

**Carry Nation**

**Lead: At six feet tall and 175 pounds, Carry Nation organized the shock troops of the temperance movement.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Carry Amelia Moore was born in Garrard County Kentucky in 1846. Her education was limited though she held a teaching certificate. She left her first marriage because of her husband's alcoholism and soon married David Nation, a lawyer, journalist and minister. Religious**

**convictions drove her deeper and deeper into opposition to the sale and consumption of alcohol. For Carry Nation, drinking liquor was a moral question and fighting it became for her a crusade.**

**In 1880 Kansas passed a law against the sale of liquor, but many saloons still flourished largely ignored by authorities. Carry began to take matters into her own hands, hurling verbal abuse in the street at bar owners and patrons alike. Once she and another woman, whose husband was a heavy drinker, went into a local saloon, dropped to their knees and began praying. As the prayers grew in volume and intensity, the number of**

**patrons shrank. As you imagine, business began to drop off.**

**She became involved in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, but the national organization soon had to repudiate her tactics as she became increasingly violent. Her campaign was symbolized by the hatchet which she would not hesitate to use as she invaded drinking establishments, chopping up tables and bars.**

**Nation was a strong advocate for women's right to vote, but also struggled against the Masons, tobacco, foreign foods, corsets, and short skirts. Frequently arrested and often physically assaulted, Carry Nation was**

**very popular in some circles and financed her crusade and paid her fines with large lecture fees. Her tactics brought publicity the movement and helped lay the groundwork for Prohibition.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

**Day, Robert. "Carry From Kansas Became a Nation All Unto Herself," *Smithsonian* 20 (1, 1989): 147-164.**

**Madison, Arnold. *Carry Nation*. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1977.**

**Willard, Francis Elizabeth. *Woman and Temperance; or, The Work and Workers of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union*. New York, NY: Arno Press, 1972.**

**Copyright by Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.**