DELAWARE HISTORY

Volume XX	Spring-Summer, 1983	Number 3

Delaware's Woman Suffrage Campaign Carol E. Hoffecker	
Brandywine Manufacturers' Sunday School Ruth Lindon	168
Letters to and from Caesar Rodney; The Personal Side Edited by Hagold Hangock	185

PUBLISHED SEMIANNUALLY BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Copyright 1983 by the Historical Society of Dellaware

Delaware's Woman Suffrage Campaign

CAROL E. HOFFECKER*

DDRESSING THE DELAWARE GENERAL Assembly in 1881, Elizabeth Gady Stanton, one of America's most famous advocates of woman suffrage, said that "fifty years from now men will wonder why they ever objected to placing the ballot in women's hands."1 Her prophesy proved correct, for fifty years later—in 1931—women had been voting in state and national elections for eleven years and only a few still found woman suffrage repugnant or peculiar. One of that handful of die-hard anti-suffragists was an influential Delaware grande dame, Mary Wilson Thompson. Defending her opposition to suffrage, Mrs. Thompson declared in her memoir, written in the 1930s, that the vote had been of no benefit to the country and that it had cheapened womanhood. This memoir reminds us of an often forgotten, yet important point about the suffrage victory of 1920: contrary to the sanguine assumption underlying Mrs. Stanton's statement and similar pro-suffrage arguments of the late nineteenth century, woman suffrage was not won simply because everybody finally became convinced that it represented the next great advance of democratic principles. To the contrary, everybody was not won over. In Delaware, a majority of the legislature never voted for suffrage in spite of the suffragists' protracted and at times intense efforts. Yet on a national level, the sufffrage amendment was ultimately adopted. The recent defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment revives interest in earlier struggles for woman's rights, including the strategies employed by both suffragists and anti-suffragists in the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Delaware was one of the key strates in the battle for ratification.

Dellaware's chapter in the history of woman suffirage is a curious one that demonstrates many reasons why state and national leaders of the

^{*} Canol E. Hlofffeedker is Richards Professor of History at the University of Delaware. Hlerr most necent brook is Wilmington: A Piotonial History, published in 1982.

¹ Many R. die Wou, "The Woman Suffrage Movement in Delaware," in H. Clay Reed, ed., Delravine, A History of file First State, 3 volls. (New York, 1947), 11, 37/0.

²\Antibony Higgins, ed., "Wany Wilson Thompson Memoir;" pub. in 4 pants in Delaware History, 18(0.9788-79): 433-62, 1224-51, 1994-217, and 236-66.

^{3,} Higgins, ed., "Thompson Wernoir," 2511.

woman's rights movement had to work so very long and hard to achieve their goal. In 1920, during the last stages of the ratification process for the Nineteenth Amendment, suffiragists held such great hope for wimning their final victory in Delaware that they poured enormous resources into the little state, but in the end Delaware refused to ratify. Why did the suffiragists think they could win in Delaware? Why were they proved wrong? To answer these questions, we must consider several factors. Delaware's politics, which appeared so simple on the surface, turned out to be remarkably complicated. The state's ambivalence to suffrage was unusually pronounced, because as a border state Delaware reflected both the traditional social attitudes of the rural South and the more pragmatic values off the urban, industrial North. It should not be surprising, therefore, that the Diamond State produced several nationally prominent leaders on both sides of the suffrage issue or that the issue aroused one off the most spectacular and intense political battles in the state's history.

Ellizabeth Cady Stanton first proposed the idea of woman suffrage to an American audience at a convention called to consider woman's rights at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. During the decade that followed, advocates of womam's rights concentrated their attention on correcting other legal disabilities, but the political events surrounding the aftermath of the Civil War finally brought the suffrage issue to the head of their list of desired reforms. At the war's conclusion, the victorious North, under Republican party leadership, used the process of amendment to the United States Constitution to eradicate slavery and to guarantee various civil rights to the freedmen, including the extension of the franchise to black males. The Republican leaders refused the appeal of woman's-rights supporters to extend the franchise to women, although they had in fact created a precedent for using the amendment process to enlarge the electorate. The Reconstruction amendments aroused such powerful sectional antagonism as to insure that the readmitted Confederate states would never support any federal amendment dealing with the franchise in defiance of the doctrine of states' rights.

Following Reconstruction the woman's-suffrage issue languished for nearly two decades before it was resurrected by the women's temperance movement in the 1880s. Temperance leaders viewed the suffrage as a means to swell political support for their particular reformist program. The moral appeal of temperance transcended sectionalism and attracted many conservative women who had previously ignored public affairs and woman's-rights issues. In Delaware, for instance, the first woman's-suffrage organization was the franchise department of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, created in 1888. Eight years later in 1896, a small group of women, mostly Wilmingtonians, formed the

⁴Susan B. Anthony and Ida Husted Harper, eds., The History of Woman Suffrage, vol. 4, 1883-1890 (Rochester, 1902), 563.

Delaware Equal Suffrage Association (D.E.S.A.), which affiliated with the National American Women's Suffrage Association (N.A.W.S.A.).

The years following the creation of the D.E.S.A. constituted a period of disappointment for suffragists at both the national and the state levels. The N.A.W.S.A. was dedicated to the proposition that suffrage could best be won on a state-by-state basis rather than through a federal amendment. In fact, although a few Western states had granted women the right to vote, no state in the East, Midwest, or South chose to follow. Thus, the activities of the suffragists at the turn of the century suggest that they had neither the confidence in their ability to win victory nor the strategy necessary to amass widespread support. As late as 1911, the D.E.S.A. had only ninety members, whose main activity was to organize decorous annual conventions where speakers exhorted the converted. Their petitions to the state legislature on behalf of the cause of woman's political rights were ignored. In January 1900 the Supreme Court of the State of Delaware rendered a decision, which must have been particularly galling to suffragists, denying the petition of a woman to practice law on the grounds that as state officers lawyers must be votens. A

Historians of the suffrage movement have identified 1912 as the turning point in the United States. In that year the movement began to take on the new life and resolve that finally led to winning the vote for women in 1920. It was in 1912 that Alice Paul, one of the most determined and effective political strategists in American history, became the head of the N.A.W.S.A.'s Congressional Committee in Washington, D.C. Alice Paul, born in Moorestown, New Jersey, of a Quaker family, was a graduate of Swanthmore College and held a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1912 she was twenty-eight years old and had recently returned from England, where she had participated in the often violent suffrage campaign being waged by the Women's Social and Political Union (W.S.P.U.), led by Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst. In England Miss Paul had learned the value of attentiongetting tactics such as the use of mass, demonstrations, hunger strikes, and protests designed to embarrass leading politicians in order to force them to support suffrage. Like other W.S.P.U. members, she went to iail and on hunger strike several times.

Alice Paul energized the American suffrage movement with new resolve, but her methods and her independent style soon caused a rift with the more accommodationist N.A.W.S.A. In 1913 Alice Paul's Congressional Committee separated from the older, more moderate suffrage organization to form the Congressional Union, later the Women's Party. Miss Paul aimed her organization's efforts at reactivating the long-domaint federal amendment for woman suffrage. She argued that to be effective the Congressional Union must hold the political party in power responsible for delays and refusals to support woman's suffrage.

⁵ SAnthony and Hamper, eds., History of Woman Suffrage, 563.

She approached this task with a single-minded zeal and appetite for combat that the N.A.W.S.A. believed was impolitic to the point of being counterproductive. Contemporaries and historians alike are still undecided as to which; suffrage group was more responsible for the final victory. Judicious study of the events of the period suggests that the rolles of both groups were important and that both approaches proved necessary to bring success.

One of the first full-time employees that Alice Paul recruited for the Congressional Committee was Mabel Vernon, a native of Wilmington, Delaware. The youngest among six children born to George W. Vernom, editor-in-chief of the Wilmington Daily Republican, and his wife, Mary P., Mabel Vernon grew up in a spacious home on Wilmington's West Fifth Street. She attended Swarthmore College, where she developed her considerable forensic skills on the debate team, graduating in 1906, one year after Alice Paul. She was teaching German in Wayne, Pennsylvania, when the opportunity came to become a professional suffrage worker.

In 1913 Mabel Vernon opened a Congressional Union office at Sewenth and Shipley streets in Wilmington, which served as headquarters for intensified efforts to win support for suffrage in Delaware. The Congressional Union's decision to concentrate on the First State at that time was based on several factors: the need to win a few more suffrage states, especially in the East, in order to create momentum for the federal amendment; the small size of Delaware; and the peculiarity of Delaware's constitution, which permitted the legislature to approve amendments to the state constitution without recourse to a referendum. Mabel Vernon's task in her native state was to create a base of support sufficient to win a majority in the Delaware legislature. To launch her campaign, she addressed church and temperance groups, labor unions, Grange meetings, women's clubs, and every other organization in the state that would agree to listen to her arguments. A fearless and effective stump speaker. she also spoke weekly to whatever crowds she could gather on Wilmington street corners and gave impromptu orations at the state fair and similar public gatherings.

Among those who heard Miss Vernon at the state fair was Florence Bayand Hilles, who had come to the fair to show her championship dogs. Many years later Mabel Vernon recalled Mrs. Hilles's reaction to her speech, which was in effect [Miss Vernon] "is saying what I believe in and I'm not doing anything about it." Mrs. Hilles was a descendant of one of Delaware's most distinguished and admired political families. Her father, Thomas F. Bayard, had been a United States Senator, Secretary of State under Grover Clevelland, and ambassador to Great Britain. Her grandfather and great-grandfather had also been United States senators,

⁶Taped oral interview of Mathel Vermon's reminiscences conducted under the auspices of the history department of the University of Delaware in Washington, D.C., Mar. 1974. Miss Vermon was then 90 years old.



Figure 1. Mabel Vermon, an early supporter of woman suffrage, from *The Suffragist*, September 26, 1914.

as was her brother, Thomas F. Bayard, Jr. Her husband, William S. Hilles, was an equally well-connected member of the Delaware Bar. Reared in elevated circles of power and prestige, well educated in both the United States and Europe, Elonence Bayard Hilles yearned for an opportunity to cultivate her own talents for leadership in the public



Figure 2. Delaware headquarters of the Congressional Union; with Florence Bayard Hilles (standing on left), Alice Steinlein (sitting), and Mary Conkle (standing on right); from *The Suffragist*, August 8, 1914.

sphere. Mrs. Hilles brought a great deal more than her will to work to the suffrage movement. Her importance to the Congressional Union and to its successor the Women's Party is suggested in a letter that Alice Paul wrote to her in 1941, which concludes, "I take you as my model and try to be as gallant and generous and courageous as you are. I could wish for nothing more."

Mrs. Hilles's initial task was to prepare for Delaware's first suffrage parade, which was held in Wilmington on May 2, 1914, as part of a nationwide demonstration designed to nudge Congress into a favorable vote on the suffrage amendment. The parade ran its colorful route from the Pennsylvania Railroad Station at Front and French streets to the

⁷ Alice Paul to Florence Bayard Hilles, April 30, 1941, Gallery Collection, Bayard Papers, Box 60, Folder 28, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.



Figure 3. Florence Bayard Flilles, an influential proponent of woman suffrage, from *The Suffragist*, May 1920.

New Castle County Courthouse at Tenth and Market streets, where a rally was held. The four hundred who marched to the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" were divided into divisions, which included professional women, community organizations, and a contingent of college women who wore caps and gowns. Most of the marchers wore sashes in the Congressional Union colors of purple, white, and gold over white outfits. The Morning Necus called the parade "not large—but impressive" and "dignified," adding "it would have seemed incredible five years ago." Mrs. Hilles pronounced it "perfectly splendid." *

More incredible things were to follow. In 1917 the Congressional Union embarked on a campaign to embarrass President Woodrow Wilson into leading his majority Democratic party to embrace the amendment. Using a tactic that had proved effective in England, the Union sent Mabel Vernon to heckle the President when he spoke at the dedication of the Labor Temple in Washington, D.C. At a point when President Wilson was eloquently describing American democracy, Miss Vernon stood up and shouted, "Mr. President, what will you do for

⁸ Willmington Moniling Nav 5, May 4, 11914.

woman sufffrage?" ®Aftter she had imterrupted the President twice in this manner, a secret-service officer tapped her on the shoulder and led her away.

Heckling, although part of the Emglish political tradition, was obnoxious to Americans, and the Congressional Unionists soon modified their technique. Instead of interrupting the President, they began posting "silent sentinels" at the gates of the White House. Ewery day from morning to night a group of female pickets would stand along Pennsylvania Avenue bearing large banners and placards with messages such as "Mr. President How Long Must Women Wait For Liberty?" flanked by other women carrying the now familiar purple, white, and gold banners of the Congressional Union.

On April 2, 1917, the President, heavily burdened by what must have seemed to him to be a more pressing matter of state, drove through the pickets to the Capitol to read his war message to Congress. The speech contained a ringing statement of purpose for American entry into the European War. "We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts, for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their government." That memorable sentence became the new rallying cry of the Union's pickets, and Mabel Vernon had the opportunity to quote it back to the President directly during an interview in the White House a few weeks later.

Before the United States entered the war, the government had tolerated the pickets, but now criticism of the President by the "silent sentinels," as they had come to be known, was seen to be unpatriotic. The administration's embarrassment was particularly intense in June 1917, when envoys from the Alexander Kerensky government in Russia were visiting the Capital. On that occasion, the police were instructed to arrest the picketers on the charge of obstructing traffic. Among the six women apprehended was the intrepid Miss Vernon, who spent three days in the District of Columbia's jail.

On Bastille Day, July 14, 1917, the Congressional Union defied the government with yet another mass demonstration of picketers in front of the White House. A largely hostile crowd, including many servicemen, had gathered to obstruct the pickets when the police stepped in and arrested sixteen of the women. On entering the District of Columbia's grimy courtroom, Mrs. Hilles, one of those arrested, was heard to remark, "Well, girls, I've never seen but one court in my life and that was the Court of St. Jammes. But I must say they are not very much alike." The women were charged with blocking trafffic and given a choice of a \$25.00 fine or sixty days in jail. Mrs. Hilles, them 51 years

[®]Vermon interview, 1974.

¹⁰ Vermon interview, 1974.

¹¹ Vermon interwiew., 1974.

¹² Doriis Stevens, falted for Freedom (New York, 1920), 100.

olid, labeled the charge "a nidiculous frame-up" and defended herself eloquently. She tolid the judge, "for generations the men of my family have given their services to their country. For myself, my training from childhood has been with a father who believed in democracy and who belonged to the Democratic party. By inhenitance and connection I am a Democrat, and to a Democratic President I went with my appeal...... What a spectacle it must be to the thinking people of this country to see us unged to go to war for democracy in a foreign land, and to see women thrown into prison who plead for that same cause at home." All sixteen women reflused to pay their fimes and were sent to Occoquan, a federal prison in Virginia, where they served three days under harsh and humiliating conditions before being pardoned by a higher court officer. These women were but the vanguard of numerous others who were arrested throughout the war years for their continued demonstrations on behalf of suffrage.

By 1919, as the peace treaty negotiations at Versailles were ending, the efforts of the suffragists in the N.A.W.S.A. and in the Women's Partw were showing significant progresss. On May 2, 1919, the United States House of Representatives passed the suffrage amendment, and on June 4 the Senate did likewise. The focus of suffrage activity turned back to the states, where the assent of thirty-six legislatures was necessary to complete the amendment process. The first state ratifications came in May and June. Pennsylvania which ratified on June 24, was the first state to do so that did not already permit women to vote through state legislation. Generally speaking, the legislatures of Western, Midwestern, and Eastern states ratified, while those of Southern states did not. The border state of Maryland proved a great disappointment to suffragists when its legislature refused to ratify during its summer session in 1919. even after suffrage workers had diligently canvassed every legislattor for support. Their opposition was both racially and politically motivated. Maryland Democrats opposed the franchise for black women, who they believed would vote overwhelmingly for the Republican party. Yet, in spite of defeat in Maryland, the forward momentum for ratification continued. New Jersey ratified on February 10, 11920, after a close, hardfought legislative battle. On March 22, Washington ratified, the thirtyfifth state to do so. The suffragists needed only one more state to win, but that state would be difficult to secure because all of the readily prosufffrage states had already acted.

To the strategists im both the N.A.W.S.A. and the Wommen's Party, Delaware appeared to offfer the best hope for victory. It was one of three states controlled by the Republican Party that had not as yet ratified. In the other two, Connecticuit and Wermoont, Republican governors personally opposed the amendment and refused to call their state legislatures into special session to consider ratification in spite of the strong endorse-

¹³ Stevens, failed, 103.

ment of the sufffrage amendment by their national party. Delaware's Republican governor, John G. Townsend, by contrast, was a firm friend of the sufffrage cause. Townsend had callled for the Delaware legislature to meet in special session on March 22. The governor's party held large majorities in both houses of the state legislature. The suffragists reminded Republican politicians nationwide that iff Delaware ratified, many of the women who would be enfranchised throughout the country might be persuaded to wote for candidates of the party that had tipped the scales to give them the long-sought franchise. On the other hand, should the Republicans fail to come through in Delaware, some other state not controlled by that party might ratify before the November elections and the women of America would owe no debt of gratitude to the G.O.P. And so it was that Delaware became the storm center for suffrage. All of the national forces of the N.A.W.S.A. and the Women's Party as well as of the anti-suffragists" National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage descended on Delaware in the spring of 1920. For several months the little state controlled the political future of millions of women.

By 1920 the arguments and tactics on both sides of the suffrage question were not only well-established but also well-worn. The supporters and opponents of enfranchisement for women had already waged battles over ratification in about forty other states. Nor was the suffrage question a novelty in Delaware, where suffrage bills had been presented and rejected by the legislators on several previous occasions. Locally, the battle lines had become clearly drawn between supporters and opponents. The one unknown element was the most crucial—the legislature.

Before describing the complex political maneuverings that were about to be played out in Dover, it is appropriate to review the nature of the debate itself, starting with the position of those who opposed votes for women. Mary Wilson Thompson's memoir offers the single best source of information from the anti-suffragist point of view. Mary Wilson, the daughter of a distinguished Union general in the Civil War, was reared at Stockford, a country estate between Wilmington and New Castle. She attended fashionable schools, including Misses Hebbs School in Wilmington, and traveled abroad before marrying Henry B. Thompson, a Princeton alumnus. Her husband served as treasurer of the Joseph Bancroft and Sons Company in Wilmington and later as president of another textile firm headquartered in New York City. The Thompsons were active in a variety of civic enterprises and were leaders of Wilmington society.^{14*}

In her memoir written in the 1930s, Mrs. Thompson explained her reasons for opposing woman's suffrage: "I have always opposed votes for women. It is constitutional with me. It is not that I feel women cannot vote or are not the mental equal of our men folks, but I feel that it is duplicating our work. It is putting an extra burden on the women and it

¹⁴ Higgins, ed., "Thompson Memoir," 43-50.



Figure 4. Mary Wilson Thompson, leader of the anti-suffrage faction in Delawate, about 11915 (Historical Society of Delawate's collections).

thas weakeneed materially our power with the legislatures." ** She argued tthat by gaining the ballot women had fonfeited their independence from problities and could, therefore, no longer lobbby for aivic causes with the prolitical imdifference that had abaracterized their relationship to politiciams before sufficage was enacted. She also disapprovingly linked womem's sufffrage to a warriety of orther changes in women and in their nedlationships too men. Tithe wote, she said, had given women too much independence, which had led to their assuming "a sort of overbearing spirit trowards the men. I say to the women in this country that their first duty is to keep up their manpower. If a woman constantly iters and openly refuses to consider her husband's opinions, what is to become of the family? With women all taking up jobs and receiving independent salaries for them, naturally they feel equal if not superior to their husbands. The young woman you see around in public is personally unaturactive; she talks too loud and makes herself conspicuous; she is immodest on the beach and in the ballroom. . . . Personally, I should like to see them shut up in a harem for a while." (As president of the Delaware branch of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, Mrs. Thompson led speaking tours of the state, raised funds, and kept in close touch with leading politicians on behalf of her cause.

Another Wilmingtonian conspicuously allied with the antii-suffragists was Emily P. Bissell, best remembered for introducing the Christmas Seal to the United States in 1907 to raise funds for a tubercullosis sanitorium in Delaware. In addition to her social work, she was a novelist who wrote under the pen name Priscilla Leonard and a nationally known spokesperson for the anti-suffragists. In 1900 Emily P. Bissell had addressed the United States Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage, where she argued that most women did not want suffrage, a statement that Delaware anti-suffragists later supported with the results of a poll that they conducted in the state in 1917. Miss Bissell told the senators that, contrary to suffragist claims, the Western states which had embraced suffrage had not experienced any visible political purification. She also pointed out that as an unmarried, self-supporting woman, who was active in social work and an advocate of temperance (though not, she said emphatically, a prohibitionist!), she was the very sort of person that the suffragists presumed to represent. Yet she could see no advantage to be gained by extending the vote to women, because women were already fairly treated since they had gained admission to virtually every profession. 117

¹⁵ Higgins, ed., "Thompson Memoir," 251.

¹⁶ Higgins, ed., "Thompson Memoin," 251.

¹⁷ Address by Emily P. Bissell before the United States Senate Committee On Woman Suffinage, Feb. 13, 1900, printed by the Massachusetts Association Opposed to Extension of Woman Suffinage, copy in Woman Suffinage Box, Historical Society of Delaware (thereafter Woman Suffrage Box, HSD).

In the postwar atmosphere that prevailed in 1919 and 1920, the antisuffragists raised yet another argument—that the suffragists had behaved unpatriotically during the war. Mary Wilson Thompson, for example, dispatched a letter to all members of the General Assembly in January 1919 in which she asserted that "the Anti-Suffragists have sent more sons to the war than the suffragists" and that the suffragist argument that women should receive the ballot as a reward for war work was fallacious because no "real patriot would ask for a reward for any service she might render her country. . . . "18 Similarly, during the debate before the General Assembly in the spring of 1920, Emily P. Bissell, according to a press account, "exploded the giant verbal dynamite of the day when she charged Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, head of the suffrage party with being a pacifist during the war. She also accused Jame Addams of Hull House, Chicago, another leading suffragist, with 'sailing on the ship of fools" because Addams had participated in Henry Eord's abortive peace effort before the United States entered the war. 18

In 1920, in contrast to 1982, it was the feminists whose arguments and appeals to democratic principles and fairness were best known and most compellingly presented to the public. Their parades had won the public's attention; their war work had won the nation's gratitude; and their argument that the extension of the vote to women was the necessary next step in the evolution of democracy had won much popular support. The suffragists' most formidable argument was summed up by a cartoon that appeared on the cover of the Congressional Union's weekly publication The Suffragist in 1914. It depicts Uncle Sam pointing a revolver at a well-dressed woman above a caption that reads "It's woman this, and woman that, and woman go away, But 'its please deliver Madam,' when there's Income Tax to pay." This same theme of taxation without representation was echoed in Elorence Bayard Hilles's testimony before the Delaware legislature that year. She noted that although she owned a large farm south of New Castle, she had no voice in choosing its assessor, while her illiterate and pennilless black servant "simply because he is a man can vote to say who shall assess my property." 21

Mrs. Hilles thus had cleverly managed to incorporate into her statement the concepts of both democratic justice and racism. In Delaware, as in Maryland and other former slave states, discussions of woman suffrage invariably came down to race. Many Democrats in Delaware, as in Maryland, believed that extension of the ballot to black women would result in a bigger vote for the G.O.P. and that any expansion of the

¹⁸ Mary Wilson Thompson to Hon. Harry E. Clendamiel, Jan. 17, 1919, in Woman Suffrage Box, HSD.

¹⁹ Monning News, Mar. 26, 1920.

²⁰ The Sinffragist, Apr. 11, 1914. Florence Bayard Hilles's copies are in the newspaper collection of the HSD.

²¹ Wilmington Evening Journal, Jan. 21, 1924, 191^.'''



It's Woman this, and Woman that, and Woman go away.
But "it's please theliver, Muihmi," when there's licence Tas to pay,

Figure 5. Cartoon linking the theme of taxation without representation to the woman suffrage issue, from The Suffragist, April 111, 1914.

suffrage through the process of federal amendment was an unwarranted blow to states' rights. In 1920, Mabel Ridgeley of Dover, the president of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association, tried to stifle the states' rights claim with the statement that the outcome of the Civil War had "rolled the stone on the sepulcher of such dead arguments." Shout Delaware's so-called "Southern exposure" remained one of several serious obstacles to the suffragists.

In retrospect, the reasons behind the defeat of the suffrage amendment in Delaware seem clear. The amendment had been caught in the crossfire of factional contentions that were beyond the control of the suffragists and their most powerful political supporters. Carrie Chapman Catt, president and master political strategist of the N.A.W.S.A., analyzed the situation in detail in her post-victory book entitled Woman Suffrage and Politics, The Inner Story of the Suffrage Movements In spite of Delaware's Republican majority and Governor Townsend's support, she had discovered that the party was split into warring camps that refused to cooperate, even when the good of Republicans nationally was at stake. This discordance was further exacerbated by the political and sectional controversy surrounding the state's recently enacted school code, a reform measure initiated by Pierre S. du Pont. The new school code increased taxes and imposed state-controlled public education on unwilling rural people. It was especially resented in Sussex County. Daniel Layton, the leader of the Sussex dissidents, was a political maverick whose antipathy toward outside interference into the affairs of his county was so great that when he was deputy attorney general he had condoned a riot in Georgetown in opposition to a state-mandated innoculation program during a smallpox epithemici²⁴. Lawton's faction particularly resented du Pont's involvement in public-school reforms and was determined to prevent further incursions by rich outsiders into traditional local rights and powers: \$? ®

This was the turbulent political situation when Gowernor Townsend called the General Assembly into special session for the last, greatest, and most colorful suffrage battle in Delawane's history. It was the only session ever held in Dower that captured the attention of the entire nation. Local politicians called the spectacle the "war of the roses" because each side furnished boutonnieres in its color to supporters: yellow jonquils for the "suffs," as they were familiarly called, and red roses, the symbol of chivalry, for the "antis."

As suffrage contenders from all over the nation descended on Dover, Wilmington newspapermen were astonished at the transformation of the state capital from a sleepy small town "into a metropolis of men and

²² Mabel Ridgely to John G. Townsend, Feb. 28, 1920, Woman Sufffrage Box, HSD.

²³ Caurie Chapman Caut amd Nettie Rogers Shuller, Woman Suffrage and Politics, The Inner Story of the Suffrage Movement (New York, 1926).

²⁴ Wilmington Kiidiy Evening, Feb. 116, 11920.

²⁵ Delmarva Statt, Feb. 8, 11920.

women seething with their respective doctrines. It burned in their eyes and filled the air with a sweet incense from their yellow and red roses." Hotels and restaurants overflowed and the old State House on Dover Green "fairly groaned under its burden of interested humanity." Governor Townsend's opening message to the special session contained a trenchant endorsement of the proposed Nineteenth Amendment. "Woman's suffrage," he reminded the legislators, "has been a subject of public discussion for over half a century. It is not an agitation of the moment. The right of equal franchise has been granted and exercised with success in several states for years. It is not a theory or untried experiment." The governor, believing that those women who did not wish to vote should not stand in the way of those who did, called on the assembly to recognize its responsibility. "Your supreme duty is to think and act for the good of your state and nation—and the influence of woman is for good. The eyes of a nation rest upon you."

The suffragists had canvassed the legislature and were optimistic, although they admitted to being eight votes short. But, as a local suffrage leader later wrote, "all looked so favorable that the women were little prepared for the weeks of intrigue and double dealing into which they were thrust...." On March 25 both sides presented their arguments to a packed audience in an atmosphere of fevered excitement. Elorence Bayard Hilles, Mabel Ridgely, and Garrie Chapman Catt were the main speakers for the "suffs" and Mary Wilson Thompson and Emily P. Bissell for the "antis."

With the outcome so uncertain and the debate so rancorous, tempers got short and both sides resorted to coercive tactics. One "anti" called Carrie Chapman Catt a Bolshevik The "suffs," for their part, resorted to kidnapping the chairman of the committee charged with presenting the suffrage amendment on the floor of the House in order to prevent a vote they knew they would lose, spiriting him off in Mrs. Hilles's powerful automobile. Mrs. Thompson, livid with rage at this trick, tracked the beleaguered man down and browbeat him into signing a proxy statement empowering her to act on his behalf should he again mysteriously disappear Tacked. In addition to unrelenting lobbying by the representatives of the two sides, the legislators were besieged by tele-

²⁶ Morning News, Mar. 26, 1920.

²⁷ Morning News, Mar. 26, 1920.

²⁸ State of Delaware, Journal of the House of Representatives, 97th General Assembly, Special Session, 1920, 19.

²⁹ House Journal, 1920, 19.

³⁰ Mary R. de Vou, "Delaware," a typewritten, annotated copy of material sent for inclusion in chap. 7 of vol. 6 of *The History of Woman Suffrage*, ed. by Ida Husted Harper. The de Vou ms. is to be found in the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association Folder, Historical Society of Delaware (hereafter D.E.S.A. Folder, HSD).

³¹ Morning News, Jan. 20, 1920.

³² Higgins, ed., "Thompson Memoir," 254.



Figure 6. Suffrage rally on Dover Green, May 1920; in a final effort to win a majority of the Delaware legislature, suffragists set up a speakers' platform on the Green and decorated the trees with banners of purple, gold and white; from The Suffragist, May 1920.

grams from interested people all over the country, including President Wilson, who begged his fellow Democrats to support the amendment. The suffragists also brought President Eamon de Valera of the Irish Free State to Dover. De Valera pleaded in vain with the recalcitrant Irish-American delegates from Wilmington, who refused to budge from their opposition because they linked suffrage with hated Prohibition. Indeed, the suffragists believed that the bulk of their opponents were either "wets" or tools of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which strongly opposed the measure because enlarging the electorate would render it more difficult for the company to influence legislative action: "

On April 1 the bill was finally presented to the House, which rejected it by a vote of 23 to 9. Mrs. Thompson was hoisted up on a chair amidst wild cheering from her supporters. The vote, however, proved to be but a skirmish in a larger war. That same day Alfred I. du Pont, owner of the Wilmington Morning Neins and leader of one of the principal Republican factions, endorsed suffinage. The suffragists themselves immediately began a blitz-like educational campaign in Sussex County, where every representative had voted against them. On April 20 when the Republicans held their state convention in Dover, the suffragists were out in force. "The entire town was agog with the suffrage doctrine," the

34 Manilug Xwics, Apr. 2, 1920.

³⁵ De Vou ms., D.E.S.A. Folder, HSD. The claim that liquor and business interests obstructed woman suffrage was commonly made throughout the country. See Eleanor Flexner, Century of Stinggle (Cambridge, Mass., 1975), 307-9.

Morning News informed its readlers. "Its purple, white and gold banners bedecked automobiles... windows, and flag staffs." The suffragists capped the day with a parade of "suffrage children" mounted on ponies and bicycles or pulled in carts. Amid such hoopla the Republican delegates unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the legislature to ratify the amendment.

When the legislature reconvened on May 5, the Senate voted 11 to 6 in favor of ratification. The suffragists, still uncertain of overturning their earlier defeat in the House, again tried to postpone a vote. John E. "Bull" McNabb, a representative from Wilmington, assaulted the suffragists on the House floor for delaying the vote, "using freely the words bribery," 'cajoling,' 'threats,' and much profanity," while, according to a pro-suffrage source, Mrs. Thompson "kept calling out encouragement to him" until ordered to stop: "Mrs. Thompson later described "Bull" McNabb as "a splendid man, honest and staunch." "A McNabb's side lost on that occasion, for the Assembly did agree to adjourn until May 17.

When that day came it brought the crescendo of the ratification struggle. Both sides pulled out all the stops. "This was the most exciting day we had," Mrs. Thompson later recalled! *** The three most influential du Pont cousins, Pierre S., T. Coleman, and Alfred I.—once partners in The Du Pont Company but more recently estranged—all came to Dover to urge every Republican legislator to vote for suffrage. In the center of the Dover Green the suffragists set up a speaker's platform decorated with their colors from which Mabel Vernon, Florence Bayard Hilles, and others addressed the crowds that had gathered to witness the final act of the drama. For the suffragists the end came with the proverbial whimper. They managed to postpone defeat for two weeks, but it finally came on June 2, 1920, when the House of Representatives voted 24 to 10 against bringing ratification of the amendment to a vote: ** Amid jubilant cheers from the anti-suffragists, Mrs. Thompson was once again hoisted into the air in the State House and was then set down and photographed for the newspapers bearing a large bouquet of red roses. Soon after she gave a luncheon for all the members of the legislature who had voted against ratification, with Representative Wallter E. Hart of Townsend, the kidnap victim, as guest of honor. Since he had voted in favor of ratification both times the question had come up, the occasion must have been discomforting for him.

The suffragists were disapprointed but not discouraged. Mrs. Ridgely told the press that "off course the faillure to ratify is a fearful disappointment. But it really is only a brief delay." The Suffragist apologetically

³⁵ Moming Xeu's, Apr. 21, 1920.

⁵⁶ De Vou ms., D.E.S.A. Folder, HSD.

³⁷ Higgins, ed., "Thompson Memoin," 255.

³⁸ Higgins, ed., "Thompson Memain," 255.

³⁹ House Journal, 260.

^{40,} Mourning Nrate, Jun. 3, 1920.

described Delaware as a quaint backwater, with its colonial Green and ancient State House, too old fashioned to accept such a progressive reform. A Women's Party supporter wrote that "this accumulation of historic atmosphere added its subtle weight to the regret of the suffragists when Delaware failed them." The first state to ratify the constitution was not to be the state to put the Nineteenth Amendment over the top. As soon as the cause was lost in Delaware, the suffragists shifted their focus to another border state, Tennessee, where after a similarly exhausting campaign they were finally rewarded with victory on August 18, 1920.

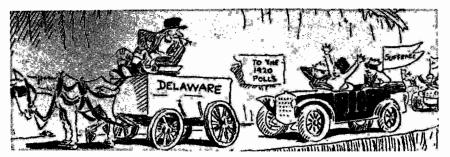


Figure 7. Cartoon depicting Delaware as a country bumpkin blocking the suffrage coalition, from *The Suffragist*, May 1920.

⁴¹ The Suffragist Jun. 1920.

⁴² Imez. Hayrress Inwim, Albe Stony of the Women's Rorty (New York, 1921), 443.

During the 1920s, Blanche Stubbs was active in Republican Party politics, both nationally and locally, and served as state chairman of the black-led National Republican Women's Auxiliary Committee, in addition, she attended at least one Pan-African Congress in New York (in 1927). As NAACP branch Vice-President, she and her husband (who chaired the Executive Committee) worked with Lewis A. Redding and his son Louis Lorenzo Redding, a Harvard Law School graduate who became the first African American admitted to the Delaware bar, in offorts to mitigate the routine humiliations of segregation. In 1925, the group successfully kept local theaters from screening the racist film "The Birth of a Nation." In 1927, in her capacity as director of the Garrett Settlement House, she lodged a formal complaint with Wilmington's Park Commission over an incident that occurred when she took a group of her students, aged three to twelve, to use playground equipment at a local park. They were denied access. Her action sparked a major NAACP-led protest. against segregation in public parks. In later years, her daughter Jean Stubbs Jamison, as president of the NAACP's Wilmington branch, led the effort to integrate all of Delaware's public accommodations.

Alongside public accomplishments, the post-suffrage decades brought personal sorrows. Between 1919 and 1931, nine of her remaining siblings died; in 1935 her husbano died of pneumonia at age 67. In 1947, her son, Frederick Douglass Stubbs, a highly regarded Philadelphia thoracic surgeon, died at age 41. A Wilmington elementary school, dedicated in 1953, bears his name. She continued her work as director of the Garrett Settlement until it closed in 1949. Blanche Stubbs took ill and died on March 11, 1952, at the home of her daughter Jean Jamison in Wilmington, following her eightieth birthday dinner celebration. She and her two daughters. Jean and her sister Elizabeth Stubbs Davis, an anthropological researcher and teacher—had just returned from a cruise to Central and South America. Along with her daughters, she was survived by her youngest brother Hugo.

At her death, Blanche Williams Stubbs was eulogized as one of the most prominent women in Wilmington's African American community. Her broad commitment to social justice and her associations with Emma Bello Gibson Sykes, Alice Baldwin and Alice Dunbar-Nelson bore fruit in women's clubs, women's suffrage, and NAACP activities in her adopted city. For her work and contributions to the civic life

Cookie Preferences

Details

Field of Interest:

Women and Social Movements

Author:

Carol A. Scott, fl. 2017

Collection:

Women and Social Movements in the United States.1600-2000

Content Type:

Biography

Format:

Text

Page Count:

0

Page Range:

1-0

Publication Year:

2017

Publisher:

Alexander Street

Place Published /

Alexandria, VA

Released:

Subject:

Related Items

Biographical sketch of Blanche Williams Stubbs

Biographical Database of Black Woman Suffragists Biography of Blanche Williams Stubbs, 1872-1952

Carol A. Scott

Undergraduate student, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

Edited by Anne M. Boylan, University of Delaware

Blanche Williams Stubbs was born in Wisconsin, on February 29, 1872, the tenth child (of fifteen) and eighth daughter of John Ebenezer Williams and Elizabeth Bisland [variously spelled]. John E. and Elizabeth B. Williams, both of whom had been born in Pennsylvania, moved the family to Wisconsin and Illinois before settling in Marquette, on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which became the family home. John Williams prospered as a barber, an occupation that provided opportunities unavailable to African American men in other arenas. Among Blanche Williams's siblings, one brother and two sisters followed their father into the barbering/hairdressing field; others pursued training in nursing, dentistry, master plumbing, and teaching. Tragedy struck the family in 1887 when Blanche was fifteen years old; her fifty-two-year-old mother died of cancer. Elizabeth Williams was buried in the family plot at Park Cemetery in Marquette. The following year, John E. Williams was remarried in Chicago to a Virginia widow, Neeton A. Perry; by 1900 they were living in Philadelphia, along with his two youngest sons. John Williams died in Montreal in 1911 and was buried in Marquette.

Blanche Williams entered Howard University in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1892. Upon graduation, she settled in Wilmington, Delaware, to teach at The Howard School. It seems likely that the school's renowned principal, Edwina Kruse, a stern educator of Puerto Rican and German ancestry, who was widely revered for her rigorous standards, had recruited her. In Washington and in Delaware, Blanche Williams would have had her first encounters with legal segregation and the perverse inequalities it imposed. Wilmington's Howard School, which had been founded by the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of Colored People, a group organized by whites in 1866, was, by the 1890s, black-run and the first Delaware school to provide a full curriculum to Black students. It offered the only four-year high school course for African Americans in the entire state. Blanche Williams taught at the school for over five years, resigning shortly after marrying J. Bacon Stubbs of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in December, 1897. Undoubtedly the couple had met at Howard University, as J.B. Stubbs earned his medical degree there. During their marriage, which lasted until his death in 1935, Blanche W. Stubbs bore three children: Jeanette (Jean) (later Jamison); Elizabeth (Liddie) (later Davis); and Frederick Douglass Stubbs.

Blanche Stubbs's activism was broad, deep, and life-long. In 1912, she and her husband joined with other African American Wilmingtonians, including Howard High School teacher Alice Ruth Moore Dunbar, to found the Garrett Settlement House, named for the city's famed abolitionist leader, Thomas Garrett. Incorporated in 1913, with a building at Seventh and Walnut Streets, a short walk from the Stubbs family home at 827 Tatnall Street, the settlement was the only such agency serving the city's African American community. Its offerings included a kindergarten and playground; domestic science, art, and music classes; athletic training; lectures on African American history; and meeting spaces. Blanche Stubbs became the settlement's first director and served in that capacity until 1949, when her church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, took over the work and erected a new building on the site. Along with her husband, she was an early and consistent supporter of the Wilmington Branch of the NAACP, chartered in 1915. Like other educated African American women of her era, Blanche Stubbs devoted time to women's club work, providing leadership to the City Federation of Colored Women. In 1916, she presided over a meeting of several local clubs at the Garrett Settlement House

which resulted in the creation of the Delaware Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, an affiliate of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW). She became the Delaware Federation's first president. During her two-year term, the number of affiliated clubs increased significantly and membership grew to 250. The Federation focused its work on the needs of African American youth; in 1919, it founded the Delaware Industrial School for Colored Girls.

Blanche Stubbs's suffrage activism emerged from within this matrix of community engagement, concern about African American children's education, interest in racial uplift, opposition to racially discriminatory policies, involvement in women's clubs, and efforts to advance the status and rights of African Americans. By the time she attended the organizational meeting of the Wilmington Equal Suffrage Study Club in March, 1914, at the home of Emma Belle Gibson Sykes, a co-communicant at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and a teacher at Howard High School, Blanche Stubbs was part of a dense network of activist women in her adopted city. Other founding members included the club's president, Alice Ruth Moore Dunbar, Alice G. Baldwin, Nellie Nicholson (later Taylor), and Caroline Williams—all of them teachers at Howard High School. When Delaware's suffragists organized Wilmington's first mass suffrage parade on May 2, Blanche Stubbs served as marshal for the "colored" section, which marched separately from white suffragists. Not long after, in early June 1914, the club announced, in addition to its semi-monthly meetings, a series of lectures on the topic of suffrage and "questions of municipal, state, national, and international interest," the first of which considered "The World Wide Woman Movement and What It Means to the Negro."

Blanche Stubbs voiced her views on black women's suffrage in several ways, most notably in a lengthy letter published in the Wilmington Evening Journal on February 23, 1915. At the time, the state legislature was debating an amendment to the state constitution that would have enfranchised Delaware's women (the state did not formally disfranchise black men, despite its segregation laws). Addressing the editor's assumptions about African American voters' loyalty to the Republican Party, an assumption shaping the debate, Stubbs reviewed the history of that loyalty, and argued that "the vote of the colored women cannot be counted on as an asset to any one party." Black women, she insisted, might be Democrats or Republicans, and held opinions "just as diversified as those of the white women," with whom they had been "joining hands ... in every reform movement" since 1848. Revealing her own assumptions about class differences between whites and blacks and among African Americans, she contended that a black woman's "vote is not half so great a menace to the country as that of the poor, illiterate immigrant women who have not been reared under our flag and constitution, and with our language and customs their birthright." The editor should "study ... [N]egro women as a whole, not simply one class, and that the lowest, before making any more prophecies." In July, 1916, as the Congressional Union (CU) was recruiting ward-level suffrage support in Wilmington, she opened the Garrett Settlement House for CU's use and presided over an organizing meeting. Later, on June 3, 1920, one day after the Delaware State Legislature had refused to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, she scheduled a public lecture at the settlement house on "The Equality of Men and Women."

During the 1920s, Blanche Stubbs was active in Republican Party politics, both nationally and locally, and served as state chairman of the black-led National Republican Women's Auxiliary Committee. In addition, she attended at least one Pan-African Congress in New York (in 1927). As NAACP branch Vice-President, she and her husband (who chaired the Executive Committee) worked with Lewis A. Redding and his son Louis Lorenzo Redding, a Harvard Law School graduate who became the first African American admitted to the Delaware bar, in efforts to initigate the routine humiliations of segregation. In 1925, the group successfully kept local theaters from screening the racist film "The Birth of a Nation." In 1927, in her capacity as director of the Garrett Settlement House, she lodged a formal complaint with Wilmington's Park Commission over an

incident that occurred when she took a group of her students, aged three to twelve, to use playground equipment at a local park. They were denied access. Her action sparked a major NAACP-led protest against segregation in public parks. In later years, her daughter Jean Stubbs Jamison, as president of the NAACP's Wilmington branch, led the effort to integrate all of Delaware's public accommodations.

Alongside public accomplishments, the post-suffrage decades brought personal sorrows. Between 1919 and 1931, nine of her remaining siblings died; in 1935 her husband died of pneumonia at age 67. In 1947, her son, Frederick Douglass Stubbs, a highly regarded Philadelphia thoracic surgeon, died at age 41. A Wilmington elementary school, dedicated in 1953, bears his name. She continued her work as director of the Garrett Settlement until it closed in 1949. Blanche Stubbs took ill and died on March 11, 1952, at the home of her daughter Jean Jamison in Wilmington, following her eightieth birthday dinner celebration. She and her two daughters—Jean and her sister Elizabeth Stubbs Davis, an anthropological researcher and teacher—had just returned from a cruise to Central and South America. Along with her daughters, she was survived by her youngest brother Hugo.

At her death, Blanche Williams Stubbs was eulogized as one of the most prominent women in Wilmington's African American community. Her broad commitment to social justice and her associations with Emma Belle Gibson Sykes, Alice Baldwin and Alice Dunbar-Nelson bore fruit in women's clubs, women's suffrage, and NAACP activities in her adopted city. For her work and contributions to the civic life of Wilmington, she was honored by the Alumni Association at Howard University in June 1951.

Sources::

Biographical details for Blanche Williams Stubbs and her family can be traced through decennial censuses and city directories, as well as birth and death records available via <u>Ancestry.com</u> and <u>familysearch.org</u>, and African American newspapers, particularly the St. Paul (Minnesota) <u>Appeal</u>, the New York <u>Age</u> and the Chicago <u>Defender</u>. A descendant maintains a genealogy with family photos

at https://www.geni.com/people/Florence-Blanche-

Williams/600000009038630483?through=6000000009038223110

An obituary appeared in the Wilmington *Journal-Every Evening*, March 12, 1952. The papers of the Wilmington Branch of the NAACP, available on microfilm, contain information on her membership and on the 1927 protest over segregated parks. Her correspondence with W.E.B. DuBois in the 1920s, some of which has been digitized, can be found in DuBois's papers at the University of Massachusetts. The diary of Alice Ruth Moore Dunbar-Nelson, *Give Us Each Day*, ed. Gloria T. Hull (New York: W.W. Norton, 1984), covering the years 1921 to 1931, includes details on the Stubbs and Jamison families. Dunbar-Nelson was particularly close to Jean Stubbs Jamison and her husband Dr. Francis T. ("Juice") Jamison. For her role as first president of the Delaware Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, see Elizabeth Lindsay Davis, *Lifting as They Climb* (Washington, DC: National Association of Colored Women, 1933), 120-23. Blanche and J. Bacon Stubbs's wills can be found at the office of the New Castle County Register of Wills office, Wilmington, Delaware; wills #31B87 and #31B94. Copies and some associated documents are in the papers of Allison Davis, Blanche Stubbs's son-in-law, at the University of Chicago Library.

News, June 26, 1913, p. 3; "Negro Women to Study Suffrage," *ibid.*, March 21, 1914, p. 2; "Suffrage Parade Striking Success," *Sunday Morning Star*, May 3, 1914, pp. 1, 23; and "Clash over Use of City Playfields," *Evening Journal*, August 4, 1927, pp. 1, 11. For Blanche W. Stuhbs's letter to Editor of the Wilmington *Evening Journal*, see the misleadingly-titled "Many Anti-Suffragists among Colored Women," February 23, 1915, p. 6

Important secondary sources include Annette Woolard-Provine, Integrating Delaware: The Reddings of Wilmington (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 2003); Carol Hoffecker and Annette Woolard, "Black Women in Delaware's History," http://www1.udel.edu/BlackHistory/blackwomen.html; and Pauline A. Young, "The Negro in Delaware: Past and Present," in Delaware: A History of the First State, ed. H. Clay Reed and Marjorie Bjornson Reed (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1947), II, 581-606.

Blanche Williams Stubbs photo, n.d.; courtesy of H. Gordon Fleming



Details

Field of Interest: Women and Social Movements

Author: Carol A. Scott, fl. 2017

Collection: Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000

Content Type:Biography

Format:Text
Page Count:0
Page Range:1-0
Publication Year:2017

Publisher: Alexander Street

Place Published / Released:Alexandria, VA

Subject:Women and Social Movements; History; Women and Rights; Suffragists; Mujer y Derechos; Direitos da Mulher; Blanche Williams Stubbs, 1872-1952; Political and Human Rights; Suffrage **Topic:**Suffrage

Keywords and Translated Subjects: Mujer y Derechos; Direitos da Mulher Related Items

Co



121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N \mid Dover, DE 19901 \mid (302) 744-5000

Historical Marker Application

Proposed Marker Information	<u>n</u> (required info is in red)						
Suggested Marker Topic:	Date of Application: 11/26/2019						
Women's Suffrage March							
Preferred Location (Please provide the exact addre	ess or GPS Coordinates):						
Wilmington Train Station (or vicinity)							
Town: Wilmington	County: New Castle County						
The reason this location was chosen: This location had two significant events that occured at it during the suffrage movement.	Property Information Public or Private Property: Public Property Owner's Permission (if private):						
Your Contact I	nformation						
Full Name:	Phone Number:						
Connor Graham	3027445019						
Email Address:	Organization (if applicable):						
connor.graham@delaware.gov	Delaware Public Archives						
Street Address:							
121 MLK Jr. Blvd. North							
City: Dover	State: DE Zipcode: 19901						
Please complete both sections found on Page Incomplete applications will not Funding Sta Historical markers are funded on an individual ba must be obtained from a local Senator or Represe approved by the Delaware Public Archives. Once	t be reviewed or considered. Atement asis by local legislators. Financial support entative after the marker application has been						
the Archives and we will move forward with the p	production of a marker.						
DPA Office U							
Date Received: 11/27/19 Date Approved: 12/5/19	Approved by: KH+SM						



121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N | Dover, DE 19901 | (302) 744-5000

Historical Marker Application Supplemental Information

Please include or attach the following information

1. <u>Statement of Significance</u>
On an attached sheet or document or in the text box below, please explain in a thorough but concise typed statement why the proposed subject is important and why it should be

commemorated with a marker. Please refer to the <u>guidelines and criteria</u> when writing your statement.
This location is significant to the women's suffrage movement in Delaware for two reasons. It was the site where the Delaware Women's Suffrage parade began. It was also the place where Delaware women embarked on their trip to Washington D.C. to participate in the national march.
2. <u>Background Information</u> On an attached sheet or document or in the text box below, please provide a typed list of relevant facts, notes, and/or information pertaining to the proposed marker subject. Please include citations to the resources you used to research this topic. This information will be helpful in researching and writing the marker text. Please note: DPA staff will edit proposed marker text to conform to research and format standards, including space limitations.
Women's Suffrage March: May 2, 1914 a suffrage parade took place in Wilmington beginning at the train station at French and Front Streets and lead north along Market street to the old NCC Courthouse, present site of Rodney Square. This site was also where the Silent Sentinals would embark on their trip to Washington D.C. to picket the White House.
Saye & Email, Print, or Clear this form:

Save for Email Print Clear

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NOTES

(Edited by a Wilmington Suffragist.)

paper man; Miss Alice Paul, of Washington, D. C., chairman of the Con-Philadelphia factory worker; Miss States. Mary Conkle, a Philadelphia school For suffrage, there has been raised subject is a comparatively new one making all summer. in suffrage work, but it is one that On Saturday morning last a sufsomewhat sensational sight to see of votes for women. well-bred and cultured women mounted upon a soap box in a crowded DO THE ENFRANCHISED city street. The crowds never fail to be respectful and contribute generously to the collection, showing that all that is needed is time and energy spent in reaching the people. Money is also an important factor because suffrage workers must eat and sleep and pay carfare, and a headquarters must be maintained. Delaware suffragists have denied themselves for the carrying on this work this summer to the extent of about \$300showing that the spirit is quite alive,

LUCY STONE'S BIRTHDAY HONORED BY SUFFRAGISTS.

country over.

Wilmington has been fortunate re- She earned her own way through cently in having good speakers on the | college by picking and selling berries subject of woman suffrage address- and chestnuts and teaching school ing the crowds on Market street. Miss for nine years. She was graduated Elsie Hill, daughter of ex-Represen- from Oberlin College. Appointed to tative Hill, of Connecticut, and mem- write a commencement essay, she her of the Executive Committee of the was told it must be read for her by Congressional Union for Woman Suf- one of the professors, owing to the frage, held many street meetings in impropriety of a woman reading her July. In August Mrs. George Mor- lown essay in public, so she declined gan, wife of a Philadelphia news- to write it. Forty years later at Oberlin's fiftieth anniversary, Lucy Stone was invited to be one of the speakers. So it is that Delaware gressional Union for Woman Suf- suffragists felt that their efforts durfrage; Mrs. Martha S. Cranston, of ling the national "Sacrifice Week" Newport, Del., president of the State | could best be turned to the swelling Equal Suffrage Association; Mrs. of campaign funds by extending the Florence Bayard Hilles, of New Cas- field of the paper founded by this tie, Del.; Miss Anna T. McCue, a pioneer suffragist of the United

teacher; and Dr Maud A Eowyer, a in Delaware this summer, upwards Philadelphia physician; have spoken of \$300. Delaware suffragists are not here. This manner of obtaining au- contributing to the "melting pot" bediences for the discussion of the cause of the sacrifices they have been

proves very effective. People who frage bake was held at the home of never would come inside a hall to Mrs. John F. Thomas, No. 606 King ! listen, stop on the street corner out street, Wilmington, where cakes, rollis is of curiosity, for it is a novel and and jelly were sold to help the cause

WOMEN VOTE?

About 40 per cent, of the total vote at the recent Kansas primary election was cast by women. And in Kansas there are over 115 men to 18 every 100 women. In some precincts more women than men voted. Many of the farmers stayed at home to work in the fields while the women suffragists have responded women.

SUFFRAGISTS HONOR THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

Baltimore is to celebrate the hun-In honor of Lucy Stone's birthday, dreth anniversary of the writing of special sales of a woman's paper the Star Spangled Banner by several founded by her, were made on August | days of festivity during the week of 13 by suffragists in Wilmington, in | September 7. There will be elaborate common with other organizations the electric illuminations, a great parade, meetings, excursions, etc. The city Born on August 13, 1818. Lucy authorities have invited the suffra-Stone was denied a college education gists to form a part of the civic secby her father because she was a girl. tion of the parade, and have even of-

fered to furnish the music. as to their country's flag.

have figured in former Baltimore Shaw's at the other, and in between parades will be redecorated for the is a strenuous demand for the sufoccasion, and five new ones will be made, for they represent the suffrage States and Alaska-four new States and one territory having secured equal suffrage since the chariots were first used.

Another great feature will be the

huge eighty-foot sign, which was prepared by the Congressional Committee of the National Suffrage Association for the last parade in Washington. It has Susan B. Anthony's por-The famous gilded chariots, which trait at one end, and Anna Howard frage amendment to the National Constitution.

Every suffragist will remember curing that week that the first Star Spangled Banner was made by a weman-Betsy Ross.

with went to the polls. In one precinct alacrity, and judging from the plans nearly all the election officials were already made, their section will be an honor to their own cause as well

A Section of the Suffrage Pageant





SUFFRAGISTS IN PAGEANT TO-DAY

Parade Moves at 3 O'clock This
Afternoon and Several Hundred Will March.

GES

0

Щ

XTE

S

4

-

0

774

63

×

Z

×

V.

×

-

S

Ш

K

V.

3

X

1

Ш

0

ON

James L

Z

-

MUCH INTEREST MANIFESTED

Route Will Extend From French Street Station to County Court House,

When the Delaware suffragists hold their parade this afternoon at 3 o'clock, marching from the Pennsylvania Railroad station, up Front street to Market and up Market street to the court house, there will doubtless be great numbers of persons lined up along Market street to watch the unusual procession.

It will be unusual since it will be the first parade of the kind ever held in the state, and consequently there is great interest. The suffrage parade, or demonstration, will be in accord with similar demonstrations that are to be held all over the country to-day. These demonstrations are a preliminary to the big suffrage demonstration that is to be held in the nation capital, Saturday, May 9, in behalf of the proposed constitutional amendment.

The local demonstration to-day has been in the course of preparation for several weeks and great plans have been made by the committee in charge, of which Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles is chairman and Mrs. E. Ellender is chairman of the Congressional Union. Both have taken great interest in the preparations for the parade. The Congressional Union headquarters at Seventh and Shipley streets has presented the scene of a busy workshop, all the week, and not before to-day at noon will the final touches be given to the suffrage pageant. Suffrage pennants, suffrage roses and other emblems of the cause have been selling like hot cakes, and it is expected that Market street will be gaily decorated to-day in the yellow suffrage color. The purple, yellow and white of the Congressional Union is being displayed in decorations.

All persons expecting to take part in the parade are requested to be at the Pennsylvania railroad station-this afternoon not later than 2.30 o'clock in order that the line may be formed and everyone given their proper position in the line of procession. The procession will be led by Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, representing New Castle county, Mrs. Slaughter, Kent county and Miss Miriam Gray, Sussex county. Next come a group of twenty marchers, led by Mrs. Nina E. Aliman, Connable's auto, occupants, Mrs.

Continued on Page Twelve

C

EVERY EVENING-WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1914.

The suffragists of Delaware are making display of their strength and the hold they have on public sympathy by a street parade and public meeting in Wilmington. this afternoon. The interest in the number of men who will display their sympathy for equal suffrage by taking part in the parade is general. They may be regarded as the real heroes of the movement in Delaware at this time.

THE SEE SUN.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, FRIDAY. NOVEMBER 16, 1900.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE CONVENTION.

Sessions Were Held in Armory Hall, New Castle Yesterday,

The fourth annual convention of the Equal Suffrage convention of Delaware was held in Armory Hall, New Castle, yesterday. There was a good attendance.

The morning program consisted of the reading of Scripture and a prayer by Mrs. Mary Challenger; roll call of officers; appointment of committees; reading of minutes; report of president; report of corresponding secretary; report of treasurer, National Bazaar. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. Afternoon, 2 o'clock, reading of minutes; paper, Mrs. Ellen H. E. Price, Swarthmore, Pa.; address, Prof. William H. Purnell, Newark; talk on legislation, Prof. Wesley Webb, Dover; election of officers; history of Woman's Suffrage in Delaware. Evening 8 o'clock, prayer; music; address, Mrs Carrie Chapman Catt; music.

Adver.ise in the Columns of

&THE SUN

MANAMANAMANAMAN ANAMA



SEJIN

l News Fitj to Print is in

*THE SUN *

THE STATE OF THE S

AMMENIA AMMANANA AMMANA

VOL. IV. NO. 16.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1900.

ONE CENT

EQUAL SUFFRAGE CONVENTION.

Annual Convention of Delaware Association to be Held at New Castle.

The fourth annual convention of the Equal Suffrage Association of Delaware will be held in the Armory, New Castle, on Thursday, November 15.

The program prepared for the convention is as follows: Morning at 10,30 o'clock, scripture reading and prayer. Mrs. Mary P. Challenger; roll call of officers; appointment of committees; reading of minutes; reports of president; report of corresponding secretary and treasurer; National bazaar, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

Afternoon at 2 o'clock, reading minutes; paper, Mrs. Ellen H. E. Price, Swarthmore, Pa.; address, Prof. Wm. H. Purnell, Newark; talk on legislation, Prof. Wesley Webb, Dover; election of officers; history of Woman's suffrage in Delaware.

Evening at 8 o'clock, prayer; music; address, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, on "The Three I's"; music.

The officers of the association are Mrs. Martha S. Cranston, president; Mrs. Margaret W. Houston, vice-president; Mrs. Mary H. Thatcher, corresponding secretary; Miss May Price Phillips, recording secretary; Miss Emma Lore, treasurer.

A RTICLES and Photographs on this page were furnished by members of the Congressional Union for Equal Suffrage of Delaware, this page being placed at their disposal because of today's demonstration on Market Street and Rally at the Courthouse.



MRS. MARTHA S. CRANSTON OF NEWPORT President of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association.

Pending Amendment to Federal Constitution

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NUMBER 130, AND HOUSE JOINT RESO-LUTION NUMBER 1, Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right of suffrage to women

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several. states as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, namely:

"ARTICLE-

"Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. "Section 2. The Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

HISTORY OF AMENDMENT

Introduced:

of Wyoming.

In the Senate: April 7, 1913, by Senator George E. Chamberlain of In the House: April 7, 1913, by Representative Frank W. Mondell

Referred: In the Senate: April 7, 1965, to the Woman Suffrage Committee. In the House: April 7, 1913, to the Judiciary Committee. Reported:

In the Senate: June 13, 1913, favorable report.

Discussed:

In the Senate: July 31, 1913, twenty-two Senator in favor, three op-

September 18, 1913, Senator Wesley L. Jones of Washington, de-

mands immediate action. On January 21, 1914, Senato Ashurst of Arizona, delivered a speech urging the passage of th amendment.

Made unfinished business, March 2, 1914. Debated almost continuously until March 19.

Voted Upon:

In the Senate: March 19, thirty-five Senators in favor, thirty-four Reintroduced:

In the Senate: March 20, 1914, by Senator Bristow of Kansas. Reported:

In the Senate: April 7, favorable report.

Present Status: In the Senate: On Calendar of Senate.

In the House: Before the Judiciary Committee.

"I go for all sharing the privileges of government who assist in bearing its burdens, by no means excluding women,"-Abraham Lincoln.

IN MANY STATES WOMEN III MINITO MUNITIO HOLD PUBLIC OFFICES

In answer to this question there follows a partial list of women holding

offices throughout the country. Five of the western towns have women aling the office of mayor. City treasurer-Thirteen.

City Comptroller-One. Audit or -- Three. City Clerk-Six. County Clerk-Two. Judieml offices-Seven.

Alderman-One.

County treasurer-Two.

Sheriff-One. Deputy Sheriff-One. Women police are no longer a novelty. There are more than thirty-one names

given on the list from which this state-

ment is compiled. They also serve as matrons, members ! of medical boards and on boards of health. In civil service work, as factory inspectors - in which Delaware leads with Miss Malone in office; market inspectors and street inspectors, also members of State boards of agriculture. There are over ninety women's names on this list. In school work women are occupying positions of author-

ity in ever increasing numbers. And last but by no means least there are iour of the western States that have women legislators numbering one dozen, including: Coloado-Seven, (Senate); one,

Washington-two, (House). Wyoming-Two (House).

DOVER WOMAN'S VIEW.

If woman wishes to influence the social and econonical conditions under which she lives she must have the use of the ballot. That is the silent word

which she lives.



MISS MABEL VERNON through which medium alone she can Chairman for Delaware of the Congr essional Union for Equal Suffrage, rage when the matter of education was now on a speaking tour in the West

SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT PART OF STATE'S HISTORY

By MISS M. R. DeVOU

From January, 1897, when the Bowser, Drusilla G. Barlow, H. J. Krebs, under the leadership of a former ware memorialized the Constitutional Mrs. Milligan, J. R. Milligan, M. J. Mac-Convention to strike the word "male" donald, L. B. Macdonald, Josephine Hofore the law, to January 7, 1913, der T. Bowser, Margaret C. Stock, Sarah dom for the women of her native! have begun to sprout.

nor Miller's Arbor Day proclamation, Clement B. Smyth, S. S. Smyth, Mrs. Miss Mabel Vernon and Mrs. Wil-

is one of the signs of the times.

City Council, in response to an in- nie W. Sellers, Ann Good.

R. F. Powell, Rebecca Archer Lore, An- liam S. Hilles.

The parlor vitation, appointed a committee of Two months after the founding of the Miss Vernon have proved most suc-

growth of the movement inaugurated by the men and women, who on November 18, 1895 organized in Wilmington the first suffrage club in Delaware, with Lea Pusy as chairman, Mrs. B. Lundy Kent, secretary, and Mrs. Mary A. Fulton, Mrs. T. tunity. Allen Hilles, Miss Mary R. deVou, the committee on constitution.

Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery, corresponding secretary of the National Association assisted in organizing session of the Legislature on Febru- the United States.



MRS. NINA E. ALLENDER Acting Chairman of the Congressional Union for Delaware, who has been an active figure in arranging today's demonstration, and is wideknown as an organizer in the Suffrage cause.

B. Lundy Kent, vice-president; Miss Emma Lore, secretary; Miss Rachel S. Howland, treasurer. Later, Miss Lore became treasurer and continued to serve the association for fourteen years.

The following list of original members recalls some most interesting and notable personalities long identified with Wilmington, who have passed on into the great unknown, leaving fragrant memories and re- suffrage demonstration that will reach cords distinguishing to the movement from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and inwith which they were identified.

The names of charter members appear in the minute book in their own handgaret H. Kent, Mary S. Preston, B. Pyle, Elizabeth W. Mendinhall, Mary co-operate with the Congressional Union. Wilson, Sarah T. Wilson, Rachel S. How-

Equal Suffrage Association of Dela- Margaret T. Hill, Hannah M. Thompson, Wilmingtonian, Miss Mabel Vernon. from the new constitution then in gelsberg, Wilhelmina F. Slocomb, Edith ter of the late Ambassador Thomas process of framing, and so place the W. Thompson, Henry Thompson, David F. Bayard, Delaware's most distinsons and daughter of our beloved Ferris, Florence N. Fisher, Dr. Hans guished son, heard the call to chamlittle state on an equal footing be- Hogelsberg, Theodore A. Leisen, Alexan- pion to this phase of the new free-

when a bill of the same purport was W. Leisen, John P. Edwards, Jr., Alice State, and lo! as if in answer to prayer, the suffragists of Delaware legislature, the Equal Suffragists of M. K. Reid, David C. Reid, Anna G. welcomed a new luminary on the Delaware have been sowing invisible Kent, Phoebe C. Thomas, Mary H. Tat- horizen of their endeavor whose rays seeds by the wayside, which, lately nall, Margaret S. Hilles, Margaret S. have penetrated paths before un-Berlin, A. G. Thatcher, Mary H. Thatch- | reached. As everywhere the world over, the movement in our state is broadening er, Mrs. W. A. Walling, Lindley C. Kent, Delawareans delight to hear from their own home people on matters of

four to attend the exercises and rep- Wilmington club, on January 17 and cessful and valuable adjuncts of the resent council. It was declared by 18, 1896, Rev. Henrietta G. Moore of work in Wilmington, while meetings Mayor Howell, to be an act of good Ohio and Miss Mary Garrett Hay, now held through the State wherever opcitizenship, and an occasion upon president of the New York State Federa- portunity offered with Mrs. Hilles which, as head of the city govern- tion of Women's Clubs, assisted in a and Miss Vernon as the speakers, ment, he felt it his duty to be present. convention at Wilmington, where a were beginning to tell as entering

> frage Association has been on the without a head. alert to assist both morally and Rising to the emergency, our womfinancially in national work, while en rallied their forces, named Mrs. fostering suffrage sentiment in the Hilles as chairman of the Local Con-State at every promising oppor- gressional Union in Miss Vernon's

That suffragists had not been asleep appointed chairmen of the various during the 17 years of their existence, sections and proceeded to push the was proved, when, at the hearing parade for May 2d, as part of a congiven the suffrage bill before a joint certed action on that day all over the the club whose first officers were ary 26, 1913, to quote the report of a | The project was a big one, and Mrs. daily paper: "Without exception, the Nina E. Allender, of Washington, D. crowd that packed itself into the C., was sent to assist in the local House Chamber, to be present at the office during April. With Mrs. Hilles, joint session of the General Assem- has addressed parlor meetings here; bly to give advocates of woman suf- she held several south of Wilmington, frage an opportunity to voice their approval of the suffrage bill, was the largest delegation before the Legislature at this session.

The feature of the occasion was the splendid address by Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the N. A. W. S. A. Dr. Shaw proved to be one of the most eloquent and interesting women speakers who have ever appeared before the State legislature."

The bill went to defeat in the Senate by a vote of 11 nays to 6 yeas. A new measure introduced in the House won eight votes, the nays being 23. The total of 14 votes for the bill in the Senate and House was regarded by our State executive committee as gratifying for a first attempt before our legislature. Counting only our gains we fell to work with renewed courage to prepare the way for a still more favorable reception of a suffrage bill by the legislature of

Aware that a little leaven was at work, leavening the whole in Delaware, the Congressional Union in Washington opened up headquarters in Wilmington in September, 1913,

Never, in the history of the suffrage movement, has an idea spread with such rapidity as the proposal to hold today a to whose generosity and personal include every state in the Union.

writing, in the following order: Mary Union for Women Suffrage, the chair- aware have been striving toward a A. Fulton, Mary R. deVou, Emma Wor- man of which, Miss Alice Paul, accomrell, Emma Lore, Mary H. Askew panied by Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, Jr., Mather, Elizabeth C. McCaulley, Mar- early in January made the first tour of Lundy Kent, Emalea P. Warner, Daniel organization for the demonstration, the Taylor, Helen E. Clarkson, Edith proposal everywhere met with enthusi-Newlin, Mary B. Pyle, Elizabeth L. astic response. The National American Taylor, Matilda Ferris, Gheretein Y. Woman Suffrage Association agreed to

The Congressional Union has sent repland, Anna E. 'f. Hilles, Gertrude W. resentatives into every state in the Nields, William H. Weeks, P. F. Martin, country to put the demonstration on laws governing those conditions under E. C. Marks, M. J. Darlington, Frances foot. Mrs. Jessie Hardy Stubbs covered . Mather, Emma M. Wainwright, Anne certain states of the Middle West. Mrs. K. Pusey, Susan B. Griffith, Rachel L. Minnie Brooke undertook to cover many of the southern states; Dr. Emma Smith De Voe, president of the National Conncil of Women Voters, and Senator Helen Ring Robinson agreed to organize the demonstration in the suffrage states. Miss Mabel Vernon, organizer of the Congressional Union, is now in the far west after a most successful tour of the south and west. Mrs. Crystal Eastman Benedict is at present touring the states of the northwest.

> There is no doubt that the demonstration will be the greatest suffrage rally ever held, and will unquestionably greatly advance the cause of suffrage everywhere. It will be especially valuable in those states where suffrage campaigns are being carried on.

Equal Suffragist Must Be Optimist

MRS. ETHEL HALLOCK DUPONT

The first qualification for being an enthusiastic Equal Suffragist is to be an optimist. An easy matter for one living in an orderly, prosperous country where only an occasional unjust law or custom directs towards it storms of criticism because of its contrast to the majority of good and just laws and customs by which we are governed.

This happy condition is brought about by the co-operation of men with intellectual and trained minds, together with those as earnest, though less cultivated. What logical reason have we to fear that their sisters, born and brought up in the same home and taught in the same private and public schools and colleges, will not give towards public service the some proportion of common sense and desire for public good?

made universal and not masculine.

Moved by the eloquence and inspiration of her words at the State Fair,

and assuming a political aspect. The Alice P. Smyth, Mrs. W. H. Hancker, import to the State, therefore as Verinterest generally aroused by the re- Elizabeth G. Robinson, Catherine Hast- gil has it, they have listened "with cent suffrage oak tree planting in ings, Lewis W. Brosins, Mary A. Pier- ears erect," to two such eloquent, Wilmington, in response to Gover- son, Lizzie R. Shoup, Samuel Shoup, zealous and convincing speakers as

The parlor meetings instituted by The tiny acorn and the mighty evo- state organization, the Equal Suffrage wedges to changing sentiment, when lution from it, of the oak, are splen- Association of Delaware was formed. | the latter was, unfortunately for Deldidly symbo'ic of the slow but sure Since the first convention, in Janu- aware, called away on a western tour, ary, 1896, the Delaware Equal Suf- and for an interim, headquarters were

stead, formed a central committee,

and furthered the work so far as lay in the power of a stranger in the field for so brief a time. In January, 1914, the State Asso-

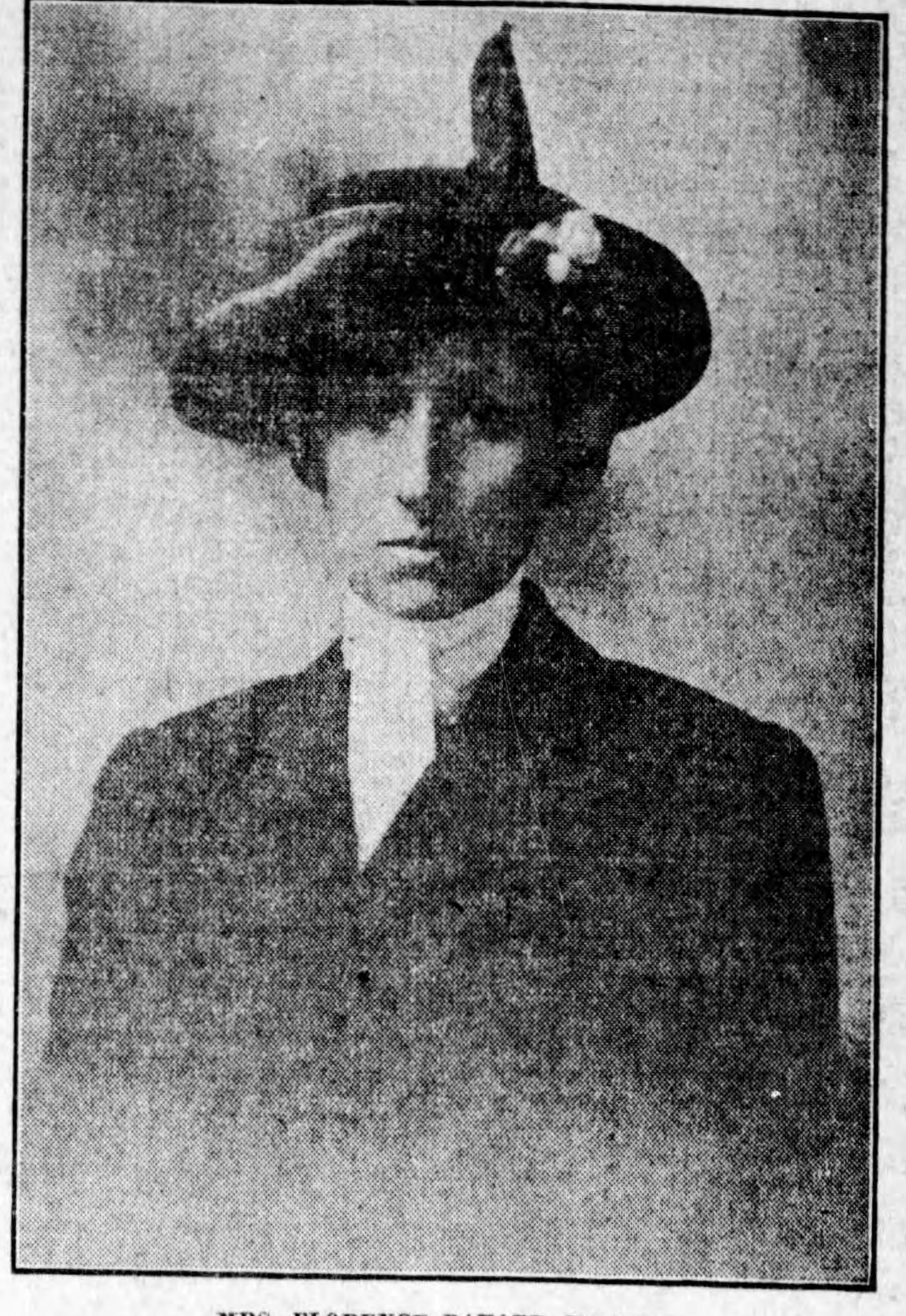


MRS. JESSIE HARDY STUBBS in charge of the publicity campaign of the Congressional Union, who is to address the meeting at the courthouse this afternoon.

terest, this four page quarterly largely owned its being.

Such in general, is the record of Originating with the Congressional which the earnest suffragists of Delachievement of the 18 years during goal which is now in sight.

Officers of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association are: President, Mrs. John A. Cranston, Newport; vice president, Mrs. Winfield S. Quigley; recording secretary, Miss Helen Cranston; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary R. deVou; treasurer, Miss Ella W. Johnson, of Newport; audi- is meant by a stag dinner, Mrs. Frederick L. Steinlein, of Arden. present," replied the parent. State chairman for the Congressional "Then a nation where only men rep-Committee of the N. A. W. S. A., Mrs. resent, is that what is meant by stag-Florence Bayard Hilles.



MRS. FLORENCE BAYARD HILLES Head of the Committee that a tranged today's demonstration.

Deplores Indifference of the Church

By MRS. FLORENCE BAYARD HILLES.

make up the great majority of the con- maidenhood and earnest citizenship." this great educational movement must she said in an article entitled: "The be met, but the only clear voice that Business of Being a Woman," "Democmen of Illinois. I quote his words, lows."

ercise the right of voting, but on the women.

ciation published its first organ - In this movement for Equal Suffrage contrary that they take a lively interest the "Delaware Equal Suffrage Bulle- which is fast sweeping over this coun- in the political life of the country. Let tin"-which issued from the press of try and which must eventually have so them do this, provided they do not for-Mr. Frederick L. Steinlein, of Arden, far-reaching and vital effects upon every get their homes, their duties towards woman who will vote, a thought which interest in politics be at all times digtheir families, and provided that their strikes me with great force is the ap-- nified, modest and in agreement with parent indifference of the church on the the dictates of their consciences. Let subject. I have looked to this quarter them shun blind partisanship, beware of almost in vain for a word of advice or demagogues and hold fast to the ideals encouragement (and surely women do of Christian motherhood, Christian gregations) as to how and in what spirit | Ida Tarbell sounded a keynote when

> has rung out officialy that I know of is racy is not a shelter, a parment, a cash that of a Catholic-Bishop Paul P. account; it is a spirit. The real test of Rhode of Chicago, who has had the cour- its followers must be shown in their atage and good sense to address the wo- titude of mind toward life and their felfor they apply equally to the women of If government is to be bettered it

> Delaware, Catholic and Protestant alike, must be through higher and more huas well as to those of every state of our mane motives than exist at present, and as I believe that women are morally su-"Catholic women of Illinois in complete perior to men, so I believe that their harmony with the teachings of the entrance into affairs of government will church, should accept the new preroga- tend to better laws and consequently tive of their citizenship with which they better conditions for humanity at large. have been invested in the extension of I feel sure that this is the goal for suffrage to them by law. Conditions de- which we suffrage women strive, and in mand that they be not reluctant to ex- the name of justice we ask for votes for

Quotations from President Wilson's Book "New Freedom"

"If any part of our people want to be wards, if they want to have guardians put over them, if they want to be taken care of, if they want to be children patronized by the Government, why, I am sorry for it will sap the manhood of America."-Page 65.

"Liberty is a fundamental o the human spirit."-Page 294 "We stand in the presence of a silent revolution whereby America will insist upon recovering in practice those ideals which she has always professed."-Page 30. "I do not care to live in a country called free, even under kind mas-

"America stands for a government responsive to the interests of all." ---Page 221.

A little boy asked his father who tors, Miss Mary H. Askew Mather, "Why, a dinner where only men are

nation?"-St. Louis Post-Dispatch.



MRS. FRANCIS I. DUPONT Ardent advocate and supporter of the equal suffrage cause in Delaware.

CONGRESSIONAL UNION FOR WOMAN SUFFRACE

The Congressional Union is composed of women in all parts of the country who have joined in working to secure the passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution enfranchising wo-

Membership is open to all women who consider Woman Suffrage the main issue in national politics. There is an entrance fee of 25 cents.

After that there are no other dues, as it is known that every member will contribute to the full extent of her ability. The colors adopted by the Union are purple, white and gold. They float from the doorway of Headquarters, where they serve to attract the attention of passing throngs to the placards we have placed on view.

The Union was organized only last May and now numbers more than 1.000 members. These are located in all parts of the Union owes it to her principles to in close touch with the work done here by correspondence.

There is sufficient work to be done in securing the passage of the amendment to interest every Suffrage sympathizer in the United States. Every member of the Union owes it to her prinsiples to engage in some form of practical work for the end toward which we are all aiming. Find out that part of the work for which you are best suited-and then put your shoulder to the wheel.

If you believe in the purpose of the Congressional Union and in its work fill in the following membership blank and forward it with the 25 cents to Congressional Union Headquarters, 1420 F street Northwest, Washington, D. C.

DATE

RESS					
- AND THE PARTY OF	 				
			1		
Number				,	
	Number				