

Caroline Wells (Healey) Dall Biography

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Contents

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Caroline Wells (Healey) Dall Biography..... | 1 |
| Contents..... | 2 |
| Biography..... | 3 |



Biography

Caroline Wells (Healey) Dall (22 June 1822-17 December 1912), woman's rights advocate, was born in Boston and received a fine education from her wealthy father, who wanted her trained to be the intellectual equal of the men around her. In 1841 she attended one of Margaret Fuller's Conversations, later reporting on it in *Margaret and Her Friends* (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1895). She admired Fuller's independence and consciously modeled herself after the older woman. Her father went bankrupt in 1842 and she taught for a living. Her marriage in 1843 to Charles Dall proved an unhappy one and she turned her energies to writing. *Essays and Sketches* (Boston: S. G. Simpkins, 1849) was the first in nearly a dozen works, many written to promote the rights of women. *Transcendentalism in New England* (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1897) is an idiosyncratic document that overestimates Fuller's importance in that movement. She died in Washington, D. C.