and the stewardship of public funds was a clear lesson of his mayoral term. Second, Lynde was in office during the city’s worst disaster at the time, the wreck of the steamship, the *Lady Elgin*, in 1861, with a loss of more than two hundred lives, many of them Irish Democrats who were on the return leg of a trip to Chicago.

Going by a specially chartered railcar to the scene of the wreckage near Winnetka, Illinois, the Lyndes worked to provide public relief and to offer the promise of private assistance for the one thousand children who were orphaned by the accident. Mary Lynde took the forefront in the enlargement of the orphan’s home to accommodate the many children whose families had been killed in the wreck. She learned concrete lessons in the functioning of institutions,

especially the teamwork required for their support, and she sharpened her own social philosophy of active reform and Christian stewardship.

Although his term as mayor ended in 1861, Lynde remained very active in Wisconsin Democratic politics, serving as a State Assemblyman from 1866–1868 and as a State Senator from 1869–1870. Mary Lynde occasionally joined her husband to witness the boiling cauldron of Wisconsin state politics in the late 1860s, commuting by train with him to Madison. Her intellect and her experience with social institutions led to her appointment, in April 1871, to the State Board of Charities and Reform, the first woman in Wisconsin to serve on a state board, and one of the first in the country.

Governor Lucius Fairchild asked her to accept a five-year term, the longest of any of her counterparts on the newly created board. Her history of charitable work, her record in administering the Milwaukee Orphan Asylum, and her staunch commitment to social reform proved essential to the success of the newly created board. The stated purpose of the board, as specified in the 1871 legislation, was to ensure that the “administration of public charity and correction may be



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The city of Milwaukee as it appeared ca. 1850, just a few years after the Lyndes arrived. Free-roaming livestock and poor road conditions were early concerns for Mary Blanchard Lynde.

join William in Washington until early in 1849. As the wife of a representative, Mary reveled in the excitement in Washington that year, as the Mexican War came to a close and the debate over slavery escalated. In her diary she noted that she had been privileged to meet two grandams of the early Republic, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, the widow of Alexander Hamilton, and Dolley Madison, who were both still a part of the social scene in the nation’s capital.

Upon returning to Wisconsin after her husband’s term ended, Mary Lynde balanced her domestic duties with an early commitment to the anti-slavery cause. At their elegant new home on West Chestnut Street, christened “Lynden,” the Lyndes held gatherings for the anti-slavery cause and for the Democratic Party. Even before joining her husband in Washington, Mary had organized, in her parlor, the first woman’s group in the newly chartered city, the “Ladies Benevolent Society,” and it was this group that founded the Milwaukee Orphan Asylum after the Lyndes’ return from Washington in 1850.⁵ Guiding the new institution, raising private subscriptions to fund it, and supervising



By the mid-1850s, Milwaukee had begun to take shape. However, the debt incurred by poor investments led to the election of William Pitt Lynde, a reform candidate, as the city's mayor in 1860.

conducted upon sound principles of economy, justice and humanity, and that the relations existing between the state and its dependent and criminal classes may become better understood.”⁶ For the next five years Mary Lynde’s work on this board and her leadership role in its reforms occupied the bulk of her time, while her husband continued his legal practice and political activities.

Early on it became clear that Mary had been an able student of parliamentary procedure and committee work. She did not intend to take a backseat, or to be a “token representative of the softer sex.” She assumed she would have an equal voice to her six male counterparts and spoke out often about the particular needs of the state’s women and children in its few jails, poorhouses, and other homes. In response her fellow board members selected Lynde

for a key leadership role on the board. At the board’s very first meeting on 13 April 1871, a resolution was passed stating: “That Mrs. Mary E. B. Lynde be appointed a committee to look after the welfare of the children at the Milwaukee County house [the poor house] and see what can be done for the improvement of their condition.” Her determination to make a difference in the state’s commitment to women and children became an “engine that knew no rest.”

At the very next board meeting, in May, she presented another top item on her social agenda—the concern over the state’s “destitute and homeless girls.” She reported to the board that the Milwaukee institution called the National Soldiers’ Home (which she had also helped to create after the Civil War) had twenty extra acres of land that would be an ideal place to locate an institution for girls who were left homeless or confined to the poorhouse with adults who might prey upon them.



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The purpose of her campaign for this land was the creation of an industrial school for girls which would take young girls out of poorhouses or jails and provide a safe and secure home where they could receive protection and vocational training (an institution similar to the Industrial School for Boys that existed in Waukesha). By the State Board's third month in existence, the minutes noted that, "Mrs. Lynde having given considerable thought to the pressing need of the establishment by the State of an Industrial School for Girls, was requested to prepare a paper on the subject to be embodied in the annual report of the Board [in October]."

The first of her tasks (the report on the condition of women and children in state institutions) was accomplished with efficiency and presented at the board's August meeting. Having visited many of the state's institutions, county jails, and poorhouses, Mary Lynde reported forcefully, "I am fully convinced that a poor house is a most unsuitable place in which to rear children, and take the liberty to

recommend the foundation of a 'Children's Home' . . . where they can be reared under more healthful and elevating influences."

She further elaborated on the deplorable conditions existing for many women in these same institutions, arguing that "some provision should be made for the [many] unfortunate women . . . [who] have been the victims of men who promise marriage only to betray and desert when ruined." These women, Lynde noted, have "no refuge or shelter, and often no occupation but the life of sin [they have] resolved to abandon." She asked her fellow board members, "Does not society owe to itself, to humanity, that some refuge be found?" Moreover, she wanted the male perpetrators brought to justice as well, foreseeing a demand for equitable responsibility between men and women that did not become law until the late twentieth century. She wrote pointedly, "Let us punish the equally guilty seducer, and render him as responsible for

the maintenance of the offspring as it now does the outraged, deserted mother." By October the indefatigable Lynde submitted a statement from the Soldiers' Home that they were prepared to accommodate her wishes as to the creation of a home for girls on the grounds of West Spring Street (today's Wisconsin Avenue).

Thus Lynde pushed forward a strong reform agenda in her first six months on the Charities and Reform Board. She also participated fully in the other work of the board, to supervise the financial operations of the state's institutions, to standardize expense reports, and to gather data to use for a more complete understanding of those people in state institutions. It is in her use of evidence as well as in her powers of persuasion that Mary Lynde stands out as a unique female leader in the 1870s. She chose to follow the dictum on her valedictory essay, regarding the need for "firmness" and "intellectual rigor" rather than approaching men in power from a traditional, maternal stance and appealing to their charitable tendencies. With this approach Lynde was part of the birth of an exacting social science (later developed in full form at the University of Chicago under the rubric of sociology) for which she had been reaching ever since her valedictory essay three decades earlier.

The first success for her proposed reforms came in the form of a resolution directing that the State Board of Charities and Reform become the official legal guardian of all children who would reside at the Soldiers' Orphans Home (so renamed). It further mandated that the Board "exercise a close supervision over the interest of any and every child during their minority" and that some system of industry, as well as schooling, be provided for all residents. The report to the Governor urged that the new home be funded by the state at \$25,000 per year.⁸

The Wisconsin legislature, however, refused to approve the petition, reluctant to establish another institution to "drain the public treasury." As an activist who wouldn't take a public "no" for an answer, she attended the Conference of State Boards at Chicago in 1872, and also made trips to Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and nearby Illinois (at her own expense) to report on their successes in meeting the needs of these homeless young girls and women.

When the legislature still refused to act, Lynde moved forward on her own, enlisting the powerful support of Milwaukee's respected Circuit Judge, James A. Mallory, whose report seconded Lynde's research and recommendations, backed by his own experience on the bench.⁹ To add renewed force to her arguments, Lynde reported on the institutions she had visited in the East where the girls were well-cared for and were learning useful trades "and hence have no excuse for a vicious life when they leave." Her report was forwarded to the governor with a recommendation that it receive full support in the next legislative session. However, once again the legislature balked, despite the best efforts of her equally reform-minded husband.

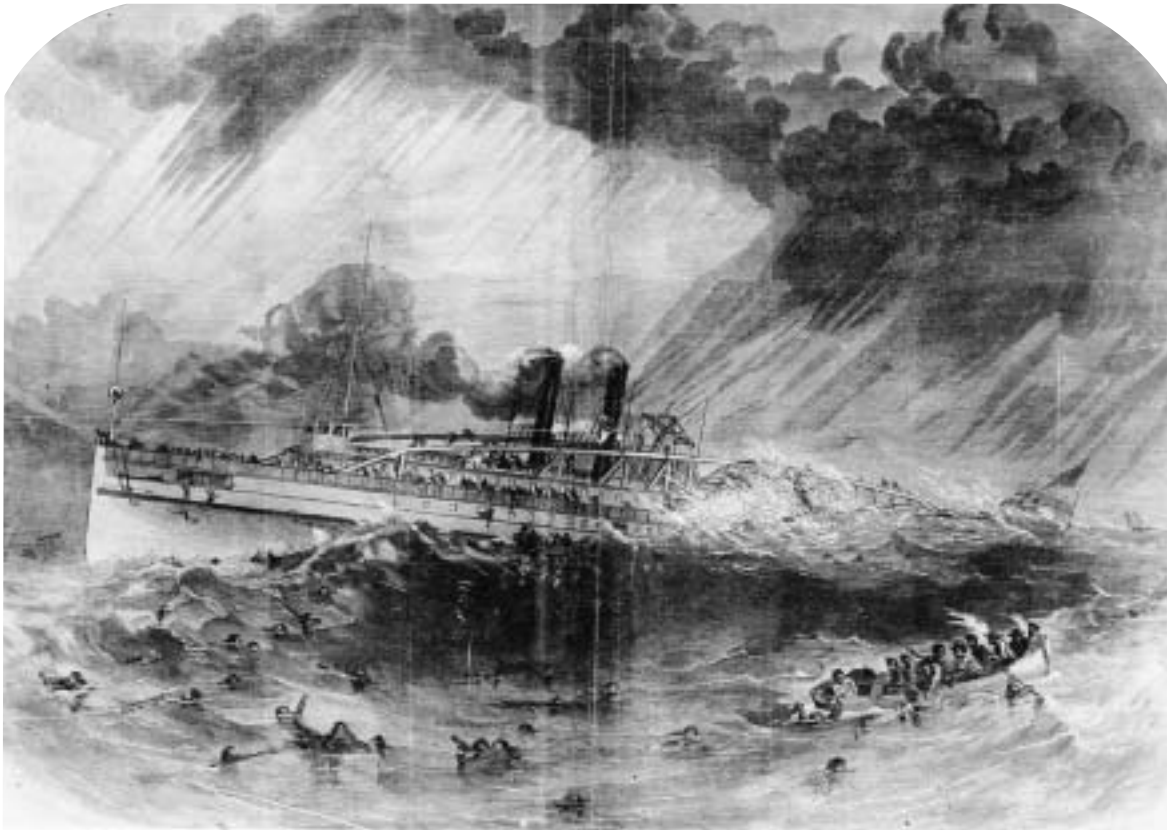
At this point Lynde resolved to achieve her ends with a different approach, that of chartering an Industrial School for

Girls with private support, yet still seeking some form of limited public funding. As she noted in a paper she presented at the Northwestern Conference of the State Boards of Charities in April 1873, “private institutions in many respects are better than public ones . . . because they bring the persons relieved in closer contact with those who relieve them . . . and [because] the labor of women [in running them] is brought into use, as it is not in the public [institutions].”¹⁰

The first of her objectives was achieved when the state finally approved \$4,000 for the renovation of a portion of the Soldiers’ Home to be used for an Industrial School for Girls. In her report, in December 1873, she admitted she was still “greatly discouraged” that the state had twice refused to allocate more than “a trifle” to help launch the school itself. Citing the studies of English reformers, Lynde chastised the members of the legislature for their failure to comprehend the vital role that social institutions can play in society—the role of prevention, a cry still being raised among social workers today.¹¹ However, the legislature once again refused to go beyond the stipend to renovate the old building.

As a result Lynde had a building, but no staff, no program, and no funds to support her cherished institution. Undaunted, she turned to the network of her earlier, private activism, the network of women volunteers. Meeting with the Milwaukee chapter of the Ladies Bible and Benevolent Association, Lynde first organized them into groups to visit a variety of poorhouses and jails in nearby counties to see for themselves the need she herself had witnessed. Once this was accomplished, she worked to get the Benevolent Association to “engraft a new department upon their society” which would work with Lynde to raise private subscriptions to establish an Industrial School for Girls.

A notice was sent out for all “working, benevolent and charitable women of Milwaukee” to gather in the parlor of Plymouth Church on 2 April 1873. The crowd that responded was very large and very willing to hear reports of the visits to county jails and poorhouses. Lynde found it all the more gratifying to hear these reports because they strongly seconded her earlier findings that these places “were not for girls or young women!” The group then reorganized itself into a committee to raise the necessary money and to move forward with



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The second nautical disaster to play a role in the lives of the Lyndes, the sinking of the Lady Elgin took more than two hundred lives and profoundly affected Milwaukee politics.

all speed to the establishment of such an industrial school.

Aware of the organizational beauty of parliamentary procedure, Lynde helped this newly established "Visiting Committee for Milwaukee County Public Charities and Corrections" to draft its official by-laws, which specified the role of each specific subcommittee.¹² It was from these newly inspired women that Lynde drew her nucleus of fundraisers and began to launch a volunteer board to charter her Industrial School, an effort that succeeded less than two years later.

With its official opening on 11 February 1875, the Industrial School for Girls was able to house boys too young to be accepted at the school in Waukesha and girls who were taken from jails, poorhouses, and city streets to be clothed, fed, educated, and provided with training in vocational skills.¹³ The school's Board of Managers consisted of the same group of women who had worked with Lynde to raise the money (more than \$2,000 at first) to open its doors. This was a purely voluntary board; "only the matron, teachers and two assistants" were paid. Lynde's chartered Committee of Visitors came to the school every day and longer on Sunday to volunteer their time and to oversee the care of the children and girls housed there.

The State Board of Charities congratulated Lynde on her hard-won success, after seeking the help of the legislature "four successive years in vain." The school operated with revenues in excess of \$3,000 its first year and housed forty-seven children under the age of sixteen. Before the conclusion of her five-year term on the State Board, Mary Lynde had clearly become the most prominent woman in the state in the area of charities and reform, on both the public and private level. Moreover, Lynde's ability to galvanize Milwaukee women behind a cause attested to both her zeal and her leadership capabilities.

Once the school was launched she turned her attention to the creation of a new woman's association, one for the education of women. With Martha Mitchell, the wife of Marine Bank founder Alexander Mitchell, and several other women, Lynde organized the Milwaukee Women's Club in 1876. The first officially chartered women's club in the country, its constitution and by-laws were, ironically, drawn up by William Lynde, and it operated under the strict parliamentary procedures of Roberts Rules of Order. Roberts himself was one of the club's first guest speakers, as were many others who lectured on social topics, particularly social reform.

Mary Lynde's growing leadership and her evolving philosophy of social activism went hand in hand. Before she retired from the State Board of Charities, she was elected its delegate to the American Social Science Association meeting in New York in May 1874. Before the convention ended, the Social Science Association appointed Mary Lynde a member of the national Committee on Destitute and Delinquent Children which would collect data from around the country and recommend remedies based on this hard research.¹⁴ This work took her activism to a national level and provided her further opportunities to use her well-developed skills in research and



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Mary Blanchard Lynde's commitment to social reform so impressed Governor Lucius Fairchild that he appointed her to serve on the State Board of Charities and Reform, the first woman to serve on a state board in Wisconsin.



WHS Name File

One of Mary's male allies, Milwaukee Circuit Judge James A. Mallory, lent his influence to the push for an Industrial School for Girls.



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In 1875, after years of debate, twenty acres of the land belonging to the National Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee would become home to the Industrial School for Girls.



Cottage Sewing Room - Hamilton Co.

WHI(X3)23909

The ability to sew was essential to women in the late nineteenth century. The Industrial School for Girls provided them with the necessary skills to find available jobs.



Fishing near Water Works. Ind. Sch. Boys.

WHI(X3)3093

Waukesha's Industrial School for Boys was a predecessor to Lynde's School for Girls. These boys fish near the Milwaukee water works building. The young age of most of the boys pictured suggests that they may have been too young for the boys' facility and were residents of the girls' school.



Mary Lynde remained politically active into her seventies. Her final achievement was to help convince Congress to allow a separate building to celebrate the achievements of women at the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893.

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Mendota Mental Health Institution staff members pose at one of the hospital's doors. It was Lynde's objection to the treatment of the insane in state prisons that allowed for the creation of institutions like Mendota.

in public speaking. She published several reports in the national journal of the Association and, in 1883, was the featured speaker at the West District Conference of the Social Science Association, where she defended the actions of states, like Wisconsin, to remove children from negligent parents, who by their negligence, forfeited their parental rights.¹⁵

Upon their return to Wisconsin in 1879, William and Mary Lynde settled into retirement surrounded by their children, some of whom were thriving and some deeply troubled. Their middle son, William Jr., had become mentally ill, and after failing at an attempt to practice law with his father's firm, he became a recluse at the family home until his death.

Their youngest son, Blanchard, followed his maternal grandfather's footsteps and pursued a career in medicine, but became addicted to the narcotics which doctors often prescribed in those years. He committed suicide in a hotel room in Duluth in a tragic episode which the family tried to keep quiet. It is a sad irony in the life of this highly successful public woman that her private life held such tragedy. While she was able to rescue hundreds of young girls from sordid lives, she was unable to save her two sons.

The three Lynde daughters, married at Lynden, became Mary's staunchest emotional support in her later years, particularly Clara, who married the prominent Milwaukee industrialist Harry C. Bradley. Mary's renewed dedication to public service came in this period of the 1880s, when her eldest son, Tilly, was involved in a failed business venture and had to endure the ignominy of bankruptcy proceedings. In 1886, the year after her husband's death, she was appointed to serve as the first woman on the Board of Visitors for the University of Wisconsin, a post which allowed her to continue her social activism, as well as her strong interest in women's education.

Her own daughters had been educated at the Milwaukee Female Academy, which later became Downer College. Mary Lynde worked to advance the cause of the few women students who matriculated at the University of Wisconsin in these years and were treated as segregated and clearly second-class citizens. Her firm friendship with Mary Mortimer (a pioneer educator at Downer) stems from these years as she witnessed, firsthand, the benefits of separate educational institutions for women, versus the second-class status of women at the university. A more positive trend was the creation of the several state "normal schools" during this period, which fit well into her emphasis on "vocational" training for women to allow them to

enter professions and become economically independent.

In 1891 she was appointed Wisconsin's representative on the Board of Lady Managers for the World's Columbian Exposition, better known as the Chicago World's Fair, to be held in 1893.

As a member of this board, Lynde participated in the struggle to persuade Congress to allow women to have their own separate building at the fair in which the achievements of women in industry and the professions could be displayed. She attended the special preview sessions at the opening of the World's Fair, but her frailty was evident to those who accompanied her. It was her last foray into social activism.

Between 1893 and her death in 1897 at the age of seventy-seven, Mary Lynde returned to Milwaukee to enjoy her surviving children and grandchildren and to take part in the continuing work of the Milwaukee Women's Club. She still attended, but did not lead, the meetings of the boards for the Orphan Asylum and the Industrial School, both of which owed their existence to her efforts.

In the realm of women's reform leadership, and in her own particular crusade for the use of mathematical precision in the

social sciences, Mary Lynde was several decades ahead of her time. As she had written in her graduation address of 1839 "woman has the same need [to use mathematics and rational thinking] for decision and firmness as men," and Mary Blanchard Lynde's needs led to a life of activism that changed the world in which she lived.¹⁶



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A tireless worker for reform, Mary Blanchard Lynde seems to embody the old adage "Man's work lasts from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done."



Milwaukee County Historical Society

Lynden, the Lynde's Milwaukee home, was the site of abolitionist meetings and the first women's club in Milwaukee in the 1840s.

¹All of the quoted biographical materials, unless otherwise noted, are found in the Lynde papers, Milwaukee County Historical Society, (MCHS).

²Mary Elizabeth Blanchard, "Essay on the Advantages of the Study of Mathematics" delivered at the Annual Exhibition of the Albany Female Academy, 10 July 1839, MCHS.

³Mary E. B. Lynde, "Pioneer Experiences of Milwaukee Women . . . Their Pleasures and Hardships," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 16 October 1895.

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵Lynde papers.

⁶General Laws of Wisconsin, *An Act to Authorize a State Board of Charities and Reform* (1871), chapter 136.

⁷First Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Reform of the State of Wisconsin, (Madison, Wisconsin: December 1871) 9–15.

⁸First Annual Report, 303–304.

⁹Second Annual Report of the Board of Charities and Reform, (Madison, Wisconsin: December 1872) 280–283.

¹⁰Second Annual Report, 118–119.

¹¹Third Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Reform, (Madison, Wisconsin: December 1873) 238–242.

¹²Third Annual Report, 264–270.

¹³Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Reform, (Madison, Wisconsin: December 1875) 201–205.

¹⁴Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Reform, (Madison, Wisconsin: December 1874).

¹⁵Fifth Annual Report, Fourth Annual Report.

¹⁶Essay on the Advantages of the Study of Mathematics."

About the Author



A native of Webster Groves, Missouri, Ellen Langill earned a bachelor's degree in the classics at Grinnell College, a master's in history at

UW–Milwaukee, and a doctorate in American History from UW–Madison. She has written more than a dozen works of history, ranging from the legal history of Foley & Lardner (which was once the firm of Lynde & Finch), business and banking history, women's history, and educational history, winning several regional and national awards for her works. She currently teaches in the history department at UW–Milwaukee; is a member of the Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators; and lives with her husband, Ross, and two daughters, Kjersten and Kari, in Waukesha.