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THE CLARION

The Woman's Suffrage and Political Issues Chapter of the American Political Items Conservators

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Editor's Comments

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the recent APIC National Convention in Nashville last July/ August. Kudos to Carter Todd and Winston Blair for putting all of this together after the disappointment last year of having to cancel the event because of COVID. That aborted convention, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Woman Suffrage Amendment, was planned to focus on Women's Voting Rights as a theme. This year's program, despite the lack of immediacy of the anniversary, still presented tantalizing looks at Tennessee's role in the passage of the 19th amendment. Suffrage re-enactors paraded through the halls of the Convention hotel, which had set up a very informative exhibit about women's right to vote. There were some interesting suffrage items in the APIC member's auction, and Bren Price set up a wonderful display of unique suffrage pieces from his collection. The biannual meeting of the Woman Suffrage chapter of APIC drew the largest attendance of any that I can recall. In short, interest in suffrage remains high.

The English poster "The Modern Inquisition" that is pictured on the front cover was published by the Women's Social and Political Union for the January general election of 1910. The artist was Alfred Pearse, whose nom de plume was "A. Patriot." Pearse's art work appeared on numerous front covers of *Votes for Women,* the official journal of the WSPU. Versions of Pearse's drawing found their way into periodicals of the time and served as powerful arguments against the practice of force-feeding hunger strikers. Pearse's inventive suffrage illustrations will be featured in a future issue of *The Clarion.*

We are fortunate this issue to have two excerpts from works in progress. The first contribution is from Amanda Owen, who modified a section from her book *Finding Justice: More Untold Stories of Women's Fight for the Vote* for the *Clarion.* Her article for us provides context for the Pennsylvania suffrage Keystone buttons that were pictured in our last issue. Amanda Owen is an author and independent scholar of women's history, specializing in the American women's suffrage movement. She is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the Justice Bell Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate, inspire and mobilize current and future voters (justicebell.org). She is currently writing a book about the Justice Bell's role in the American women's suffrage movement and has recently completed writing and directing a documentary, *Finding Justice: The Untold Story of Women's Fight for the Vote.*

The second excerpt is from Deb Pieti's *Color and the Women's Suffrage Movement,* which she is working on in conjunction with Bob Cooney. What Deb has done is to take famous black and white photos of suffrage personalities and events and colorize them. Ordinarily, I am not a fan of colorization because the colors appear artificial and washed out. Deb's examples, however, are full and rich and present us with an immediacy to famous suffragists that is not often found in the original black and white. Deb's work has appeared in the *Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Newsletter* and she is currently restoring and colorizing images from their Rose Wilder Lane collection. She has also restored and colorized images for the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Burr Oak, Iowa and has worked on numerous suffrage projects including one for the Library of Congress.

Her collaborator, Bob Cooney, has been a long-time member of this chapter, and his article on "Woman Suffrage and the Modern Romance Novel" was featured in a previous issue of *The Clarion.* He is the author of *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement* as well as *Remembering Inez: The Last Campaign of Inez Milholland, Suffrage Martyr.*

Belva Lockwood Photo Postcard

This postcard, picturing Belva Lockwood under the rubric of "Votes For Women," was, in all probability, the only card issued during her lifetime that connected her specifically to the woman suffrage movement. It is postmarked September 12, 1912, Columbus. Ohio, indicating that it may have been distributed to promote a picnic in Olentangy Park in that city on August 2, where the 82-year old activist was invited to be the guest of honor.

The "picnic" was actually a large event organized by the Ohio Woman Taxpayers' League to prepare for the fall campaign and to finalize plans for their involvement in the Columbus Centennial Celebration to be held later that month. Over 30,000 women were expected to attend the picnic promoted by H. Anna Quinby, the founder and President of the League as well as candidate for governor. She had printed up 50,000 copies of *The Equal Suffrage Bulletin,* of which she was editor, to distribute throughout the State to advertise the event. The picture of the button below and much of the information about the Taxpayers' League come to us via the courtesy of John Koster.

...Belva Lockwood Photo Postcard, Cont'd

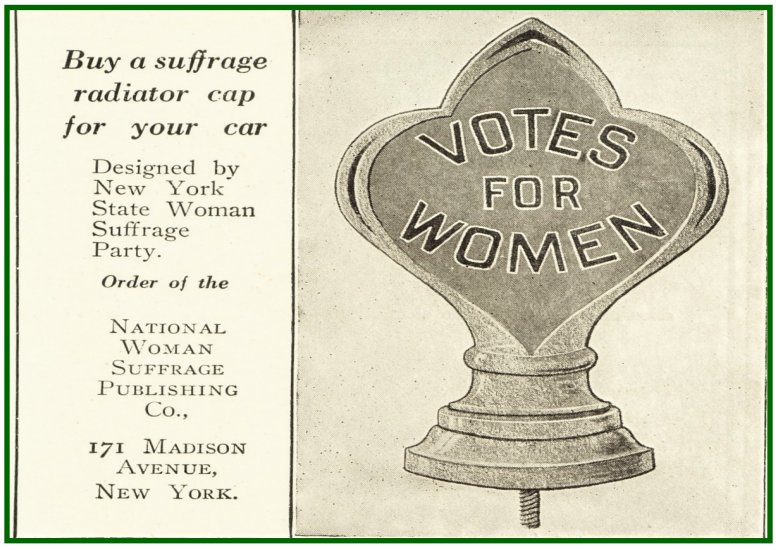
The Woman Taxpayers' League was formed in 1911 by Quinby and the women of the Sixteenth Ward in Columbus. It began with a membership of 700 individuals, most of whom were from Columbus, although there were also representatives at that initial meeting from about 50 cities and villages throughout Ohio. Its initial concerns were focused on general economic difficulties that were facing women, but with the Progressive activist Quinby at its helm, the topic of Votes for Women was generally foregrounded.

In September of 1912, some members of the League proposed additional taxes on both bachelors and childless wives. They reasoned that these two classes were not "doing their duty to the community and therefore a monetary burden should be imposed to reconcile the difference." The plan was to create a tax on single workingmen of about 10% of their incomes, and 20% if they earned $1,200 a year or more. Married women who had been in the state for more than 20 years and were not mothers would also be taxed accordingly. Also in 1912 Mrs. Mae Von Walden, an officer in the League, demanded to pay only 3 cents fare on a streetcar owned by the Cincinnati Traction Company when no seats were available instead of the regulation 5 cents. She lost her appeal.

Despite the League's concern with such issues, activist organizations throughout the state recognized the strength of the League and its suffrage associations and made attempts to merge with them. On April 29, 1912, the mainstream Ohio woman suffrage organization invited the League to join forces with them, and the League's central committee met to decide whether or not to accept the offer. In August of 1913, Mrs. May Von Walden organized the Avondale Suffrage Club. She had planned to incorporate the members of the Taxpayers' League in her new association, "the majority of those being suffragists."
So when Belva Lockwood travelled to Columbus in 1912 to be honored at a picnic sponsored by the League, she would have met a large group of enthusiastic suffrage activists, and, undoubtedly, would have felt quite at home.

Votes For Women Radiator Cap

One of he more dramatic and unusual pieces of suffrage memorabilia was a radiator cap, designed and produced in 1917 by the New York State Woman Suffrage Party. Measuring 2" x 5 ¾" and featuring the colors of the State (yellow and blue), it made its national debut in the ad below in the September 15, 1917 issue of *The Woman's Journal.*



However, it is clear that it was on-sale for $1.00 at least several weeks earlier at the "little shop," headed by Mrs. Henry Bull (nee Maude Livingston) in the Party's New York City headquarters. The shop also sold Rose O'Neill postcards, suffrage tape measures, thimbles, notebooks, pocket books, playing cards, bridge scores, and whistles and horns.
An example of this cap, made by the Henry Bruml Company of New York, is on display at the Henry Ford Museum. It can be viewed in full color at https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/242001.

...Radiator Cap, Cont'd

The automobile, as Jessica D. Jenkins points out in her recent book *Exploring Women's Suffrage Through Fifty Historic Treasures,* "played a significant role in how suffragists promoted the need for equal voting rights. They delivered speeches from parked vehicles, decorated them for use in parades, and at times even organized processions comprised only of cars."

Emmeline Pankhurst Medal

The medal pictured above was issued in New York City in 1914 "in commemoration of Miss Emmeline Pankhurst." Made of bronze, it measures 1 ½" in diameter with a thickness of 3.3 mm. The designer was Mr. Camille Astoble, a Belgian artist, who had taken up residence in the City, and it was manufactured by the Medallic Art Company. A brief reference to this piece can be found in the June 1914 issue, page 294, of the *Numismatist,* the official journal of the American Numismatic Association that David Holcomb was kind enough to locate for me. The obverse pictures Emmeline Pankhurst, who founded the militant English suffrage association, The Women's Social and Political Union, in 1903. The reverse, dated 1914, pictures the force-feeding of an English suffragist and was taken from an illustration and poster by Alfred Pearse ("A. Patriot") whose illustrations graced the front page of the official WSPU publication, *Votes for Women,* for many years. The name and location of the Medallic Art Company are etched on the side.

...Pankhurst Medal, Cont'd

The medal was produced by Thomas L[indsay] Elder, a famous American numismatist. From 1903-1940, Elder printed 292 sales lists related to medals and is also credited with issuing 104 tokens and store cards on various subjects. He was the author of such works as *The Elder Coin Book, The Elder Monthly, The Elder Magazine,* and *The Numismatic Philistine.*

The period from January through August of 1914 was an especially harrowing one for Pankhurst. As described by June Purvis in her seminal biography of the suffrage icon, Pankhurst was hunted by the Liberal government as a fugitive. She had to stay at the homes of "those brave enough to take her in." At times she successfully evaded the police, at times she was captured and imprisoned. She went on several brief hunger strikes during this period, although she was never force-fed in 1914 as the illustration on the medal implies.

It is not known at this time what drew Elder to Pankhurst and why he issued a medal for her. This medal is pictured on page 42 of *From Suffragettes to She-Devils* along with several other prison items, all English. Here Elder's medal has been provided with a loop to which is attached a ribbon in the official colors of the WSPU of purple, green, and white. The special issue of the *APIC Keynoter* on suffrage also pictures this medal with a ribbon, here in purple and gold. The questions that remain about this piece include: What was Elder's interest in the suffrage movement beyond a general concern for historical topics? Was it ever advertised or sold to suffrage organizations in England and America? Who added a loop to it on which to hang a ribbon, and how was this modified piece used by the suffrage movement, if at all? To date, no reference to this medal has been found in any of the major suffrage publications, and it remains a subject for future research.

Recent Auction of "Lost" Susan B. Anthony Photographic Images

On Saturday, September 18 of this year, One Source Auctions of Canandaigua, New York held a sale that included original photographic images of Susan B. Anthony along with those of other suffragists, including her sister. Mary Stafford Anthony, and Elizabeth "Libby" Smith Miller. What is almost as fascinating as the photos themselves is the story about how they were found.

Attorney David Whitcomb had recently purchased a building in Canandaigua for his law firm. In the 'hidden" attic that Whitcomb did not know existed when he purchased the building was the entire photographic studio of James E. Hale, a local photographer who had been active in the area from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. Whitcomb only became aware of the attic and its contents when he and a friend were examining water damage on the third level of the structure. Even the previous owner of the building was unaware of the small attic space that had housed the studio.

In the space, Whitcomb found a huge quantity of items stacked up, including gold frames, photos, boxes, photographic equipment, shipping containers, and glass negatives, some of which were broken. The name of J. E. Hale had been stamped on many of the pieces. Hale had been a locally prominent photographer, and among his clients were Susan B. Anthony and other suffragists. Some of the materials that Whitcomb came across were neatly stacked, while others were thrown about loosely and in broken condition.

Whitcomb was able to draw upon the services of nearby experts from Eastman Kodak to help him in restoring some of the photographs that he had found. He also worked with local history museums and photo shops to have about 50 of the glass negatives printed that contained images of not only Anthony and other suffragists but also prominent people of the community as well. The prize of the collection was a side portrait of Anthony in a gold frame that was an official portrait, a copy of which ended up in the collection of the Library of Congress. Whitcomb even found pieces of the original glass negative of the photo.

… "Lost" Susan B. Anthony Photos, Cont'd

Listed below are some of the pieces from the auction, along with prices realized. As you can see, many of the photos are not in perfect condition, but their historic nature and desirability obliviates that fact. The descriptions and photographs are from the catalog copy. Images used with the permission of One Sources Auctions.

Rare c. 1900 Side Profile Photograph of Suffragist Susan B. Anthony Platinotype Photographic Print. This rare image is the only one known to exist. Condition: Good - Very Good Restored Condition with Japanese Paper and Wheat Starch Paste applied verso lining. $2,800

Antique C. 1900 Photograph of Suffragist / Abolitionist Elizabeth "Libby" Smith Miller Silver Bromide Photographic Print. Condition: Good - Very Good Restored Condition. $225

RARE Antique 1905 Susan B. Anthony Official Silver Bromide Photographic Print Gilt Relief Framed. E. Hale's photograph of Susan B. Anthony, taken at Lochland in 1905, selected as official photograph by Susan B. Anthony Memorial Association. This is one of the last photographs of Susan B. Anthony and it was taken in early November 1905, only four months before her demise. This photo hung in J.E. Hale's Studio in Geneva, NY. After is was chosen by the Suffragists in 1906 to be the official photo of Ms. Anthony J.E. Hale copyrighted the image in 1907. This is one of only 4 known to exist with one at the U.S. Library of Congress. Condition: Good - Very Good Condition with some photo fading which shows some dark spotting. $30,500

Antique c. 1900 Photograph of Susan B. Anthony's Sister Suffragist Mary Stafford Anthony Platinotype Photographic Print. Restored condition. $200

RARE Antique c. 1900 Side Profile Photograph of Suffragist Susan B. Anthony Silver Bromide Photographic Print. Condition: Good - Very Good Restored Condition. $1,800

Poems About Suffrage Buttons

The following poem by Oreola W. Haskell appeared in the Sunday, May 16, 1915 edition of the *Oakland, California Tribune*. Previously, Wooster Taylor in September 1911 had submitted a poem entitled "The Suffrage Button" to the Club Women's Franchise League that had promised to print and distribute it. If they did, no copies have as yet turned up.

The Suffrage Button
By Oreola W. Haskells

She wears it ever on her breast,
As symbol of a mighty thing,
And glories in its dull-gold hue
And "Votes for Women" lettering.
And I who love her see in this
Not restlessness nor rebel ways,
But growing powers that have outleaped
The customs of the olden days.
And well I know the heart beneath
The yellow button beats more true
Than ever languid lady's may,
Since not only a paltry few
Its sympathies are poured, but all
Who labor, suffer, find her kind.
And well I know what visions fair
Flood the pure chambers of her mind.
For yellow buttons stand for dreams—
Of Womanhood grown strong and wise,
Of state-wide service for the young,
Of honesty in high emprise.
Let thoughtlessness scoff as it may
And make its foolish, idle jest;
I love my lady more because
The suffrage button decks her breast.
--Judge

Pennsylvania Women's Fight for Voting Rights
Amanda Owen

In the early 20th century, Pennsylvania suffragists' efforts to get a state women's suffrage amendment was every bit as nail-bitingly dramatic as the later fight for the 19th Amendment in the final weeks and days leading up to the August 18, 1920 ratification in Tennessee.

In Pennsylvania, the procedure for adding an amendment to the state constitution requires passage of the resolution in two successive sessions by a majority of both the state house representatives and the state senators. If it passes, it then goes to the voters for ratification in the next general election. If the majority of the voters vote for the amendment, it is added to the state constitution. If an amendment fails, it cannot be resubmitted for another five years.

In 1912, during the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association (PWSA) state convention, Jennie Bradley Roessing (Mrs. Frank M. Roessing) of Pittsburgh was voted its next president. Her Pittsburgh cohorts, Hannah Patterson, Lucy Kennedy (Mrs. John O. Miller), and Mary Bakewell also won leadership positions and with that, the power of the PWSA shifted from the eastern part of the state to the west, and the PWSA headquarters transferred from Philadelphia to Harrisburg.

… Pennsylvania, Amanda Owen, cont'd

Roessing developed a strategic campaign, later called the Pittsburgh Plan, which included the appointment of suffragists to each of the 67 counties who would report back to a central command. The new leadership created classes to educate women on how to write compelling speeches and gain public speaking skills. They reached out to men and women in rural areas and small towns to seek popular support. They tailored their approach to the particular needs and interests of each area. They created a speaker's bureau and hired both Black and white speakers, and in-state and out-of-state speakers. It was a boots-on-the-ground initiative that reached into every corner of the state.

Up until the Pittsburgh women took charge of the PWSA, suffragists from the eastern part of the state, especially in Philadelphia, were in control. They had a long history of focusing on women's suffrage as an issue of justice and fairness. They relied on educational efforts, with meetings, speeches, and producing literature that included articles and pamphlets. Roessing felt that they needed to put their time and energy into emphasizing the practical reasons that women should have voting rights.

In 1913, Roessing and Patterson moved to Harrisburg for a three-year period so they could be in daily touch with state legislators and devote their time to lobbying. They recognized that it would be the suffragists' personal contact with the state senators and house representatives in Harrisburg on which a (hoped for) 1915 election would turn. They also joined other suffragists and traveled throughout the state, giving hundreds of speeches.

Their efforts paid off on April 22, 1913 when the legislature passed the suffrage amendment. The following day in an interview for *The Gazette Times*, Ms. Roessing said:

"Our satisfaction is too great to be expressed in mere words, and we cannot find phrases sufficiently strong to thank the friends who have stood by us loyally through this trying campaign. The fight in the future will be waged along the same lines as in the past, and we have not the slightest doubt that when the people vote on the question in 1915, they will amend the Constitution so that both men and women can vote in Pennsylvania."

Now, the 1913 success had to be repeated in 1915 for a referendum to go to the male voters in the November 2, 1915 election.

On February 9, 1915, the resolution passed the House of Representatives and on March 15, it passed the Senate. Amendment One would be sent to the voters in November when the men would grant or deny the women of Pennsylvania the right to vote.

The women had every reason to be hopeful that their campaign would pay off. They had gained considerable support from newspapers, churches, unions, clubs and organizations.

As reported in the *Pittston Gazette* on November 1, 1915, Roessing had faith in the male voters:

"Men of Pennsylvania, your wives, mothers, sisters and daughters ask you to give our state justice to its women…We believe that when you go to the polls tomorrow you will remember that the sole impulse behind our request for the ballot is the desire to help produce a better and equitable civilization. We believe in your sense of fair play, and in this spirit of faith and comradeship, we rest our case in your hands."

On Election Day, November 2, 1915, the men went to the polls and denied the women voting rights. Amendment One lost by 55, 686 votes, most of them from Philadelphia.

Because of the five-year rule for introducing amendments, they would have to wait until 1920 before they could get an amendment on the ballot again. Many of the women abandoned the state effort and instead turned their attention to fighting for the federal amendment. Five years later, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was added to the U. S. Constitution.

Color and the Women's Suffrage Movement

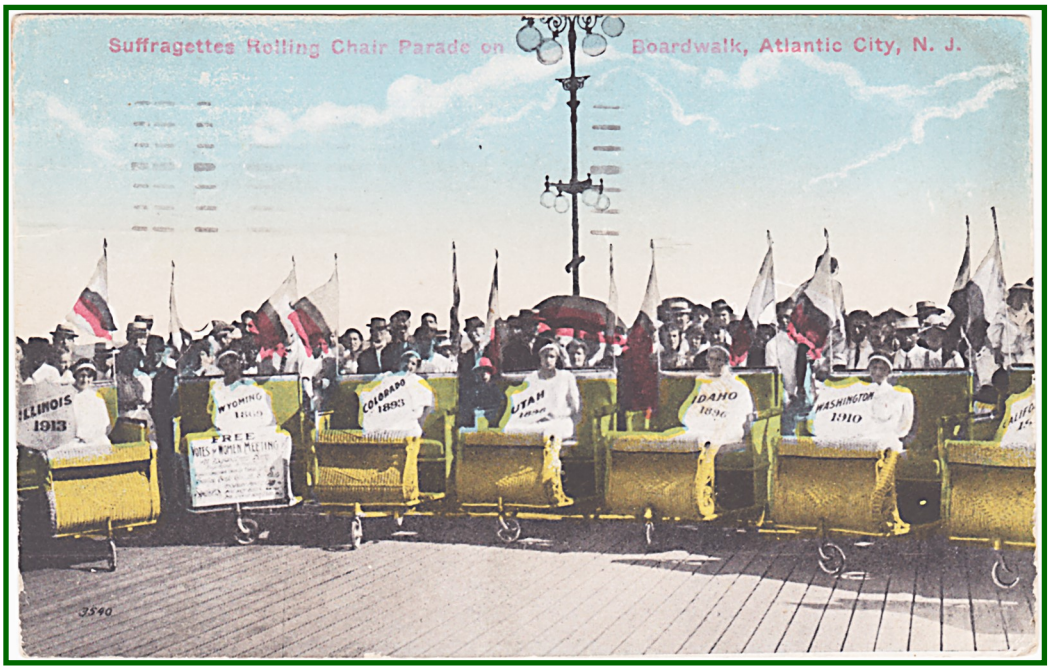
The following fourteen images are taken from Deb Pieti's *Color and the Women Suffrage Movement,* a work in progress that she is preparing along with Bob Cooney. As previously stated in the editor's column, what Deb has done is to take period black and white photographs of suffrage leaders and events and colorize them, giving each special vibrancy. Deb's book will also contain colorized versions of lithographs and magazine illustrations of the suffrage movement. As a precaution against someone inadvertently using any of these pictures without her permission, we have reproduced them at a much lower grade than will appear in her book. Still, the quality of her work shines through and presents a wonderful visual display and commentary on the suffrage movement as it was unfolding.

… Color and the Movement, cont'd

… Color and the Movement, cont'd

Atlantic City Roller Chair Parade

Collectors of suffrage postcards are generally familiar with a photo card picturing a group of suffragists in roller cars on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, but they may not be familiar with the background to this event.



The organizer and grand marshal behind this parade, which took place on June 28, 1913, was Mrs. Ella G. Guilford of New York, who had also opened up a booth on the beach "to preach her faith to everyone who will listen or who can be reached." The event attracted several hundred activists, fifty of whom were provided with roller chairs. They were gowned in yellow and white and passed out yellow fliers. About 1/3 of the protestors came from Philadelphia and a few also had taken the journey from Pittsburgh. They sold "suffrage novelties" on the train that they had come on as well as later at the station where they had arrived and at the demonstration on the Boardwalk.

No speechmaking was permitted on the Boardwalk itself, but the organizers did have a permit to conduct a "voiceless parade." The permit had been granted to them by Mayor Riddle, who had written it out on the back of a blank check that he had in his back pocket. The parade was so successful that another was planned for Ocean City, New Jersey on July 9. Some of the Philadelphia activists also took part in the opening of "The Suffrage Shop" by the Woman Suffrage Party on the ground floor at 1721 Chestnut Street during "Suffrage Week" in Philadelphia October 6th to 13th.

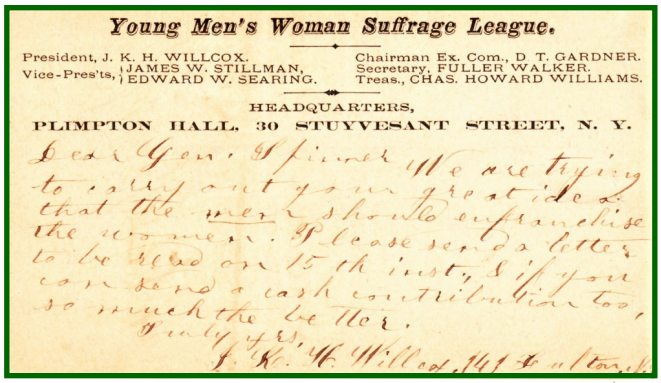
The Earliest Suffrage Postcards That I Know

Ironically, it was a male organization, the Young Men's Woman Suffrage League, and not a female association that probably issued the earliest official United States postcard promoting woman suffrage. The League held its first meeting at Plimpton Hall at Barnard College on July 15, 1874, with supporting letters throughout the East from such prominent male luminaries as William Lloyd Garrison, the famous abolitionist, Edward K. Davis, President of the Radical Club of Philadelphia, and A. E. Redstone, President of the Labor Council. Based on period newspaper notices, the League met weekly at least 42 times during its brief period of existence. The League was formed with lofty ambitions, and its Executive Committee was empowered to establish branch leagues in other parts of the country. One Pacific Coast suffrage newspaper, *The New Northwest,* noted that its gatherings always attracted "large audiences."

… Earliest Postcard, cont'd

Despite these "large audiences," the YMWSL faded away from public attention after its meeting of May 5, 1875 at Cooper Union, and it may have disbanded at that time. There are, however, at least three known postcards announcing its gatherings, two of which are shown here. Undoubtedly many more were issued.

A scholar, who had been doing research on male participation in the New York suffrage movement, was not aware of the YMWSL until she saw one of these postcards. She subsequently expanded her research to include a description of its officers and activities. All of this underscores the need for us to preserve and disseminate the material in our suffrage collections, which can and do serve as valuable sources of information for historians.



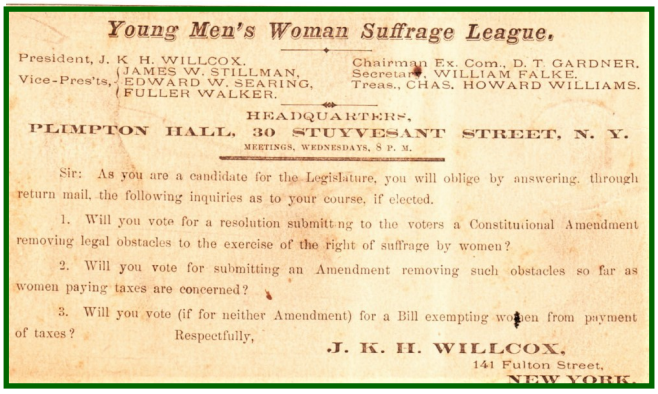
Young Men's Woman Suffrage League.

President, J. K. H. WILLCOX. Vice-Pres'ts, JAMES W. STILLMAN, EDWARD W. SEARING. Chairman Ex. Com., D. T. GARDNER. Secretary, FULLER WALKER. Treas., CHAS. HOWARD WILLIAMS.

HEADQUARTERS, PLIMPTON HALL, 30 STUYVESANT STREET, N. Y.

Dear Sir: If time We are trying to interest you in great idea that the men should enfranchise the women. Please send a letter to be read on 15th inst. & if you can send a cash contribution too, so much the better.

Truly Yrs. J. K. H. Willcox 141 Fulton St.



Young Men's Woman Suffrage League.

President, J. K. H. WILLCOX. Vice-Pres'ts, JAMES W. STILLMAN, EDWARD W. SEARING, FULLER WALKER. Chairman Ex. Com., D. T. GARDNER. Secretary, WILLIAM FALKE. Treas., CHAS. HOWARD WILLIAMS.

HEADQUARTERS, PLIMPTON HALL, 30 STUYVESANT STREET, N. Y.

MEETINGS, WEDNESDAYS, 8 P. M.

Sir: As you are a candidate for the Legislature, you will oblige by answering, through return mail, the following inquiries as to your course, if elected.

1. Will you vote for a resolution submitting to the voters a Constitutional Amendment removing legal obstacles to the exercise of the right of suffrage by women?

2. Will you vote for submitting an Amendment removing such obstacles so far as women paying taxes are concerned?

3. Will you vote (if for neither Amendment) for a Bill exempting women from payment of taxes?

Respectfully,

J. K. H. WILLCOX,
141 Fulton Street,
NEW YORK.

The Suffrage Badges of English Religious Associations

English suffragists, more than their counterparts in the United States, often combined religious faith with movement activism and formed associations for that purpose. The pins illustrated below are products of such organizations.

The pin appearing above was distributed by the Church League for Women Suffrage, one of at least four badges that the group produced for the cause. A variety of this pin exists with the words "Church League for Women Suffrage" supplanting the phrase "Justice for Women." The League was founded in 1909 by the Rev. Claude and Mrs. Huncliffe to "band together, on a non-party basis, Suffragists of every shade of opinion who are Church people in order to secure for women the vote in Church and State, as it is or may be granted to men." By the year 1913, the League had become so popular that it had 203 branches throughout the country with 5080 members. However, it lost many of these members in 1914 when it rejected a motion, proposed by its Winchester branch, that the League should oppose militancy. After WWI, it changed its name to the "League of the Church Militant," and campaigned also for the ordination of women. Its official colors were yellow on white, although gold appears to have supplanted yellow on several of its pins as seen above.

… English Religious Badges , cont'd

The official colors of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society were gold, blue, and white, blue representing Mary, the mother of Christ, and gold and white the Papacy of the Catholic Church. It also chose the figure of Joan of Arc to serve as its patron. The Society was established in June of 1911 by Gabrielle Jeffrey, who served as its secretary, and May Kendall. Jeffery and Kendall met while waiting outside Holloway Prison to welcome the release of imprisoned suffragettes and soon developed the idea of creating a Catholic women's suffrage organization. Its avowed purpose, echoing the words of the earlier CLWS, was "to band together Catholics of both sexes in order to secure for women the Parliamentary Vote on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men."

Although its membership probably was smaller that that of the CLWS, it still was extensive enough for the Society to establish branches in Liverpool, Brighton and West Sussex, Hastings, and East Sussex. In 1918, the Society participated in a Victory Celebration organized by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and held in Queen's Hall. In 1923, the vote having been granted to most women in England, the Society changed its name, but not its colors and symbolism, to the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Among the activities of the new Alliance was a push for women priests in the Catholic Church. It is still in existence.

In 1961, the design of the St. Joan's badge was copied onto a 7/8" enamel badge to honor Christine Spender, who had served as the editor of *The Catholic Citizen,* the Alliance's official journal, for terms from 1934-1943 and 1945-1961.

The Free Church Federation for Woman Suffrage, whose pin is shown left, was probably another name for the Free Church League for Women Suffrage, founded in 1910 by Mrs. Strickland, the Rev. Hatty Baker, and Miss L. E. Tuyrquand. Its colors were blue, green, and white. Its purpose, similar to that of the CLWS and the CWSS, was to advocate "the enfranchisement of women on the same basis that men are or shall be enfranchised." From 1913 to 1915, the League published *The Free Church Suffrage Times,* which from 1916 to 1920 continued on as *The Coming Day.*

The Jewish League for Woman Suffrage pin, pictured on the right, was issued in the group's official colors of purple and celestial blue. The Hebrew letters, circumscribing the Star of David, spell out a verse from Proverbs: "It is the Joy of the Righteous to do Justice." The Jewish League was founded in November of 1912. It was open to both men and women for the purpose of uniting "Jewish Suffragists of all shades of opinions, and that many would join a Jewish League where, otherwise, they would hesitate to join a purely political society." In 1913 the League had 300 members, its small numbers resulting in the rarity of this pin. Perhaps their most public event occurred in that year on Yom Kippur when three members of the organization interrupted service in a synagogue to berate two Jewish members of the Cabinet, Herbert Samuel and Rufus Isaacs, for supporting the force-feeding of suffragists at Holloway Prison.

… English Religious Badges , cont'd

In 2020 the American Israel Numismatic Association honored the Jewish League button by issuing a 1 ¾" medal with it as an insert in its original colors. Surrounding the button are the words "Jewish League for Woman Suffrage (1912-1918)" along with the year of issue (2020). The original button is extremely rare, and the Numismatic Association is to be congratulated on both knowing about the piece and finding an example to copy.

There were other groups in England with religious connections such as the little-known Spiritual Militancy League, which was still in existence as late as 1916, and the Friends' League for Women's Suffrage, an obscure organization whose papers remain lost. However, it may have been the same body as the Friends' Council for Woman Suffrage, established in January 1911 with Sophia Seekings as its honorary secretary. The League was still in existence in 1917. No badges for these organizations are known, possibly because their small membership did not justify the cost of production.

I am grateful to Elizabeth Crawford and her monumental study *The Women's Suffrage Movement—A Reference Guide 1866-1928,* for much of the above information.

"Seats for Women" – Another Non-Suffrage Button

Over the years, the button pictured above has been sold or auctioned as a suffrage piece, with the slogan "Seats for Women" presumably being an extension of "Votes For Women" arguing that women should not only have the franchise but their fair share of legislative chairs as well. And while this assumption appears to be a logical explanation of the phrase, it is incorrect, and the button has nothing to do with suffrage at all.

As the January 1914 article from the *Chicago Tribune* pictured here clearly indicates, the button was issued by columnist Lillian Russell as a way of campaigning for a less crowded, less frenetic transit system in the City of Chicago. As one of her correspondents pointed out, the number of passengers on a local trolley generally averaged between 100 and 140 persons. The cars were designed, however, to seat approximately 40 passengers. This disparity led to about 50-80 passengers who were forced to stand, jostling and bumping into each other.

The situation was especially egregious for both the "tired working girl" and the shopper, and it resulted in issues related to the "interests of public safety and suffering humanity." One of Russell's correspondents suggested that a solution to the problem might be a limitation of the number of riders that would be allowed in each car if not a purchase by the City of additional cars.

Until other solutions could be effectuated, Russell urged that a certain number of seats be allocated to women so that "no woman would be forced to suffer

… Seat for Women, cont'd

the physical discomforts and ailments attendant on the present straphanging evil." Russell's campaign included the copious distribution of the aforementioned "Seats for Women" button. She urged "If you do not wear a button on your coat, at least wear it in your mind," and "These buttons are the emblems of a just cause—keep one of them near you." So, while a badge with a fascinating story behind it of its origin, it is definitely not a suffrage piece.

The Unanswerable Argument for Seats for Women.

Courtesy Crusade Br

INTEREST and coöperation in the courtesy reform movement grow daily. Requests for "Seats for Women" buttons from San Francisco and Los Angeles, Cal.; from Denver, Colo.; from Pittsburgh, Pa.; from Toledo, O.; St. Louis, Mo., and many other cities and towns throughout the country give an idea of how widespread the movement has really become.

The following extract from a letter—but a sample of a score of like communications—shows the willingness of men's clubs and fraternal organizations to "lend a helping hand." "I inclose stamps for a supply of buttons (as liberal as you care to send). I hope to see each of our eighty Modern Woodmen wearing a 'Seats for Women' button soon and perhaps other fraternal societies will also take it up.

"G. M. FISHER, East Chicago, Ind."

Four young women of THE TRIBUNE staff were sent out last week to investigate the attitude of Chicago men on cars and trains. Various lines in various communities were traveled over and in every case a discernible improvement in courtesy to women was reported. This, together with the fact that daily hundreds of buttons are given out to personal applicants—99 per cent of whom are men—at THE TRIBUNE main and branch offices promises much for the physical welfare and happiness of Chicago women who heretofore have been forced to stand in cars and trains.

Seats for Women

Pin a button up in your room so that it will apprise you daily of its purpose.

Seats for Women

The following letter presents an opinion that a number of other correspondents have voiced:

"Dear Miss Russell: Why 'Seats for Women'? Why not 'Seats for All'?

"The average surface car in Chicago seats about forty persons. I have counted on a car as many as 140 persons. This is an unusual number, but 100 passengers in a trolley car is a common daily occurrence. This leaves about 60 or 80 standing, or, to be more exact, jostling and bumping one another as well as those sitting down. There is no more comfort or rest being seated in such a crowded car than there is in standing.

"May I offer a suggestion that we start a crusade for more cars for Chicago? And at the same time we might have an ordinance providing that no more passengers may board a car than can be comfortably seated therein. This would not be anything new or radical. We limit by law the number of passengers on steamboats and in elevators, also in theaters and public halls. Such an ordinance has been in successful operation in at least one American city and in some European cities, notably Vienna. MRS. IRA HILL, 327 Center street."