



### **NFL Mission**

As the first and only facility of its kind, the National First Ladies' Library (NFL) serves as a unique national resource for patrons from school children to serious scholars. As a national archive devoted to educating people about the contributions of First Ladies and other notable women in history, the Library's collection fills an informational void that has long frustrated academicians and armchair history buffs alike. The Library fulfills this mission by serving as a physical educational facility and an electronic virtual library, in an effort to educate people in the United States and around the world.

### **NFL Objectives**

- Continuously update a complete annotated bibliography on First Ladies – from Martha Custis Washington to Laura Welch Bush
- Develop, and make available online, curriculum enrichment units and study guides for K-12 classroom students to educate on both the contributions of First Ladies to our American History, and also the history of the times during which each First Lady lived
- Plan and conduct seminars, workshops, lectures, and programs for adults and children on the lives of First Ladies and how the role of the presidential spouse has evolved over the centuries.
- Collect all current and out-of-print books by and about First Ladies, as well as films, documentaries, and other audio visual materials
- Collect copies of First Ladies' letters, speeches, manuscripts, and artifacts dealing with the major social issues of their time, now scattered throughout the country

### **About NFL**

NFL was founded in 1995 in an effort to consolidate resources on the lives of America's First Ladies. Founder Mary Regula was inspired to create a comprehensive, online bibliography of written and audio visual materials on these influential women. Today, the Library's educational resources have grown to include not only many of the books catalogued in this comprehensive bibliography, but also educational programming for all ages, and artifacts from the lives of First Ladies.

Thousands of visitors experience the offerings of the Library each year. Located in Canton, Ohio, NFL is housed in two historic buildings – the restored family home of Ida Saxton McKinley, wife of 25<sup>th</sup> president William McKinley, and the former City National Bank Building, now dedicated as the Library's Education and Resource Center.

### **An Educational Resource**

In addition to its exclusive online bibliography ([www.firstladies.org](http://www.firstladies.org)) and audio-visual collection, NFL provides unique onsite educational programming and also hosts bi-annual symposium events that bring together high-profile scholars, biographers, and First Lady experts to discuss the historic role of these presidential spouses.

Honoring the founder, Mary A. Regula, the National First Ladies' Research and Reading Room opened in the Education and Research Center in September, 2003. The collection housed in the research and reading room represents the only one of its kind in the world. Ever expanding, the collection includes more than 6,400 books and 500 videos in addition to a unique Audio Visual Collection, including television, film, and radio recordings of First Ladies through the years.

### **NFL Contact Information**

Patricia Krider, Executive Director  
[pkrider@firstladies.org](mailto:pkrider@firstladies.org)  
330-452-0876 Ex 309

Martha Regula, Research Library Director  
[regulam@firstladieslibrary.org](mailto:regulam@firstladieslibrary.org)  
330-452-0876 Ex 303