

birth of the familiar format and illustrates the wide diversity of works that fall under its umbrella. Chapters 3–8 form the core of this volume, analyzing the lives, literature, and resulting lessons of six women who authored familiar format geological science books—Jane Marcet, Delvalle Lowry, and Maria Hack (Europeans) and Jane Kilby Welsh, Delia Woodruff Godding, and Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps (Americans). While these authors often found some level of fame in their lifetime, they have largely been forgotten today. This work is a first step toward righting that wrong.

Due attention will then be paid in Chap. 9 to three examples of women popularizers of geosciences during this era who elected not to write in the familiar format—Mary Roberts, Rosina Zornlin, and Mary Somerville—situating them in contrast to their colleagues. Finally, Chap. 10 explores the societal factors that led the familiar format to, metaphorically, go the way of the dinosaur, through the lives and writings of three women who, in their own ways, negotiated this transition to a more modern (and presumed to be more masculine) style of popularizing science: Arabella Buckley, Agnes Giberne, and Lady Grace Anne Prestwich.

This is the story of uncommon women who persevered in the face of a society that severely curtailed their access to formal education and male critics and rivals who alternately praised and ridiculed their popular level writing. These women persevered despite personal adversity, financial uncertainty, and onerous familial responsibilities, and at a time when the very science they were attempting to encapsulate was in the midst of seismic shifts of its own. They breathed life into the sometimes stiff and staid story of rocks and geological strata, and not only educated generations of children, but encouraged woman and men, young and old, beginner and practitioner, to think more deeply about the planet on which we all live. This book is an attempt to repay a portion of the debt that prior generations of children, and adults, owe to these women who persevered.

New Britain, CT

Kristine Larsen

Contents

1	The Status of the Geological Sciences Circa 1800	1
1.1	Debating Definitions	1
1.2	The Neptunism/Plutonism Debate and the Role of Religion in European Geology	7
1.3	The Religion of Geology: Silliman, Hitchcock and New England Geology	12
1.4	Challenges and Opportunities for Women in Geology	18
	References	23
2	The Popularization of Science	27
2.1	Overview	27
2.2	Defining the Familiar Format in Science Writing	30
2.3	Early Women Authors of the Familiar Format	40
	References	47
3	Jane Haldimand Marcet (1769–1858): The Queen of the Familiar Format	51
3.1	Biographical Overview	51
3.2	Conversations for Children; on Land and Water (1838)	56
3.3	Adaptation and Copyrights in Nineteenth Century America	62
	References	68
4	Maria Hack (1777–1844): Contrivance and Conversation	71
4.1	Biographical Overview	71
4.2	Geological Sketches, and Glimpses of the Ancient Earth (1832)	74
4.3	William Paley and the Education of Harry Beaufoy	81
	References	86
5	Jane Kilby Welsh (1783–1853): Faith and Family	89
5.1	Biographical Overview	89
5.2	Familiar Lessons in Mineralogy and Geology (1832–33)	91
5.3	Criticisms of the Familiar Format and Its Female Authors	100
	References	106

The Women Who Popularized Geology in the 19th
Century

Larsen, K.

2017, VIII, 216 p. 8 illus., 1 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-64951-1