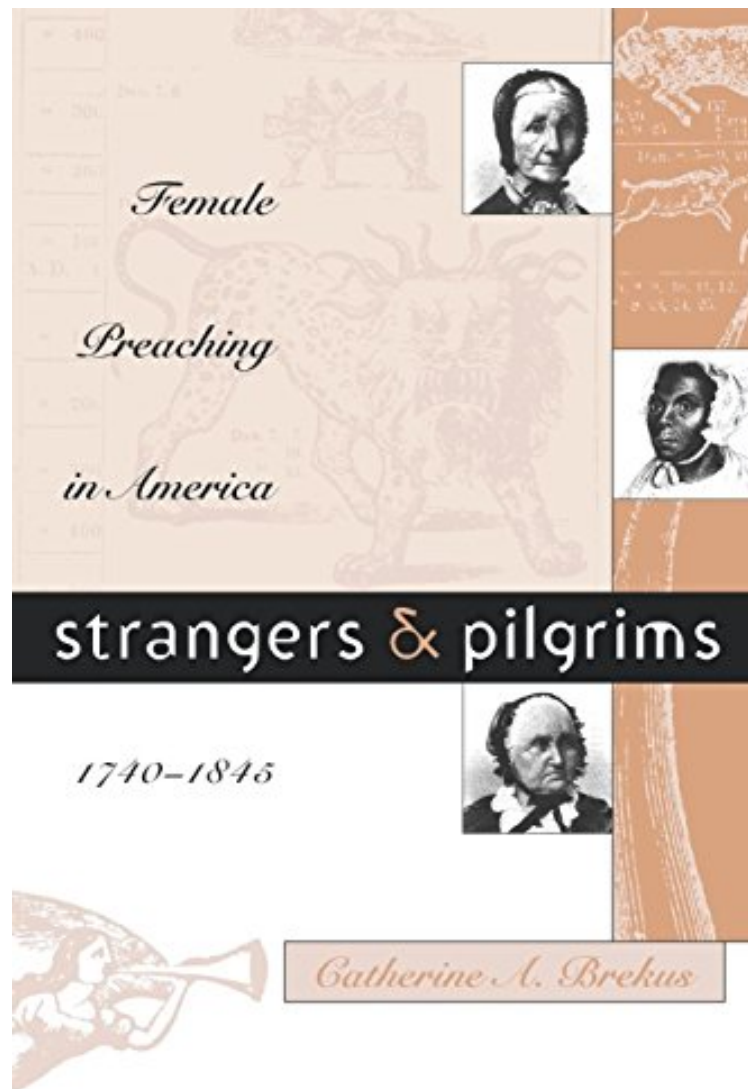


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## Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America, 1740-1845 (Gender and American Culture)

Catherine A. Brekus

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Catherine A. Brekus : Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America, 1740-1845 (Gender and American Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America, 1740-1845 (Gender and American Culture):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed reading about female preachers of long agoBy Frankie SimmonsEnjoyed reading about female preachers of long ago; especially about their personal lives and the reactions they received from those who did not necessarily approve of women preachers.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Reading!By Brenda KelleyWell written and researched. Berkus did a good job of uncovering information on female preachers in America; a subject long left in obscurity.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Forgotten Women MinistersBy Barbara AndersonThis book will reveal forgotten women who paved the way for women today in ministry. Research has been conducted and the findings are great!

Margaret Meuse Clay, who barely escaped a public whipping in the 1760s for preaching without a license; "Old Elizabeth," an ex-slave who courageously traveled to the South to preach against slavery in the early nineteenth century; Harriet Livermore, who spoke in front of Congress four times between 1827 and 1844--these are just a few of the extraordinary women profiled in this, the first comprehensive history of female preaching in early America. Drawing on a wide range of sources, Catherine Brekus examines the lives of more than a hundred female preachers--both white and African American--who crisscrossed the country between 1740 and 1845. Outspoken, visionary, and sometimes contentious, these women stepped into the pulpit long before twentieth-century battles over female ordination began. They were charismatic, popular preachers, who spoke to hundreds and even thousands of people at camp and revival meetings, and yet with but a few notable exceptions--such as Sojourner Truth--these women have essentially vanished from our history. Recovering their stories, Brekus shows, forces us to rethink many of our common assumptions about eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American culture.

From Library JournalIn this well-documented and readable history of a neglected group, Brekus (American religious history, Univ. of Chicago) examines the rise and decline of female preachers among Evangelical churches from 1740 to 1845, with an epilog discussing late-19th-century developments. Brekus follows female evangelism through 18th-century revivals and the American Revolution to its rise during the 1820s. She then covers the growing restrictions on female preaching that started to appear in the 1830s and its brief resurgence among the Millerites. Brekus is especially interested in how these women understood their own conversion, calls to preach, pulpit style, theology, and defense of female preaching within the context of their own times and religious beliefs. Recommended for academic and public libraries.?C. Robert Nixon, Lafayette, INCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Strangers and Pilgrims" is necessary reading for students of American religion."Journal of Ecclesiastical History"It is a compelling picture that deserves to hold the attention of scholars and general readers alike."Journal of the Early Republic"[A]dds such profundity and detail to the particulars of early preaching women's lives that it is a major contribution."Journal of Religion""Now that Brekus has retrieved their stories, we will be hard put to forget the remarkable history of female preachers."Journal of Southern History""A study which should quickly become the standard work on its subject, radically altering our understanding of America's religious past."Journal of American Studies""Adds such profundity and detail to the particulars of early preaching women's lives that it is a major contribution."Journal of Religion"Now that Brekus has retrieved their stories, we will be hard put to forget the remarkable history of female preachers."Journal of Southern History"A study which should quickly become the standard work on its subject, radically altering our understanding of America's religious past."Journal of American Studies""A masterful overview that highlights recent advances in the study of religious women and indicts both women's historians and religious historians for failing to notice." -- "Christianity Today" Only a historian with a good eye for storytelling could do justice to the extraordinary women who people Catherine A. Brekus's *Strangers and Pilgrims*. . . . But Brekus is far more than a gifted storyteller, she is an accomplished historian as well, sensitive to both currents of historical events . . . and to the subtle realignments of gender norms and gender roles that accompanied these events. . . . An extraordinarily rich study of three largely forgotten generations of women who labored at great personal cost and little reward to bring their own brand of biblical feminism to thousands of eager listeners on America's expanding frontier. . . . A book worthy of its subjects: full of plain speaking, good sense, and more than a touch of inspiration.--Journal of American HistoryIn addition to the great service this volume provides in recovering the lost history of female preaching in America, it also has the effect of casting some of the more familiar terrain of American religious history in new light.--American Historical An uncommonly thorough, judicious, and illuminating treatment of one of the most elusive chapters in the American evangelical past; a worthy contribution to the history of religion and the history of women.--Christine Leigh Heyrman, author of *Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt*Brekus's pathbreaking study of female preaching both transforms our understanding of American religion between 1740 and 1845 and reminds us that without a collective memory, women progress only haltingly. Based on painstaking research in religious periodicals, memoirs, and sermons, *Strangers and Pilgrims* also demonstrates the unexpectedly rich sources available to scholars. . . . Now that Brekus has retrieved their stories, we will be hard put to forget the remarkable history of female preachers.--Journal of Southern HistoryUntil Brekus's book, very little had been known about female preachers in early America. . . . Brekus's lively and detailed study gives us access to the lives and careers of these early women preachers.--Publishers WeeklyAn intriguing history of female preachers in antebellum America. Offering a wealth of

factual information, usable appendices and extensive notes to support her theses, Brekus provides scholars interested in the religious heritage of women in America a tool for analyzing that history and for developing a clearer understanding of the role women played in the development of the American religious tradition.--Journal of Church and StateAn important addition to our understanding of women and Christian traditions in the United States. . . . The volume adds such profundity and detail to the particulars of early preaching women's lives that it is a major contribution.--Journal of ReligionA masterful overview that highlights recent advances in the study of religious women and indicts both women's historians and religious historians for failing to notice.--Christianity TodayA long-awaited study that does not disappoint . . . Brekus offers a stunning example of 'recovering voices'. . . . Strangers and Pilgrims is necessary reading for students of American religion and any women preachers today who are interested in the rich tradition of which they, perhaps unknowingly, are a part.--Journal of Ecclesiastical History[A] well-documented and readable history of a neglected group. . . . Recommended for academic and public libraries.--Library JournalTruly outstanding. . . . The best account of how women shaped and were shaped by gender ideologies and religious practices in early America. For 150 years, almost all of the 123 preaching women in this book have been lost to history. Brekus powerfully makes the case that this amnesia had impoverished our understanding of American religion and culture.-- s in American HistoryA valuable accomplishment. Catherine Brekus has put women preachers on the religious map of early America. A reader imagines them climbing the steps to indoor pulpits or open-air platforms, to the joy of some spectators and the disgust of others. It is a compelling picture that deserves to hold the attention of scholars and general readers alike.--Journal of the Early RepublicBrekus shows that female preachers not only participated in the evangelical fervor, but also that as women left an unforgettable mark on American religion. . . . Brekus succeeds in answering a major omission in the previous scholarship. . . . These women deserve to have their stories told again. Brekus makes their struggles compelling, and so her book is a valuable contribution to the field of American religious history.--William and Mary QuarterlyExcellent. . . . [This book] is the first to explore a forgotten world of female evangelists, both white and black, who tried to forge a tradition of female religious leadership in early America. . . . A study which should quickly become the standard work on its subject, radically altering our understanding of America's religious past and adding new dimensions to our view of women's lives.--Journal of American StudiesThe absence of women preachers is truly a gap in the historical record that desperately needs to be filled. Putting preaching women back in their place changes our understanding of the Awakenings and their meaning for and empowerment of ordinary Americans.--Nell Irvin Painter, author of Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol