

SCHOOLMARRMS

The schoolmarrm was a civilizing force on the plains. Although the teaching profession was open to both men and women in the 19th century, it was women who turned to teaching as a career. Lacking other professional opportunities, women were willing to take these jobs in spite of the low salary. Settlers on the plains appreciated the value of education and often competed with each other to attract schoolmarrms. One Kansas county announced that it would employ 100 women teachers who would pledge to remain unmarried for three years. Another countered with the offer that it would hire 100 women teachers who would pledge to marry within one year. The county that received the most response is unknown.

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