

Issues # 43 & 44

Spring/Summer 2020



THE CLARION



PROGRAM



NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN
SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
1914

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

A non profit organization dedicated to the preservation of political memorabilia
www.apic.us

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Ronnie Lapinsky Memorial Issue

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Ronnie Lapinsky, who founded the Woman Suffrage Chapter of APIC in 1994. Over the years, she promoted not only the chapter but also the cause of suffrage and ERA memorabilia. She, along with Chris Hearn and Germaine Broussard, served as editor of *The Clarion*, developing it into one of the finest chapter newsletters in the hobby. Bob Fratkin, who probably knew her best, has written a fine tribute to her in this issue. But I would like to also add a few of my own memories. Ronnie was famous for coming to APIC shows armed with her set of color Xeroxes of her collection. I doubt that anyone ever got tired of seeing pictures of the many unique pieces that she had obtained over the years. When I first started collecting suffrage myself, I got in touch with Ronnie about buying her duplicates. We quickly agreed upon a price, but Ronnie had a hard time letting the items go, because, in her words, “these are my babies!” Ronnie, we all will miss you!

Editor’s Note

This, and future issues of *The Clarion*, will follow essentially the same format established by Ronnie, Chris, and Germaine. They will be sent to all of you via email, so there will not be a need for chapter dues. There won’t be any hard-copies of *The Clarion* available, so if you would like to keep our newsletters for your records, please download and print them. We will only be publishing two issues this year, but I hope in 2021 to set up a schedule of four issues per year for winter, spring, summer and fall. This current issue is an expanded one because we do have a lot to cover, especially with the focus on suffrage at the upcoming APIC Convention. The next issue, among other topics, will feature the memorabilia from the Woman Suffrage Party of New York City and the issue following will discuss and picture suffrage postcards, an area that has become of increasing interest of late. But all future issues, whatever the main topic, will contain articles on a variety of subjects. Needless to say, we would appreciate your help. Many of you have articles that you have stored away. We would love to have them. We would love to have pictures of interesting items that you have acquired; we would love to have news of upcoming events, exhibitions, etc; and we encourage scholars and historians to contribute stories that, if they do not deal directly with memorabilia, nevertheless provide a context for these objects of “visual rhetoric.” Even if you don’t submit an article yourself, you might drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see appear here. You can always get in touch at floreysnet.net. See you all at the APIC Convention in August! Also, please check out our Facebook blog, administered by Germaine Broussard at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/229690651502240/> If you would like to join, contact Germaine, Bob Fratkin, or me.

USPS To Issue a Stamp Honoring the 100th Anniversary of Suffrage

Later this year, the U.S. Postal Service will commemorate the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote. The stamp will feature a stylized illustration of suffragists marching in a parade carrying banners that reflect



the official colors of Alice Paul’s National Woman’s Party — purple, white and gold. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with original art by Nancy Stahl. I had hoped for a ten stamp series, a number that the Post Office has issued for other topics, but, alas, this was not to be.

In Memoriam—Ronnie Kay Lapinsky Sax

By Robert Fratkin

Ronnie Kay Lapinsky Sax was a unique woman.

Some months after we met at Shearson in downtown DC in 1978, we became business partners. As we worked closely together, Ronnie became interested in my hobby. At the time, I was APIC President, and perforce she was drawn in to the world of political collecting, even though she had little interest in American history before. Early on, I challenged her to learn all the presidents in order. A month later, she was speeding on the New Jersey turnpike and was pulled over by a Trooper. He said he had been following her (in an obvious police vehicle) for several miles and he was surprised that she hadn't slowed down. He asked her what she was thinking about, and she said she was practicing naming the presidents in order. As Ronnie told it, this was probably the first time anyone had ever used that excuse. He said that if she could do it, he wouldn't give her a ticket. She did, and he waved her on. I always wondered if he would have known if she had made a mistake.

Some months later, Joe Levine and I went to look at a collection for the widow of an APIC member. Ronnie came with us to take notes. In a cabinet containing his smalls, one of the drawers contained suffrage items, which at the time were inexpensive (hard to believe in today's market). As we evaluated each drawer, one drawer was devoted to suffrage items, and Ronnie was fascinated. Joe bought the collection and gave Ronnie the contents of the drawer for her help. I remember that there were some buttons and a dozen copies of the 1915 NY Suffrage Convention ribbon. This was the starting point of what became a world-class collection. Ronnie loved her collection and loved sharing her excitement with others. The light in her eyes when she met other suffrage collectors was infectious. She started the WSAPIC to share her love of the items and their history. For those lucky enough to be on her mailing list, we regularly received emails from Ronnie with pictures and news about newly discovered suffrage items and other VFW news.

We went to antique shows together in the DC area, and I remember her joy at finding a new item. One in particular I remember was a large 8" long rubber stamp with strong block lettering, Votes For Women. I remember when she got her tin bird and she received her first Belva Lockwood rebus ribbon as a birthday present in 1981.

What made Ronnie's collection different was its depth. She also had posters, post cards and hand sewn cloth pieces, paper items, a lot of everything. Her collection of early women candidate buttons, ribbons, badges, etc. developed alongside the direct suffrage items, would, for anyone else, have been a great collection by itself.

She was also generous over the years in lending parts of her collection to museums, libraries and historic homes, and took pleasure in her speeches and power point presentations to women's groups and other organizations.

It is hard to measure the value that Ronnie added to APIC, the Woman's Suffrage chapter and all of us who had the opportunity to know her. She will be sorely missed.

Tennessee Suffrage Memorabilia and the Nashville Convention



The theme of the APIC National Convention, which will be held in Nashville Tennessee from August 10-16 at the Sheraton Music City Hotel, is woman suffrage. Here is a list of events that might be of especial interest to chapter members:

- 1) Keynote Address by Dr. Carol Bucy, the Davidson County Historian and Professor of Tennessee History at Vol State Community College, whose presentation on the dramatic struggle over the ratification of the 19th Amendment will take place at 7:00 on Wednesday, August 12th at the McGavock Ballroom of the Hotel.
- 2) Suffrage Seminar on Thursday, August 13, at 9:00 at the McGavock Ballroom, featuring Jessica Turk, Mary Makley and Beth Curley, who produced and put together a wonderful documentary entitled "By One Vote: Woman Suffrage in the South" for Nashville Public Television that features many images of suffrage memorabilia. If you wish to see this hour-long program in its entirety now, click on <https://www.wnpt.org/citizenship-project/woman-suffrage/>
- 3) Suffrage Chapter Meeting on Thursday August 13 at 1:00 in the Cheekwood and Belmont Rooms of the Hotel. Presentation on the significance of suffrage colors and dating memorabilia by the stars. Business meeting will include the election of a President and a Board of Directors as well as hearing from you about your ideas for the growth of the Chapter.
- 4) Exhibits Opening Ceremonies on Thursday, August 13 from 5-6 in the Belle Meade Room. There will be a suffrage exhibit on display.

Tennessee Suffrage Memorabilia

Despite the significance of its being the final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, Tennessee suffragists, like their counterparts throughout the South, produced very little in the way of suffrage memorabilia. In addition to the program that graces our front cover, here are a few more examples:

Chapter 23, Acts 1890, Extra Session;
Chapter 224, Acts 1891;
Chapter 12, Acts 1891 Extra Session;
and
Chapter 3, Acts 1895, Extra Session.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY

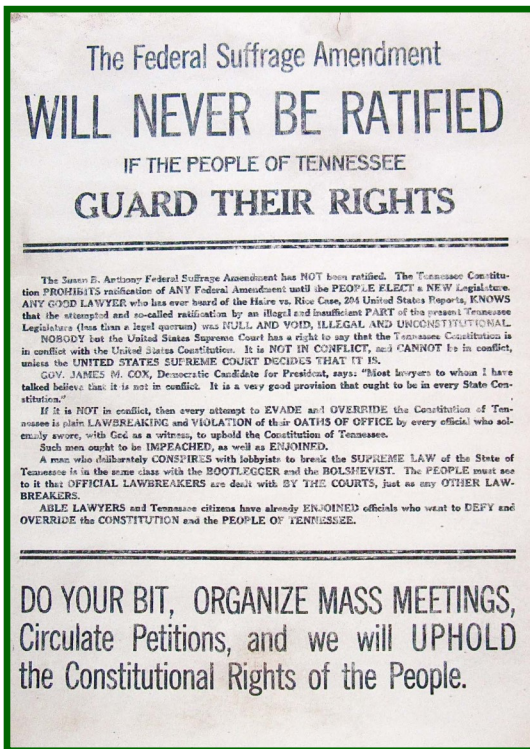
Knox County, Aug 18, 1919.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That Mrs. J. W. Pollard is a Legal Voter having duly registered on the 18 day of Aug, 1919.

His Registration No. is 126; Color W; Age 21; Vocation Housekeeper;
Residence 126 S. Linden St.; Ward 14; Dist. 2;
and is entitled to vote in said Ward or District in all elections held in the Ward or District, within two years from the last general registration of August 1917.

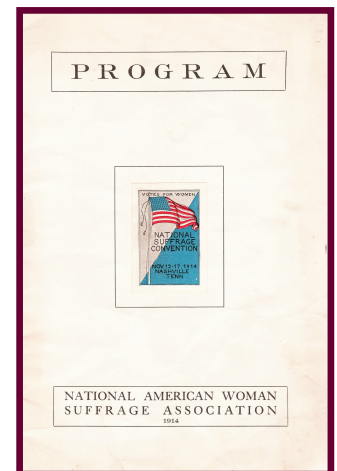
J. H. Williams
J. M. Cannon
Registrars of 14 Ward 2 District

Although Tennessee women were not allowed to vote for President until the 1920 election, this registration receipt for Mrs. J. W. Pollard is dated August 18, 1919, indicating that Tennessee women, nevertheless, had some voting rights in at least portions of the state prior to that milestone.



Some anti-suffragists did not accept defeat gracefully. This cardboard poster shows that there was an attempt to nullify ratification on Constitutional grounds.

When the National American Woman Suffrage Association held its annual convention, it often made an attempt to choose sites in various parts of the country. In this way, they hoped to accommodate those who might have difficulty travelling too great a distance from their homes. This program, pictured on the cover of this issue of *The Clarion*, is from the November 11-17 Convention in Nashville. The day sessions were held in Representative Hall at the State Capitol and the evening mass meetings at Ryman Auditorium. The sticker on the front was also distributed independently from the program for those who wished to affix it on envelopes home.



This ribbon was put out by the Tennessee Suffrage Association, founded by Anne Dallas Dudley, who also served as its first President. It is at this point the only known ribbon for this group in the hobby. Dudley, described as “a woman of elegance and high standing,” ignored the constraints of her position to speak out on suffrage. She was the first woman in Tennessee to make an open-air speech, given after she had led a march of 2,000 women from downtown Nashville to Central Park in May 1914, the first suffrage parade in the South.

Susan B. Anthony, Lily Dale, And Communicating With The Dead

Kenneth Florey

In southwestern New York State there is a hamlet called Lily Dale that is located in the town of Pomfret on the east side of Cassadaga Lake. It was incorporated in 1879 as the Cassadaga Lake Free Association to further the cause of science, philosophy, and, most of all, spiritualism. Having undergone a name change to the City of Light in 1903 and then to the Lily Dale Assembly in 1906, it still is in existence today with a population of approximately 275.

Each year it is host to about 22,000 visitors, who come to the hamlet in July and August for its classes, workshops, demonstrations in communicating with dead spirits, and private meetings with mediums. It is probably the largest center of the Spiritualist Movement left in the United States as similar centers have experienced a serious decline in membership or have folded altogether.

Always a community associated with Free Thought and Progressive ideas as well as communication with dead spirits, it was heavily supportive of the women's rights movement. Marian Skidmore, one of its early leaders, was an outspoken proponent of woman suffrage. At her invitation, Susan B. Anthony often visited the community in the early 1890's and spoke on behalf of "Votes for Women."

Lily Dale also had its own Woman Suffrage League as seen in the Real Photo postcard that is pictured here.



But Anthony was not the only suffragist to be attracted by Lily Dale and its activities. The hamlet still hosts a Woman's Day each year, and at one time brought in such leaders of the movement as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriot Stanton Blatch, founder of the Women's Political Union, the feminist writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Anna Howard Shaw, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, May Wright Sewall, Vice President-at-Large of the International Council of Women, and Harriet May Mills, President of the New York Woman Suffrage Association, whose pass to visit the community is shown below. Emma Beckwith, who ran for Mayor of Brooklyn in 1889 under the banner of the Equal Rights Party, is buried there.



... Communicating With The Dead, cont'd.

It is not known whether Anthony ever really believed in the possibility of communication with the dead; probably she didn't, but she was clearly attracted to the community. In her account of her speech there on Woman's Day in 1890, Anthony gushed:

"People came from near and far. Fully 3,000 were assembled in that beautiful amphitheater with the yellow and the red, white and blue... There hanging by itself was our national suffrage flag, ten by fourteen feet, with its regulation red and white stripe, and in the center of its blue corner just one great golden star, Wyoming blazing out all alone . . . all in honor of Woman's Day and her coming freedom and equality... Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Skidmore are the center of things at Lily Dale, and right royal are they in their hospitality as well as their love of liberty for all."

Anthony returned to Lily Dale the following year along with Anna Howard Shaw and spoke to the attending crowd of her experiences in Rochester a number of years earlier when she and 14 other women had attempted to vote. She was fined \$100 for her act, but she triumphantly pointed out to her Lily Dale audience that she never paid the penalty and urged the women listening to her to keep on fighting, for "they would surely win."

In 1893, Anthony was not able to attend the woman's festival at Lily Dale, so her sister Mary took her place. When queried by the *Buffalo Courier* about both her and her sister's beliefs about communicating with the dead, Mary Anthony replied: "I don't know very much about spiritualism . . . Sister Susan had a slate writing communication [with a dead spirit] while she was here last summer, which she thinks was truly marvelous. I presume there's something in it, but I'm not so much interested in spiritualism as in woman suffrage." During the same interview, Susan B. Anthony's friend, the Methodist minister Anna Howard Shaw, indicated that she "had never investigated the spirit manifestations, but I see no reason to disbelieve them."

When Marian Skidmore, the woman who had first invited Anthony to Lily Dale, died, Anthony wrote to the local paper about Skidmore's belief in the spirit world:

"It seems impossible that dear Mrs. Skidmore has gone from our mortal sight forever. I loved her.... And on Woman Suffrage days—can it be possible that that noble, motherly woman will be no more there to preside over it? And yet, when I think of the belief, or knowledge, as she would say, of so many of her dear friends that she is not gone, but with them in a fuller sense than ever, I am led to exclaim, 'Verily Spiritualists eat of bread the world knows not of'".

It is known that Anthony late in life did sit through at least one meeting with a medium. When the Spiritualist indicated that she was bringing through her aunt from the spirit world, Anthony, however, appeared unimpressed: "I didn't like her when she was alive, and I don't want to hear from her now. Why don't you bring someone interesting like Elizabeth Cady?"

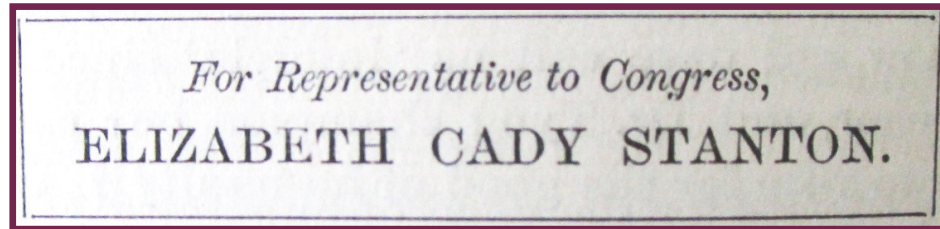
During her early years in the suffrage movement, Anthony had insecurities about her oratorical skills and wished that she had the easy eloquence of a trance speaker: "Oh, dear, dear! If the spirits would only just make me a trance medium and put the right thing in my mouth," she wrote to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "You can't think how earnestly I have prayed to be made a speaking medium for a whole week. If they would only come to me thus, I'd give them a hearty welcome."

Anthony and other suffragists were generally progressive in their ideas, endorsing not only equal rights for women obviously, but also abolition, and, in some cases, Temperance (a Progressive idea at the time). Even those activist women who were not necessarily believers in Spiritualism and communicating with the dead were, nevertheless, apparently receptive to those who were. Hence, the bonding of suffrage leaders with the Spiritualist Association of Lily Dale.

Photographs do exist of Anthony with her Lily Dale friends. So far no programs or fliers announcing Anthony's speeches that are known to collectors, only newspaper reports.

Five “Lost” Pieces of Suffrage Memorabilia

Listed below are five items of fascinating suffrage memorabilia that either existed or were thought to have existed at one time but for which no copies have surfaced today.



- 1) **Elizabeth Cady Stanton for Congress Election Ballot** The two-inch square ballot shown above is pictured on page 180 of Volume II of *The History of Woman Suffrage*, the monumental work initially edited by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Matilda Jocelyn Gage. In 1866, Stanton ran for Congress in the Eighth Congressional District of New York. She had concluded that while existing laws prohibited women from voting in this contest, none precluded them from running. Thus she theoretically could have won an election in which she was not permitted to vote for herself. The contest was won by James Brooks, a Democrat who received 13,816 Votes. Stanton received 24, and regretted only that “she did not, before it became too late, procure the photographs of her two dozen unknown friends.” Of the ballots issued for her campaign, one ended up in the hands of Theodore Tilton, primarily known for his suit against Henry Ward Beecher for having had an affair with his wife. His copy may not be extant today. No others have surfaced in auction and an original copy may forever be lost.



- 2) **Victoria Woodhull for President Bonds** When Victoria Woodhull ran for President in 1872, the first woman ever to have formally sought that office, she planned to finance the campaign by issuing a set of bonds, presumably to be redeemed by the National Treasury after she had “won” the election. The above vignette, from the June 6, 1872 issue of the satirical paper *Wild Oats*, shows a bunch of attendees at her nominating convention at Apollo Hall rushing to subscribe “to them bonds.” Whether or not those subscribers actually received a printed bond for their payment is unknown, but it is fun to speculate that such bonds still exist. If so, they would be worth many times more than their initial face value.

... Five Lost Pieces, cont'd.



- 3) **Bottles of Woman Suffrage Stove Polish** Pictured above are the front and back of a trade or advertising card for a product called, curiously enough, “Woman’s Suffrage Stove Polish.” Advertising cards were a very popular collectible in the 1880’s and were distributed free to the public by various manufacturers and storekeepers. There are at least six varieties known of a card for this polish, and they are common enough, selling for about \$15-20 in good condition. Despite the ubiquity of this advertising, which should suggest the popularity of the product at the time, no examples of the polish have turned up today. If one were to be found, it obviously would be highly collectible.



- 4) **Belva Lockwood Improvement Syndicate Tonic** Although sympathetic to the Temperance movement, Belva Lockwood, as was the case with many women of her day, used nerve tonic, even knowing that many contained alcohol. Like Clara Barton, she endorsed Dr. Greene’s Nervura, despite its 17% alcohol content. In 1886, probably in an attempt to capitalize on her fame, she formed the Lockwood Improvement Syndicate, whose purpose was to promote Homeopathic Medicines. Partnering with Washington, D. C. homeopathic doctor E. B. Rankin, she planned to sell a variety of home medicines that he had prepared. Attempting to finance the company through the sale of stock, she had drawn up the certificate pictured above. At least two copies of this certificate are known. However, none of the remedies, if the company even went into production, have ever turned up. Still, one hopes to someday find a bottle of health tonic containing a label with Lockwood’s picture on it.

... Five Lost Pieces, cont'd.

SUFFRAGE GAME

A new Suffrage game, "The Jigsaw Puzzle," is on sale at Congressional Union Headquarters. The game is an excellent means of interesting children in Suffrage. The price is 30 cents. Send orders to Mrs. John Jay White, 1420 F Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

- 5) **Woman Suffrage Jigsaw Puzzle** In the December 13, 1913 issue of *The Suffragist*, published by Alice Paul's Congressional Union, an ad appeared for "The Jigsaw Puzzle," a "new suffrage game," available at the Union's headquarters, presumably in time for Christmas. The puzzle was designed to provide "an excellent means of interesting children in suffrage," and it sold for 30 cents. Even though the ad ran in several subsequent issues of the paper, no copy of the puzzle, to the best of my knowledge, has ever turned up. In a recent conversation that I had with the former president of the Jigsaw Puzzle Collectors Organization, she indicated that not only had she not seen the game in question, she had never before even heard of it. Still, with the repetitive advertising in *The Suffragist*, it would appear entirely possible that one day a copy of this puzzle will turn up and it will no longer appear in this category of "Lost Suffrage Memorabilia."

Four Non-Suffrage Buttons

There are instances where buttons with dubious suffrage allusions are included in otherwise noteworthy collections simply because a collector, without supporting evidence, thinks that the item in question "might be a suffrage piece." The problem is that these buttons, even though their suffrage connections are extremely suspect, achieve a semi-imprimatur merely because they have appeared in at least one suffrage collection. As a result, they often go on to obtain some rather highly undeserved auction prices.

Over the years the following four pins have drawn such attention as possible suffrage items. Recent research, however, has shown conclusively that they are not.

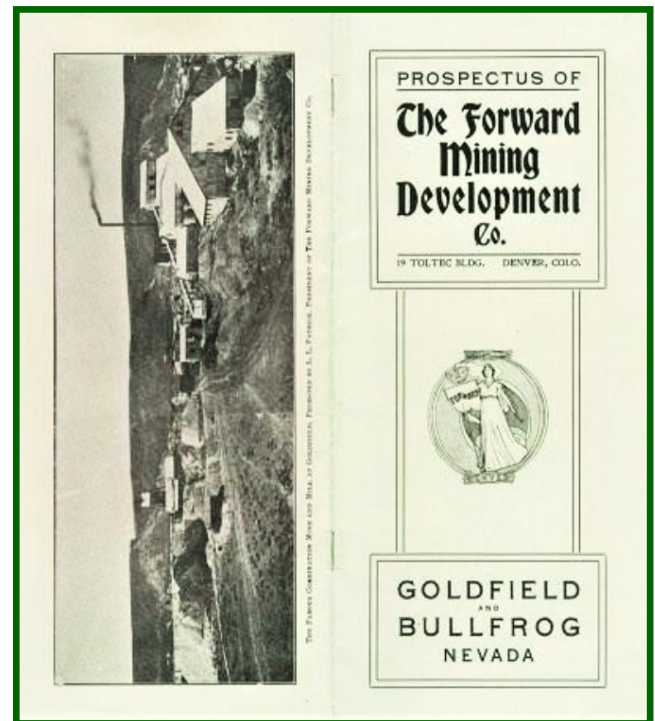


This button with its image of three women with their encircled portraits first drew notice when it appeared in the wonderful collection of the late Frank Corbeil; it was considered for a time to be one of the top suffrage items available. An attempt was made to identify at least one of the three women, with one collector speculating Anna Howard Shaw and another Carrie Chapman Catt, but these identifications were problematic at best. Several years ago, *The Clarion* ran a small piece questioning the button as suffrage related, and knowledgeable collectors began distancing themselves from it ever since. Apart from memorial pieces to such notables as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, suffragists seldom issued portrait buttons of their leaders, perhaps unwilling to develop a "cult of leadership" that took precedence over the issues that they supported. Moreover, the background of blue on this button is not the official color of any known suffrage group.

... Four Non-Suffrage Buttons, cont'd.

I did ask Frank about it years ago, and he said that he had no evidence at all that this pin was suffrage related. He included it in his collection only because it had three women pictured on it. Frank obtained much of his collection years ago from a New Jersey antique dealer who sold him on approval for 25 and 50 cents each various cause buttons, including suffrage, temperance, and GAR Women's Auxiliary items

Ted Hake in his March 2020 auction identified these women as follows: "Lulu A. Ramsey, Lillian Hollister and Emma E. Bower are pictured on this trigate button. All members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union WCTU, Ladies Of The Maccebees (LOTM) and all promoters of women's suffrage." While each of these women may have worked to promote suffrage, their efforts were not significant enough to be mentioned in the exhaustive six-volume *History of Woman Suffrage*, originally conceived of and partially edited by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Thus it is likely that this button was never intended as a suffrage piece and is LOTM or WCTU related instead.



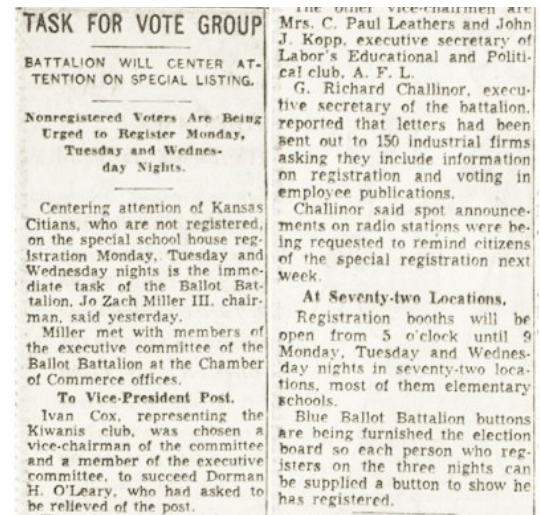
The colorful button that is pictured above with the wording "Forward" and "Denver" has had its share of defenders over the years. It has realized a price as high as \$1,000 in auction. The primary evidence, though, for labeling it as suffrage related appears to be the fact that the design includes an allegorical woman, and several suffrage badges do depict allegorical women. But so do non-suffrage buttons. Furthermore, this button cannot possibly be promoting suffrage because the first patent for the manufacture of celluloid buttons was issued in 1894, and the production of celluloid buttons did not occur in large numbers until the election of 1896. Colorado awarded women total voting rights in 1893, a full year prior to the manufacture of celluloids. Finally, someone recently uncovered a brochure, pictured here, for the Forward Mining and Development Corporation of Denver, that contains the above design as a logo for the company. This is definitely an advertising pin and not a suffrage cause item.

... Four Non-Suffrage Buttons, cont'd.



legcyamericana

The phrase “Ballot Battalion” printed on the pin pictured above conjures up an image of hundreds or perhaps thousands of women marching forth to cast their votes. It comes in both tin and celluloid varieties. A recent discussion about this pin on Facebook from John Olsen, John Vargo, and David Holcomb indicates that this is not a suffrage pin at



The Kansas City Times of Sept. 5, 1952

all and is not even from the period. It was distributed in 1952 by a Kansas group called the “Ballot Battalion” as part of a get-out-the-vote drive. Dave uncovered the newspaper article pictured above that references the button in its last paragraph.



This pin, manufactured by Bastian Brothers of New York, has at times been sold as a Woman Suffrage item. It is not. It was distributed on March 16, 1920 by the National Press Committee at an organizational meeting of the D.C. Suffrage League to obtain the ballot for residents of Washington. In attendance were such luminaries as Champ Clark and Samuel Gompers. The League, with the backing of many members of Congress, was formed to address the lack of general suffrage in the District of Columbia, whose residents, male or female, have always faced restrictions. The Constitution guarantees to each state voting rights in both houses of Congress. However, the District of Columbia is a special Federal District, not a state, and, therefore, its residents are denied those rights. The 23rd amendment to the Constitution, passed in 1961, did give them the right to vote for President, and the District does have a delegate to the House of Representatives, who, however, is not

allowed to vote on the House floor. Residents have no representation at all in the Senate. Full voting rights for D. C. citizens has always been an on-going issue, and there is at least one other lapel item that promotes this cause. Thanks to John Olsen for his help on this one!

Not all suffrage buttons are overtly suffrage in wording and design, but most are. It is incumbent upon those collectors who come across a badge that they believe “might be suffrage” to provide evidence prior to promoting it. Otherwise suffrage history becomes distorted, even in a minor way, and other unwary collectors are induced to spending large sums for spurious items.

WSAPIC Facebook Page

As I indicated in the “Editor’s Note” section of this newsletter, Bob Fratkin and Germaine Broussard have collaborated to create a WSAPIC page for Facebook. This can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/229690651502240/>. Just as *The Clarion* was about to go to press, they have announced an expansion of their original project, which they have described below. On behalf of everyone interested in woman suffrage and woman’s memorabilia in general, I would like to thank them for their wonderful efforts. Please check these pages out.

“There are three separate pages available. This first page will be limited to the Suffrage movement (Votes for Women), other women’s issues and candidates, from Seneca Falls to 1970. Page 2 is designed to show Roe v Wade, ERA, Title IX and other woman-related issues and candidates since 1970. Page 3 is for Brummagem (reproductions, fantasy pieces, and fakes) and will be devoted to picturing and discussing suffrage and other woman-related Brummagem. WSAPIC is a chapter of The American Political Items Conservators. We ask you to support these pages by becoming a member of APIC at APIC.us. APIC Members will be eligible to receive additional information that may not be available on these pages.

When you request to join any of these pages, you will be asked if you would like to be added to the other two pages at the same time.”

Suffrage Portrait Easel Badges



The four celluloid pieces shown above are from the estate auction of Amelia Berndt Moorfield, who served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Women’s Political Union of New Jersey. They were made by the New Jersey firm of Whitehead and Hoag, and all come with an easel attachment on the back rather than a pin, so they could be stood up on a curio shelf for display. This grouping, which consists of a crisp portrait of Lucretia Mott and badly faded pieces for Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony, is otherwise unknown, so it may have been made as a sample item and never ordered. The Women’s Political Union of New Jersey was organized in 1908 by Wilhelmina (“Mina”) Van Winkle and originally called the “Equality League of Self-Supporting Women,” deriving its name from Harriot Stanton Blatch’s New York group. In 1912 its name was changed to its current form, and the organization took an active role in the four-state Eastern campaign of 1915. Following the defeat of the suffrage referendum in the state, the Women’s Political Union of New Jersey merged with the larger New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association, whose officers governed the newly formed collective.

Suffrage Memorabilia From the 1915 Campaign in New Jersey

New Jersey was the first state to award women the right to vote. In 1776, New Jersey's original constitution gave the franchise to "all inhabitants of this colony, of full age, who are worth fifty pounds ... and have resided within the county ... for twelve months." Lest there be any confusion as to the Legislature's intent, it reworded the law in 1790 to include the pronouns "he or she." Theoretically only single women could vote, because New Jersey's statutes at the time extended ballot access only to property owners (those who were worth 50 pounds or more), and married women had no property. It all belonged to their husbands. *The New York Times* has recently reported on studies of names on voting lists of the period, and many women did take advantage of their right. They tended to vote in groups, without men, suggesting that they, indeed, were single. This report can be seen at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/24/arts/first-women-voters-new-jersey.html>. I would like to thank Jill Norgren for calling my attention to this link.

In 1807, things changed when the Legislature restricted suffrage to tax-paying white male citizens only. This exclusion may not have been enacted entirely for sexist reasons. The ruling Democratic-Republican Party of the state wanted to give its candidate an advantage in the upcoming Presidential election of 1808, and it believed that women tended to vote for the opposition Federalist Party. In any event, women in the state could not vote again for President until the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution in 1920.



WOMEN AT THE POLLS IN NEW JERSEY IN THE GOOD OLD TIMES—DRAWN BY HOWARD PYLE.—[SEE PAGE 725.]

724

HARPER'S WEEKLY.

NOVEMBER 13, 1860.

Women Voting in Colonial New Jersey

...1915 Campaign in New Jersey, cont'd.

But in 1915 women activists gave the idea of full suffrage an intensely energetic try. Suffragists had long been divided on the best strategy to achieve their goal of “Votes for Women”. Some wanted to proceed on a state by state basis, while others wanted to focus the campaign on the Federal Level, seeking a Constitutional Amendment that would give immediately all American women the right to vote. But even those who opposed the former approach realized that their argument was weakened by the fact that no large Eastern state at that time had granted women full suffrage. Therefore in 1915 they helped to organize the Eastern States campaign in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, and a “Votes For Women” initiative appeared on the ballot of all four states for the fall.

New Jersey, though, decided to hold its referendum on Registration Day, October 19, instead of Election Day, Nov. 2, as did the other three states. Many assumed that the earlier day would result in a larger turnout. It didn't, and of the 317,672 votes cast on that day, “Votes for Women” lost by a total of 51,108. The initiative failed to carry in every county in New Jersey except for Ocean County. The proposition also went down to defeat in the other three states, although New York women gained the right to vote in 1917 when a second referendum did pass. New Jersey women, on the other hand, did not obtain full voting rights until 1920, when the 19th amendment to the U. S. Constitution was finally ratified.

The push for the ballot in New Jersey was spearheaded by two groups, the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association and the Women's Political Union of New Jersey (WPUNJ). The Woman Suffrage Association was the larger of the two groups. It had formed in 1867 and used the traditional yellow or gold of the National American Woman Suffrage Association as its official color. The second group, the WPUNJ, owed much of its iconography and name to the friendship between its founder, Mina C. Van Winkle, and Harriot Stanton Blatch, daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It was organized originally as the Equality League for Self-Supporting Women of New Jersey, similar to the title of the New York group formed by Blatch. The Equality League changed its name in 1912 to the Women's Political Union of New Jersey, two years after Blatch had organized the WPU of New York. Following the defeat of the New Jersey suffrage amendment in 1915, the two local groups merged, with representatives from the older organization taking over as officers.

It was the WPUNJ that produced the more graphically appealing memorabilia of the two organizations. Its buttons in purple, green, and white followed the color scheme originally introduced by the English militant Women's Social and Political Union, formed in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst. It had for its iconic symbol the image of blind justice holding up a ballot upon which the phrase “Equal Suffrage” was inscribed. This image appeared on such diverse items as a campaign yearbook, a poster stamp, and various pieces of stationery. Its 1 ¼” “Votes for Women—New Jersey” celluloid button that existed in two varieties, was adapted from a New York button of the same design. One of its posters, pictured in this article, was also modeled on a New York piece, even using the blue and yellow semi-official colors of its sister state.

The button and ribbon for the New Jersey Men's League for Women's Suffrage are exceedingly rare, and I have not seen any other copies outside of my collection.



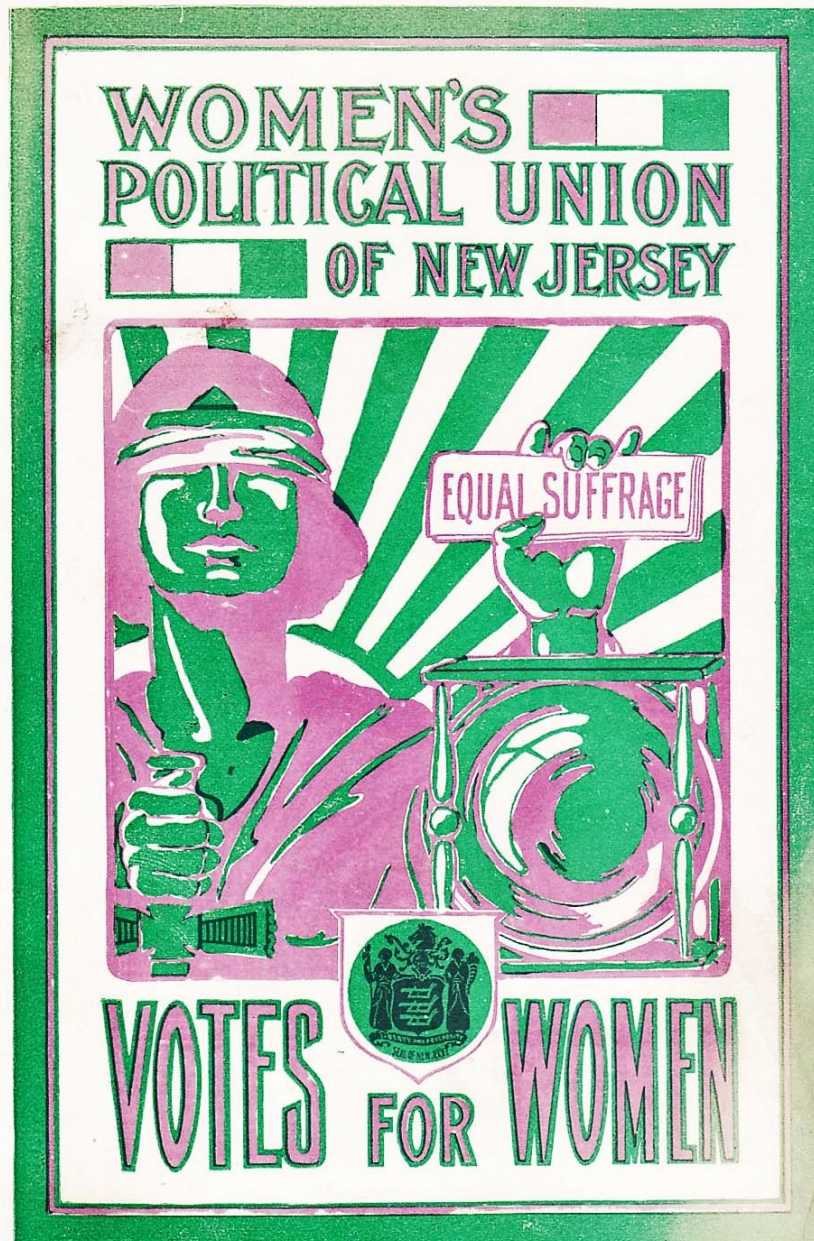
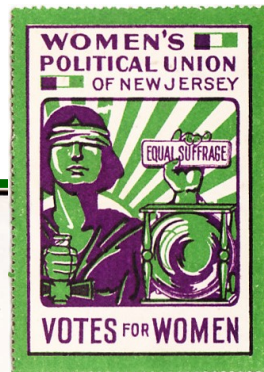
...1915 Campaign in New Jersey, cont'd.



...1915 Campaign in New Jersey, cont'd.



...1915 Campaign in New Jersey, cont'd.



CAMPAIGN YEAR BOOK