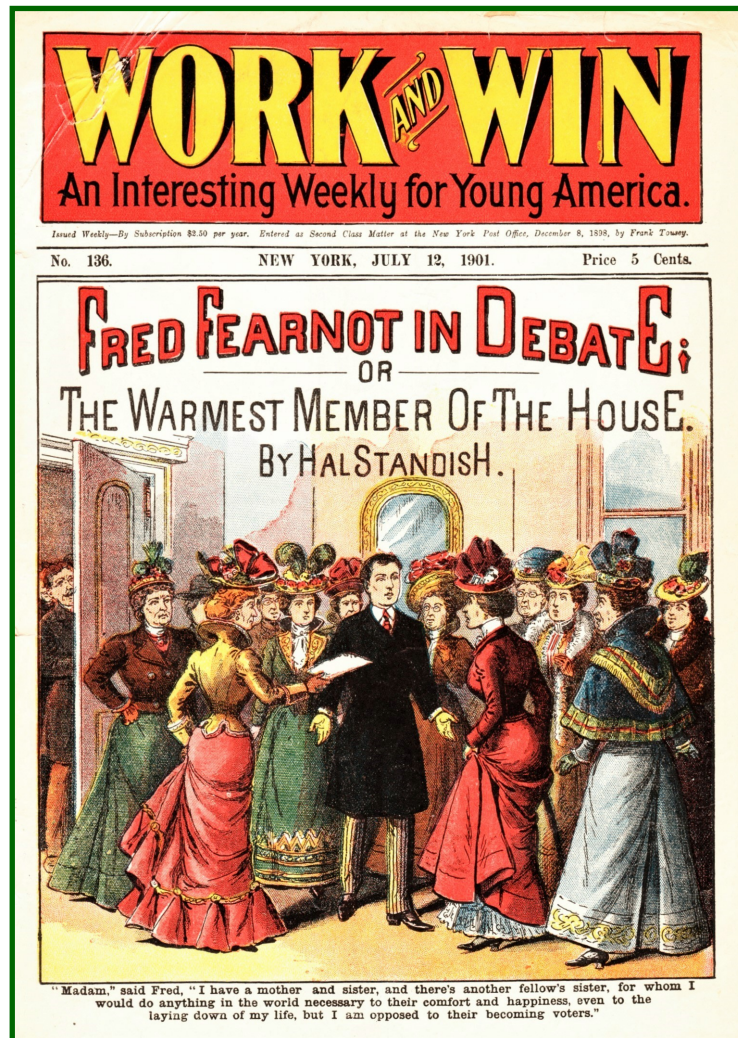




# THE CLARION



*"Work to Win - An Interesting Weekly for Young America"*

**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](http://www.apic.us)

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**Collaborative Contributors:**  
**Robert Fratkin Germaine Broussard**

## From the Editor

The image on the front page of this issue comes from the cover of the July 12, 1901 pulp magazine *Work to Win—An Interesting Weekly for Young America*. A periodical designed for boys, it pictures a recurring character, the allegorically named Fred Fearnot, now a member of Congress, responding to a group of suffragists. Fred boldly announces that there are women in his life that he would gladly die for, but the last thing that he would do for them is grant them the right to vote. The sentiment here obviously reflects the patriarchal role of men as protector of women, that women need protection and are incapable of taking care of themselves. To grant them the franchise is to cast them out on dangerous waters, indeed. Such was a popular sentiment that women were up against, and boys' magazines such as this were a way to pound sexist gender roles into a new generation.

Two contributors to this issue are Bob Fratkin and Robert Cooney. Bob, of course, is past president of the American Political Items Conservators (APIC) who has been of significant help in terms of promoting the hobby and has always been a resource to collectors of suffrage memorabilia. Robert Cooney is the author of the prize-winning book, *Winning the Vote, a Triumph of the Woman Suffrage Movement*, a wonderful combination of history, scholarship, graphics, and memorabilia. If you would like to submit something to the *Clarion*, please get in touch. We would very much like to hear from you.

On a less happy note, we would like to make a brief comment on the number of misrepresentations and phony items now flooding the marketplace. At the moment, most of the hand-made fakes are coming out of England, but American counterparts are creeping up rapidly. These dubious items include “defaced” coins with the words “Votes for Women” punched on them, plastic “membership” disks for the WSPU, and hand-made flags and other suffrage cloth. Some dealers are taking recently minted suffrage material, produced for the contemporary souvenir market, and modifying pieces to make them look old. I have, for example, seen a group of buttons, manufactured to celebrate the anniversary of the passage of the first suffrage laws in England, with their backs emulsified to suggest period authenticity. Be careful about the people that you buy from, particularly when it comes to hitherto unknown items, especially those that can be hand-made (punched or engraved) or hand-sewn. Some of these items do wend their way into museum collections. As very few curators are specialists in suffrage memorabilia, these ersatz objects can be exhibited and presented as actual expressions of suffragist culture, distorting our knowledge of the suffrage movement.

## Belva Lockwood - "School Mistress"

In 1857, having graduated from Genesee Wesleyan Academy with Honors, Belva Lockwood obtained a teaching appointment at Lockport Union School in New York; teaching then was one of the few professions open to women. She went by the name of Belva McNall, retaining the name of her husband, Uriah McNall, who had died in 1853 of tuberculosis, three years after their daughter, Lura, was born. Even though Lockwood was a widow with a child to support, she was offered a salary that was not commensurate with that given to her male colleagues and amounted to about half of what they received.

Lockport taught at Lockport until 1861, when she went on to become principal of the Gainesville Female Seminary. It is obvious by the two pieces of memorabilia illustrated here that at least several of her students at Lockport followed her later career as a lawyer and then as candidate for president in 1884 and 1888.

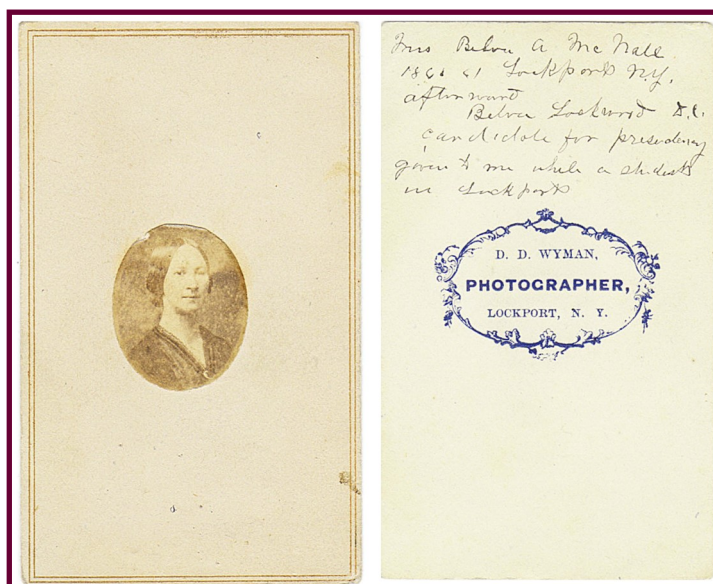
The first item is this small 2 ½" x 4" carte de visite upon which her oval photograph was pasted. A Frenchman named Andre Eugene Disderi had patented the carte in 1854 using a process that entailed the use of a sliding plate holder and a camera with four lenses that resulted in eight negatives every time a picture was taken. Thus, multiple images from a single picture could be made quickly and inexpensively allowing for exchanges of portraits between family and friends. Cartes formed the core of family photograph albums during the latter half of the 19th century. They were also exchanged by students and faculty at schools and colleges throughout the country, and eventually led to the later production of yearbooks.

Disderi's process was not imported to the United States until 1859, so this carte (sometimes referred to as a c.d.v.) of Lockwood, with her photo dating from about 1860, was a very early example of the American utilization of the process. This photo may well have been the very first photo of Lockwood ever taken.

This carte de visite was produced by D. D. Wyman, a Lockport photographer. On the back of the piece, one of Lockwood's former students has written "Mrs. Belva A. McNall 1860-61 Lockport N. Y., afterward Belva Lockwood, D. C., candidate for presidency. Given to me while she was in Lockport."

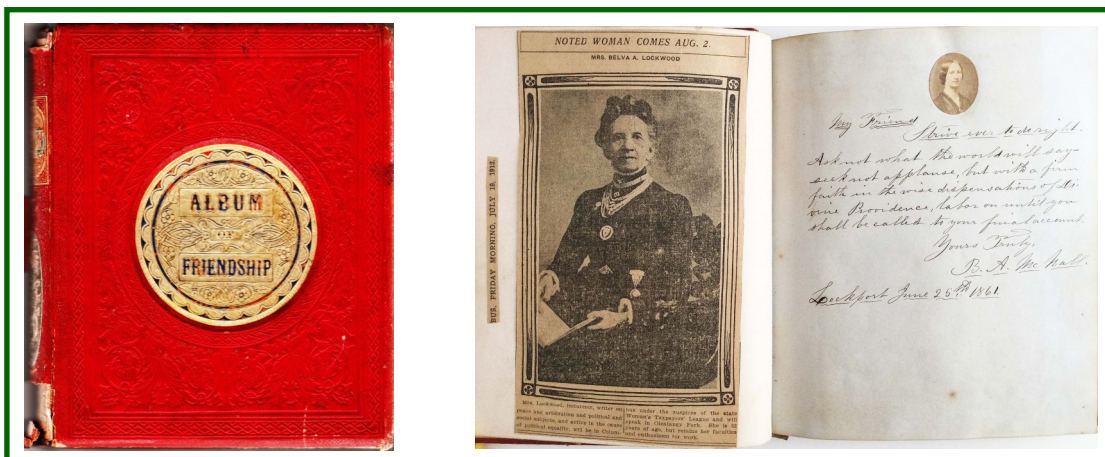
The next item is a Friendship Album put together by Eleanora Miller, who attended Lockport in 1860 as a member of the Junior Class. Miller turned the volume into a combination yearbook and autograph album. She asked her friends and teachers at the school to contribute an inspirational quotation in

their own hand to which she added their oval photograph that she apparently had removed from their c.d.v.'s. The first individual to appear in her book is Belva Lockwood. Her portrait is the same as that from the c.d.v. above. Here the future presidential candidate advises: "My Friend, strive ever to do right. Ask not what the world will say—seek not applause, but with a firm faith in the wise dispensations of Divine Providence, labor until you shall be called to your final account. Yours Truly, B. A. McNall, Lockport, June 26th, 1861." Miller apparently moved to Ohio but did follow Lockwood's later career. Lockwood's page in her album is preceded by news accounts of her appearance in 1912 at a Woman's Taxpayer's League Rally at Olentangy Park in Columbus.





... Belva Lockwood, cont'd.



It would be interesting to know what other items from Lockwood's early career as a teacher are still out there. The fact that Lockwood's page is the first in Miller's album is suggestive of her influence on her.

### Ted Hake's Latest Auction

The political portion of Ted Hake's latest auction (#233) concluded on November 2 of last year. Included among the pieces was the largest selection of suffrage items that has ever been offered since Heritage Auction's sale of Frank Corbeil's extensive collection about 10 years ago. What was particularly impressive about Ted's listing was the eclectic nature of the pieces (English, American, banners, pennants, novelty items, buttons, etc.) as well as their rarity. A number of items had never been seen previously by collectors, while others had appeared only once or twice in auctions in the past 50 years. One also has to be impressed with the amount of research that Ted and Scott Mussell put into the descriptions of these items. The prices realized below all include the 18% buyer's premium.



Perhaps the most spectacular piece was the pennant shown here, which, though not unknown, is regarded by some as the most attractive item of its kind. Professionally framed, it brought a final bid, with buyer's premium, of \$16,848.04. Cloth items, including felt, have proven to be of especial interest recently for suffrage collectors.

A suffrage parade hat realized \$5,192.00. This is the first time I had ever seen this particular piece. I know of only one other variety of parade hat, that promoted by Alice Paul's National Woman's Party, which sold at the time for \$5.00 each, quite a hefty price back then.



A sash put out by the NWP went for a very strong \$4,248.00. The final bid could have been even higher, but, like many pieces issued by this organization in either cloth or satin, it contained no wording.



... Ted Hake, cont'd.

The Belva Lockwood metamorphic, with a Ben Butler hiding under her moveable skirt, has always held fascination for collectors both inside and outside the political field. Although Butler had a contemporary reputation by his enemies as a lothario, a historian friend of mine tells me that there is no real evidence to support this charge. In any event, the “romantic” connection here between the two is entirely fictional. There never was period gossip about the two. Butler did support suffrage, and that is about the extent of their relationship. The final price for this piece, with Lockwood’s name misspelled as “Belvia,” was \$4,543.00 and reflects the strong interest currently in Belva Lockwood items of any type.



There was a nice selection of buttons from the United Kingdom, several of which were extremely rare.



The pin on the far left of a woman breaking her shackles and emerging from prison was designed by Sylvia Pankhurst, artist daughter of WSPU founder, Emmeline Pankhurst. It was one of at least three badges that Sylvia had helped produce for the movement. It went for a reasonable \$478.96. To its right is an enamel piece in red, green, and white that is probably the most common of the four. The colors are those of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies. This was the largest of the suffrage groups in England, although one that received far less publicity than the WSPU in part because it was openly law-abiding and non-militant. The final price of the pin was \$389.40. It received only two bids despite its attractiveness. The fact that it drew scant attention is

probably attributable to the fact that several have appeared on eBay in recent years. The badge in gold and green with the Celtic harp contains the letters “ILWS,” which stand for “Irish League for Women Suffrage.” There are at least four different Irish women suffrage pins. Ted had only seen three examples of this pin in over 54 years. Its rarity helped it to realize a final price of \$973.50. The Jewish League for Women Suffrage was pictured and described in the last issue of *The Clarion*. While it is a definite rarity, caused in part by the limited membership of the League, it is not overtly obvious in appearance as a suffrage item and may have escaped the attention of collectors previously. At any rate, it was gaveled off for \$1,557.60.



... Ted Hake, cont'd.

The auction included a selection of newly unearthed parade banners from the Just Government League of Maryland. To my mind, the best of these is the one shown here, which realized \$1,752.30. Some of the JGL banners that were offered simply included nothing but the name of a state, and they were probably produced for a street demonstration of some sort. The prices were surprisingly strong considering that while they were obvious suffrage items, they had no specific identification on them as such. The prices included \$869.66 for a Colorado



banner, \$908.60 for a New Hampshire example, \$713.90 for one representing Oklahoma, and an aggressive \$2,011.90 for the example from Massachusetts. The President of the JGL of Maryland, formed in 1909, was Edith Houghton Hooker, sister of Katharine Houghton Hepburn, mother of the actress and President herself of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association. The two sisters kept in touch and shared design ideas for at least one button, organizational colors, and other merchandising plans.

Finally, a selection of prices of some of the buttons in the auction, several of which were extremely rare. The small "Votes for Women" pin with the green circular border comes from Connecticut and was not known previously to Connecticut collectors. Final price was \$332.29.

The classic Clarion pin, which did not receive any bids until late, went for \$1,719.85, which was its typi-

cal auction price. The "Full Suffrage for Women" button is a scarce but not unknown item. It went for a surprisingly high \$1,299.30, which may or may not be its new plateau. The "Victory 1915" pin is exceedingly rare, and realized \$2,062.51 despite a crimp in the celluloid in the manufacture. Finally, the Susan B. Anthony sepia photo badge brought \$655.49. It is a rare variation of another more common pin, with which it is often confused.



Of the 47 suffrage items up for sale, all received bids, an indication of a strong market for suffrage memorabilia. I would like to thank Ted Hake for permission to use the photographs from his auction for *The Clarion* review. Please consult his website at [www.hakes.com](http://www.hakes.com) for further information about this and future auctions.

### Suffrage Designs on Non-Suffrage Items

Bob Fratkin recently called our attention to two items in auction that, while using designs that have appeared on suffrage items, are clearly not suffrage. The first is a "Comical Cat," the design similar to an anti-suffrage piece produced by the firm of Schafer and Vater. The second, a "Stop Mascot," also resembles a Schafer and Vater piece. To the auctioneer's credit, he does not try to pass either lot off as suffrage

related, something that a dishonest or careless seller might have done. There are other non-suffrage knick-knacks that use similar designs to suffrage pieces, such as found on the Harridan porcelain bell. The question, of course, is which came first, the suffrage item or its generic counterpart. Shown on the next page are the two auction items along with their Schaffer and Vater counterparts.

## ... Suffrage Designs, cont'd.



## Mrs. Albert Broom and Her Real Photo Suffrage Postcards

In general, collectors of English Real Photo postcards value highly the productions of Mrs. Albert (Christina) Broom (1863-1939), especially those with images of the suffrage movement. How Mrs. Broom became such a famous commercial photographer is a story that combines pragmatism, feminism, and a bit of family difficulty.

In 1896, her husband was forced to retire from the family ironmongery after a disabling sports injury left him in crippling pain for the remainder of his life. In 1901, the pair bought a stationery and toyshop in Streatham Hill where they were able to eke out minimal income. But in 1903, Christina Broom became the family breadwinner, as her husband's health continued to fail, when she converted an early interest of hers in photography into a successful business. Beginning with a borrowed box camera, she began shooting scenes in and around London, having a fortuitous ability to be at the right place at the right time. Her pictures of English life include images of the Royal family when they appeared in public at Chelsea and Fulham where the Broom's lived, scenes of sporting life such as the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race on the Thames along with those of the Epsom Derby, and pictures of the military, with whom she appears to have had a special relationship.

The Broom Stationery store was soon transformed into a postcard store, the type of establishment that

was becoming extremely popular on both sides of the Atlantic during the "golden age of postcards." Christina's daughter, Winnie, left school at the age of 14 having taught herself "the mystery of chemicals," and helped to develop her mother's plates.

Broom emerged to become what one of her biographers describes as "a pioneer for women press photographers in the U.K." But perhaps of all the photographs that she took, many of which were transformed into postcards, she is most famous for those of the suffrage movement. Despite Broom's fame in this regard, historian Diane Atkinson can find no evidence in the family papers to suggest that she was interested in the movement "for other than commercial reasons." Still, her suffrage cards were enormously popular, particularly with shop girls and other women with limited income, who were eager to have souvenirs of suffrage leaders and contemporary events at prices that they could afford.

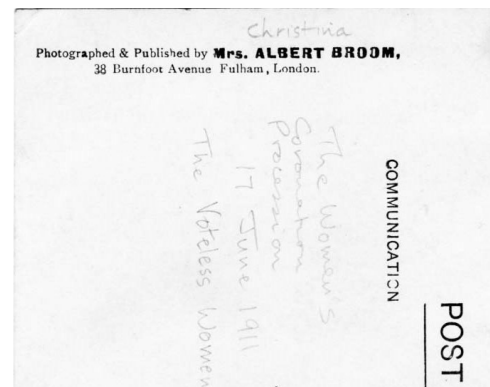
Most, but not all, of Broom's cards are overprinted on the rear with her name and the address of her establishment. To have a complete collection of all of her suffrage cards is to have a comprehensive visual history of the suffrage movement in and around London. What are pictured on the next page constitute but a brief sampling of the myriad of images for which she is famous.



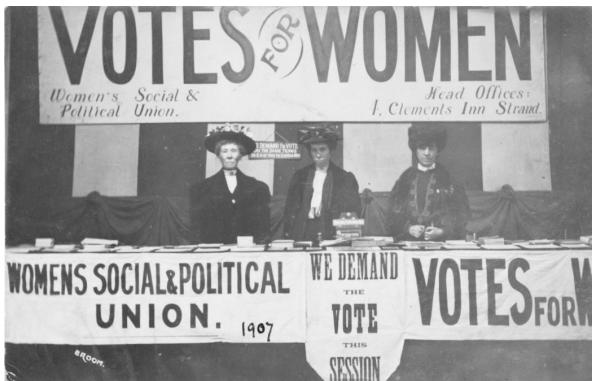
... Broom, cont'd.



*"The Voteless Women Contingent" of the Women's Coronation Procession, June 17, 1911*



*Charlotte Despard and other members of Women's Freedom League at the summer bazaar outside the headquarters in London.*



*Women's Social and Political Union Stand, probably at Caxton Hall*



*A set of four rare cards of a demonstration and march on July 23, 1910 that ended up in Hyde Park. The first card pictures Emmeline Pethick Lawrence and Sylvia Pankhurst, who is wearing the Portcullis symbol that she designed for the movement.*



## ... Broom, cont'd.



The three cards above all depict scenes related to the May 1909 suffrage exhibition at the Prince's Skating Rink in Knightsbridge, a major event and fundraiser for the Women's Social and Political Union. Huge banners, many of which were designed by Sylvia Pankhurst, daughter of Emmeline, graced the walls of the Hall. A refreshment room featured tea and light

snacks on porcelain china decorated again by Sylvia. Marie Brackenberry posed in prison dress as did other suffragists while performing duties that they had engaged in while locked up. The exhibition was promoted by a fife and drum band, consisting of young girls led by Mary Leigh, who marched the streets of London.



Other Broom photographic postcards include this view of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies' members from the Lake District who had taken part in the Pilgrimage, arriving in London on July 26, 1913. The Pilgrimage began on Wednesday, June 18, when a procession left the Market Cross in Carlisle. Next to it is a scene from an unknown Women's Freedom League demonstration. Note the woman on center right, who appears to be selling postcards and badges.

If you are interested in finding out more about Christina Broom or seeing additional suffrage postcards of hers, the following are excellent sources: (1) Diane Atkinson, *Mrs. Broom's Suffragette Photographs*, Nishen Photography, London, no date, 32 pages; and (2) Anna Sparham with contributions by Margaret Denny, Diane Atkinson, and Hilary Roberts, *Soldiers & Suffragettes: the Photography of Christina Broom*, Philip Watson Publishers, London and New York, 2015, 232 pages. Both can be found readily on the internet.

### Button Sandwiches from Michigan

The July 1914 issue of *The Michigan Suffragist*, published by the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association, includes a brief reference to button sandwiches in a column headlined "Make Money for Suffrage."

"The sale of 'Button Sandwiches' as held by the Normal Girls, is a clever idea which could be used by great advantage by suffragists to make money for their local societies and for the state, and to further the cause. At food sales and at lunch counters, for 4th

of July meetings and picnics, make sandwiches of different kinds, and wrap in oil paper, and pin with a suffrage button, and give a leaf of suffrage literature to each purchaser.

"Advertise your sale as a 'BUTTON SANDWICH SALE.' Wrap little cakes the same and sell them as 'BUTTON CAKES.' Have the booth or table decorated in yellow."

## THE NATION RECOGNIZES WOMEN'S HISTORY

### Statues and Memorials Help Us Remember

Robert Cooney



*Stand, the monumental sculpture by Barbara Grygutis, was unveiled in downtown Lexington, Kentucky, on August 19, 2020.*

The movement to reclaim public spaces and honor the achievements of women took a giant step forward during the women's suffrage centennial. Throughout the country, statues have been commissioned, murals painted, concerts performed, streets renamed and artwork of all sorts created to honor the memory and success of American suffragists.

Perhaps one of the most far reaching and lasting results of the cen-

tennial is the creation of statues and memorials and the renaming of parks and schools to pay tribute American suffragists and passage of the 19th Amendment. Throughout the U.S., these significant changes are helping to reimagine and transform our public spaces to be more welcoming, inspiring and inclusive.

#### **Suffragists Cast in Bronze**

Many significant national figures from both the early and later years

of the suffrage movement are now being cast in bronze and remembered in innovative ways. New statues also honor state and local figures, such as Arizona suffragist Frances Munds, first voter Louisa Swain in Wyoming, and Martha Hughes Cannon, the first female state senator who now represents Utah in the U.S. Capitol Building's Statuary Hall.

In Richmond, the Virginia Women's Monument features statues of



### ... Statues, Memorials, cont'd.

suffragist Adele Clark, Maggie L. Walker and ten other state women. In St. Paul, the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Memorial Garden commemorates 25 significant state suffragists. In Tampa, the Eleanor Collier McWilliams Monument honors the Florida suffragist, and Christia Adair Park in Texas features a mural in her honor. In cities and towns across America, women who were suffragists are being recognized as never before.

In Tennessee, statues of women activists now grace several cities. The Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument in Nashville's Centennial Park depicts Carrie Chapman Catt, Sue Shelton White, J. Frankie Pierce, Anne Dallas Dudley and Abby Crawford Milton. Three



*The life size bronze Tennessee's Woman Suffrage Memorial commemorates Lizzie Crozier French, Anne Dallas Dudley and Elizabeth Avery Meriwether.*

more state suffragists are depicted in Knoxville's spirited Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial, not far from the statue of Harry Burn and his mother Febb.

In New York City, Monumental

Women broke the bronze ceiling in Central Park. The beautiful Women's Rights Pioneers Monument honoring Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton was unveiled August 26, 2020, as the first statue of real women in the park. An innovative "Talking Statues" app plays the activists' words ([monumentalwomen.org](http://monumentalwomen.org)).

The state of Indiana, encouraged by [indianasuffrage100.org](http://indianasuffrage100.org), made three Preserving Women's Legacy Grants to create a Miami County Woman's Suffrage Trail with a statue of Marie Stuart Edwards, a sculpture of Sojourner Truth in the town of Angola where she spoke in 1861, and either a sculpture, mosaic or mural honoring Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson in Michigan City, where she was born in 1843.



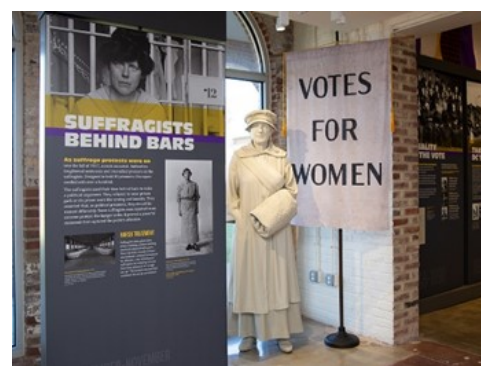
*Centennial sculpture "The Binding" by Victoria Reed Nieman outside the Woman's Club Building in Cedar Falls, Iowa.*

In Seneca Falls, New York, a new statue honoring suffragists and the centennial of the 19th Amendment will be unveiled later this year. "Ripples of Change" by Jane De-Decker will feature suffrage trail-

blazers Laura Cornelius Kellogg, Harriet Tubman, Martha Coffin Wright and Sojourner Truth.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial ([suffragistmemorial.org](http://suffragistmemorial.org)) in Lorton, Virginia, was dedicated in mid-2021 with lovely grounds and statues of Alice Paul, Mary Church Terrell and Carrie Chapman Catt. It will become the first national site in honor of American suffragists. The Memorial recognizes how broad and varied the suffrage movement was, and how important it is to our history.

Close to Turning Point, the Lucy Burns Museum is part of the Workhouse Arts Center on the site of the prison where suffragists were held. The Museum features historical displays, statues of imprisoned suffrage leaders Lucy Burns, Dora Lewis and Alice Paul, and artist Sunny Mullarkey's 6 x 20 foot centennial mural "Equality for All."



*The Lucy Burns Museum in Virginia*

### New Visions of Equality

In addition to portrait statues, busts, murals and plaques, tributes include more interpretive and abstract work.

"Stand," a public sculpture by Bar-

### ... Statues, Memorials, cont'd.

bara Grygutis in Lexington, Kentucky, celebrates passage of the Nineteenth Amendment with five 20-foot tall aluminum silhouetted sculptures of suffragists.

"A Path Forward" in Salt Lake City, created by Kelsey Harrison and Jason Manley, "frames" the state capitol and celebrates voting rights won in 1920 and afterwards. The drive to expand voting rights is represented by expanding door-frames and a widening path that leads directly to the Utah State Capitol. The first doorway represents the 19th Amendment and is surrounded by a wall made of quotes from suffrage leaders.



"Every word we utter, every act we perform, waft unto innumerable circles, beyond."

– Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"Every Word We Utter," Jane De-Decker's highly anticipated National Women's Suffrage Monument, is moving ahead toward a permanent home in Washington D.C. Location and funding are still to be resolved. The majestic centennial sculpture features Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Harriot Stanton Blatch, Ida B. Wells, and Alice Paul representing the suffrage movement.

The Ida B. Wells Monument, an abstract bronze and granite sculpture, is being created by Richard Hunt in Chicago. A spectacular, if temporary, image of young Wells was created as a photo mosaic on the floor of Union Station in Washington D.C. in August. A fearless journalist and activist, Ida B. Wells also received an intangible honor: a posthumous Pulitzer Prize in 2020.



*Ida B. Wells Mosaic in Washington D.C.*

### Renaming Public Spaces to Honor Suffragists

Communities in many states have also decided to rename existing streets, schools, parks and public spaces after women who were involved in their state's suffrage movement.

In Rhode Island, the Central Falls Post Office was renamed in honor of 19th-century abolitionist Elizabeth Buffum Chace, and the post office in New York's Chinatown was renamed for civic activist Mabel Ping-Hua Lee.

In Brookline, a public school was rechristened the Florida Ruffin Ridley School after one of the first Black teachers in Massachusetts. In Cambridge, two streets were re-

named to memorialize African-American activists Harriet Jacobs and Gertrude Wright Morgan. And in Chicago, the Congress Parkway officially became Ida B. Wells Drive.



*California suffragists appear in artist Lauren Sinnott's block-long mural in Ukiah.*

A park in Lakewood, Ohio, was renamed for local suffragist Bernice Pyke, and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in New Mexico renamed its library building to honor long-time resident Adelina "Nina" Otero-Warren. The list goes on, and these examples barely suggest the extent of change.

In Portland, a committee recommended renaming Woodrow Wilson High School after Ida B. Wells. An Elections Building in Multnomah County, Oregon, was dedicated in honor of early state



### ... Statues, Memorials, cont'd.

advocates Abigail Scott Duniway and Esther Pohl Lovejoy.

In New York City, PS9 is now known as the Sarah Smith Garnet School in honor of the first African American woman principal in New York. An Adirondack mountain near Lewis, New York, was officially renamed in honor of Inez Milholland, a move suffragists had called for more than a hundred years ago. A National Court Reporters Association scholarship was renamed to honor Tennessee suffragist Sue Shelton White, and in Boston's Hyde Park, the Grimké Sisters Bridge was named in honor of Sarah and Angelina Grimké.

### Sites and Trails

Historic sites and house museums, as well as dedicated websites, also honor many suffragists. You can visit sites virtually and learn about lesser known figures such as Matilda Joslyn Gage, Mary Church Terrell, Molly Brown, Harriet Taylor Upton, Florence Books Whitehouse, Alva Belmont and many others.

The National Votes for Women Trail ([ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail](http://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail)) has now identified more than 2,020 historical sites related to the suffrage movement throughout the country. Some are being recognized with Pomeroy Historical Roadside Markers and all are listed on their online map.

The venerable Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington D.C. houses oil portraits and marble busts of



*Pomeroy Roadside Markers are being installed at suffrage historical sites.*

suffrage leaders and continues to carry the torch for the movement under the National Park Service.

### Women on Currency

There are also significant new developments with our currency that pay tribute to suffrage activists and reflect women's importance in our



nation's past.

On January 13, 2021, Rep. Barbara Lee's bill for a Women's History & 19th Amendment Centennial Quarter passed both Houses of Congress. It directs the U.S. Mint to issue a series of quarter-dollar coins, with each coin "emblematic of the accomplishments and contri-

butions" of a prominent state woman.

Women on 20s is hopeful of an expedited effort to replace Andrew Jackson with Harriet Tubman on the twenty-dollar bill. White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced that "it's important that our ... money reflects the history and diversity of our country and Harriet Tubman's image gracing the new \$20 note would certainly reflect that."

The importance of these substantive changes lies in their aim to permanently enshrine women and their drive for equality in how we regard our past and understand history. Each woman depicted in oil, ink, stone or bronze is one more affirmation of women's place in the history of our nation. The fact that

this is happening everywhere – in the south, the northeast, mid-west, the west – confirms the enormous scope, influence and lasting legacy of the American women's suffrage movement.

## Tennessee Claflin and English Memorabilia

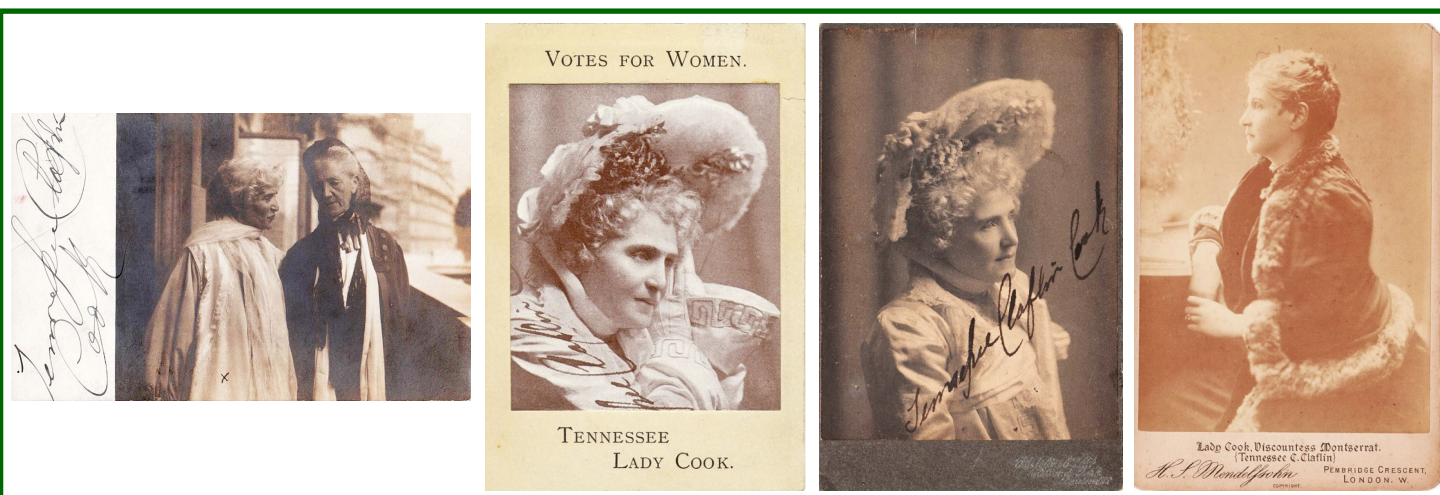
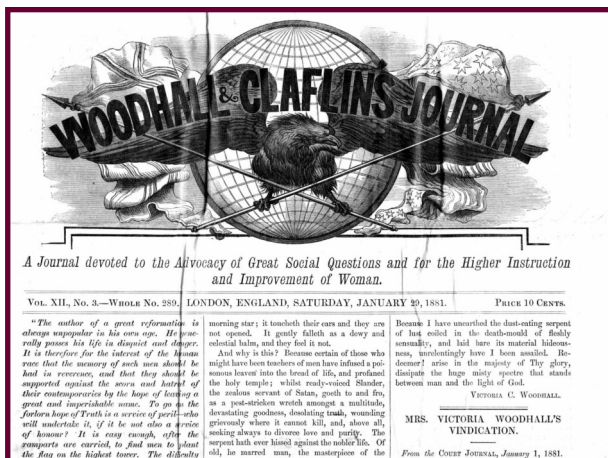
In 1877, beset by legal and financial problems and abandoned by many of their protectors, Victoria Woodhull and her sister, Tennessee Claflin, were offered \$1,000 each by William Henry Vanderbilt to leave the country. Vanderbilt's father, Cornelius Vanderbilt, had recently died, and he was worried that the sisters' possible testimony at any estate hearing might affect his inheritance. The sisters accepted the offer and, in August of 1877, headed to England.

To a degree, the sisters attempted to carry on their joint career in publishing. In January 29, 1881 appeared the first and only issue of *Woodhall & Claflin's Journal*, which, despite its intent to advocate "Great Social Questions and for the Higher Instruction and Improvement of Women," appears to have been an attempt to rehabilitate the reputation of Victoria. She had changed the spelling of her name "Woodhull" to "Woodhall" to reflect what she felt to be the English origins of her family, even though the patronymic was that of her first husband. The paper, despite the singularity of its issue, listed itself as "Vol. XII., no. 3." Victoria and Tennessee had another and more successful try at a paper, *The Humanitarian*, which ran from 1892 to 1901.

Despite their notoriety, both sisters married well, Victoria to John Biddulph Martin in 1883 (despite the disapproval of his family) and Tennessee in 1885 to Francis Cook, Chair of Cook, Son, and Co. Within months of Tennessee's marriage, Queen Victoria created a Cook Baronetcy, allowing her to be addressed as "Lady Cook" in England and "Viscountess of Montserrat" in Portugal.

Even though Tennessee never truly abandoned her radical views, she did not in England become quite the subject of scandal as she had in America, where it was rumored that she temporarily had been a prostitute until her sister had rescued her and, furthermore,

that she for a time was mistress to Cornelius Vanderbilt. While not prominently involved in the English suffrage movement, she became acquainted with Madame Charlotte Despard, founder of the Women's Freedom League. The rare, autographed postcard pictured below to the left shows her with Despard. There is no indication of who published the card next to it with her photo under the "Votes for Women" slogan, but it, if not self-published, may have been distributed by the WFL. The two cabinet photos also pictured below, one of which is autographed, indicated that Tennessee Claflin, now Lady Cook, still provided some fascination for the English public.





## *Lucy Boston; or, Woman's Rights and Spiritualism*

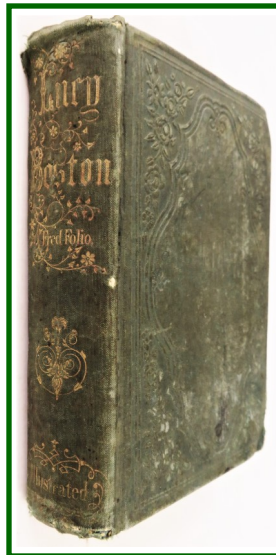
The mid-nineteenth century saw the rise of two concomitant social movements, the struggle for women's rights, epitomized by the famous convention at Seneca Falls in 1848, and, in the same year, the re-invigoration of Spiritualism or communication with the dead, as manifested by the "spirit rappings" of two young sisters, Catherine (11) and Margaretta (14) of Hydesville, New York. The girls were responsible for unexplained sounds in the house that they were living in that, at times, appeared to be knockings and, at others, like the moving of furniture. Catharine and Margaretta later alleged that the sounds emanated from the spirit of a peddler named Charles B. Rosna, who, they claimed, had been murdered five years earlier and had been buried in the cellar. Despite the fact that no missing person with that name was ever identified, the sisters became international celebrities, drawing the attention of such luminaries as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, James Fenimore Cooper, the poet William Cullen Bryant, Horace Greeley, Sojourner Truth, and the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison.

Following the fame of the sisters, many hundreds of individuals emerged who claimed to be able to channel the spirits of dead people. Their methods included not only manufactured rappings but also tablet writings that featured messages from the departed, Ouija boards, and spirit voices that emerged from the mouths of mediums.

Even though many of these individuals were exposed as frauds (some through Houdini, the famous magician and escape artist), the belief in Spiritualism remained strong throughout the 19th century; pockets of belief still exist today as evidenced by the enclave at Lily Dale in Pomfret, New York, which is a community comprised entirely of adherents.

Women's Rights advocates and Spiritualists had much in common. In communicating with dead spirits, the latter group rejected what they felt to be the strong, intellectual, hierarchical and rigid authority of the traditional church in favor of the naturalistic world,

where the sensitive individual could communicate directly with spiritual worlds that were not defined for her/him by a religious intercessor. Spiritualists elevated women, because under traditional stereotypes, men were the intellectual beings and women were those who responded to their emotional side. And it was emotion, not reason, that fostered communication with the world of the dead. For these reasons, such suffragists as Lucretia Mott and Victoria Woodhull embraced Spiritualism. Susan B. Anthony, Anna Howard Shaw, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, while not necessarily Spiritualists themselves, were sympathetic to the movement and its anti-authoritarian views and attended meetings and camps sponsored by them.



But every movement is subject to satire. As early as 1855, a mere seven years after Seneca Falls and the revelations of the Fox sisters, a novel appeared under the pseudonym of "Fred Folio" entitled *Lucy Boston; or, Woman's Rights and Spiritualism; Illustrating the Follies and Delusions of the Nineteenth Century*. Its instant popularity is indicated by the number of copies of the first edition available on the Internet for \$50-\$100.

The meandering plot begins with the appearance of one of the spirits of the Spheres in the form of a mermaid to a confirmed bachelor and woman hater, Amaziah Badger. She alerts him to the fact that in the afterlife, it is the natural state of things for women and men to reverse the roles that they previously had in the world, and that a new age on earth would soon emerge which also would reflect this reversal. The author dedicates his work to "T. P. Munrab," an acronym of P. T. Barnum, famous showman and hoaxer. The mermaid is probably an allusion to his famous "Fiji Mermaid" hoax, an indication of what "Fred Folio" obviously feels about both Feminism and Spiritualism in his attempt to expose the follies of each.

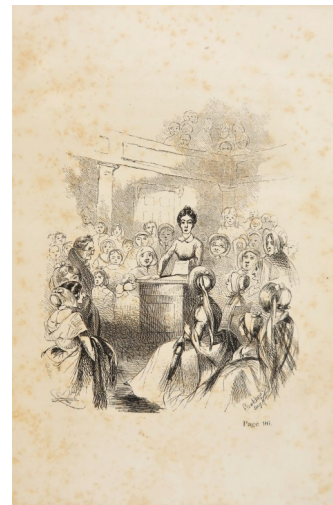
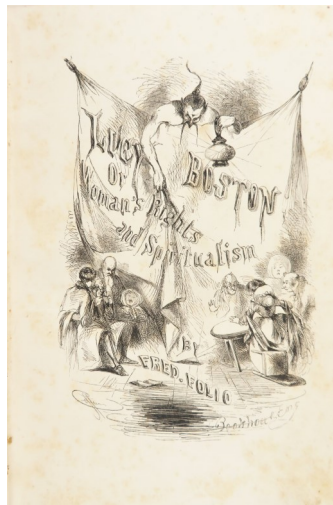
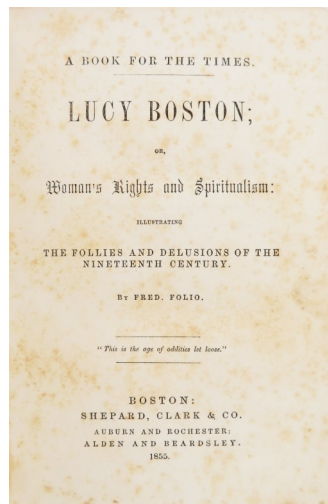
### ... *Lucy Boston*, cont'd.

During the course of his meanderings, Badger comes across Lucy Boston, a woman dressed in man's clothes who becomes insulted when people do not recognize her gender.

She is fascinated with Badger's story of the visitation of the mermaid, becomes a dedicated Spiritualist, and the novel then begins to merge the themes of Spiritualism and feminism. Boston eventually becomes Governor of New York, and she and other feminists pass laws requiring men to become husbands of any woman that seeks them out, to become their servants, to take up their household duties, to give up their property to their disposal, and to wear women's traditional clothing. Women in turn become blacksmiths, lawyers, tradesmen, farmers, etc. carrying on the business of the state. Chaos emerges, many of the false Spiritu-

alists who promoted women's rights are jailed, and both sexes return to their traditional roles, finding role reversal to be a dismal failure.

For a modern reader, the novel can be tedious. There are many scattered and obscure allusions to contemporary events and ideas, and satire too often interferes with the plot line. The illustrations by Frederick M. Coffin that were engraved on wood by Edward Bookhout lack detail of both Feminism and Spiritualism. Still, the book is helpful in our understanding of contemporary attitudes towards both movements. It is probably the earliest of any written piece to see the strong connection between the two, and, therefore, for the historian or collector of suffrage, an essential addition to a collection of woman's rights memorabilia.



### Votes for Women License Plate Attachment—Fantasy Piece

The Woman Suffrage movement dovetailed with the "New Woman" movement, and women were seen more and more as drivers, with some automobile ads even specifically geared for them. Several of the attachments pictured here have turned up recently, all from an English source. There is no mention of them in any English suffrage publication. It is probably a modern fantasy piece. One dealer on eBay who is selling this item commented: "I am told from a good source that this badge was made a number of years ago to coincide with the Suffragette Movement Centenary." If any of you have any additional information about this item, please get in touch and we will post your comments.





## Party Organization and the Evolution of 50-50

Several years ago, Ted Hake offered the metal pin below in one of his auctions. It portrays a man and a woman holding up a globe together, with the initials “N.W.P.” at the top for “National Woman’s Party.” Immediately below are the numbers “50-50.” Much discussion ensued as to what precisely those numbers were referencing. The answer is provided in Joe Freeman’s book, *A Room at a Time—How Women Entered Party Politics*, that was published in 2000 by Rowman and Littlefield.



As Freeman explains in her chapter “Party Evolution: The Evolution of Fifty-Fifty,” it was during the Populist and Progressive eras that “the political house was renovated. Plans were laid and new laws passed that changed political parties from fundamentally private associations to quasi-public ones.” These new party and state regulations were designed in part to democratize through committees the selection of candidates for local and national elections and to establish party policies. They did not eliminate corruption or party machines, but they did help to reduce their scope and some of their influence.

As women began to gain the vote in various states, they asked for and often received representation on these emerging party committees. How parties and their committees complied with guidelines for gender representation varied from state to state. In some, the

chair of a committee would be of one sex and the vice chair of the other; in others, women were added to committees with the majority of members still being male.

Colorado, which in 1893 was one of the early states to award women the franchise, passed a law in 1910 that required equal sexual representation on party committees. The law was called the “Colorado Plan,” but it soon became known as “fifty-fifty,” and for the next fifty years “its attainment was high on the priority list of both Democratic and Republican women.” The metal pin here was obviously issued to promote that goal. The National Woman’s Party continued to serve a political role after the suffrage amendment had



passed, and this pin is a prime example of their post-1920 activism.

“50-50,” even when it was achieved in certain states, generally turned out to be a disappointment. Women soon found that while they might serve as committee members they had little power to affect party policies or choose candidates. Men, as committee chairs, often made all of the decisions. If not the chair, an Executive Committee, on which women were not proportionally represented, assumed authority. In the early 1950’s, Eleanor Roosevelt, who was once a strong proponent of “50-50,” became highly critical. So “50-50,” as worthy a plan as it once appeared to be, was in many ways a failure defeated by male chauvinism. The best that can be said for it is that it did give women a voice, even if that voice was generally ignored.