

Richmond, Ky.

Sept. 1st, 1914.

My dear Mrs. Noland,

Your letter of August 20th was duly received, and should have been answered sooner, but I had to collect the material you asked for.

It will be convenient for me to attend your convention in October instead of in September, and I shall be on hand the 13th. I will let you know later on what train to expect me, after I inquire about the time of the trains.

I enclose a sketch of myself, which is much longer than is necessary, but you can cut it to suit your convenience. I enclose copies of some newspaper comments. And I enclose a ~~whitograph~~ photograph, which is not very recent, but the only ones I have on hand good for the purpose.

Hoping to hear from you again, with further details of the convention, and that nothing will interfere with the success of your convention, I am

Very sincerely yours,

PRESIDENT
MRS. ANNIE K. DENT
YAZOO CITY

FIRST VICEPRESIDENT
MISS PAULINE V. ORR
COLUMBUS

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. F. R. BIRDSALL
YAZOO CITY

RECORDING SECRETARY
MRS. ELLA O. BIGGS
818 W. CAPITAL ST. JACKSON

TREASURER
MISS ETHEL M. CLAGETT
NATCHEZ

MEMBERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MRS. CHARLES THOMPSON
JACKSON

MRS. MONROE McCLURG
GREENWOOD

MISS EDNA JOHNSTON
COLUMBUS

Sept 3, 1914

Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

MRS. NELLIE N. SOMERVILLE
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Greenville, Miss.

Sept 3

My dear Miss Laura,

I am authorized to write you officially about two things and then I want to write personally about general conditions -

First, please send me samples of your state membership cards. We want to see just what form of pledge or obligation is assumed by those signing the card.

Second, we may have a chance to put a speaker on federation of clubs program and also on Meridian fair late in Oct.

Please let me know how your plans are for latter part of Oct. and whether you could go to Meridian should

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Greenville, Miss.

we get this. Federation of clubs
 comes Nov-11 - & I fear we
 will have difficulty about
 that date.

Our state work is doing well
 & it looks like a question
 of money entirely - Some years
 ago we could not have
 done aggressive work even
 with money, now we could
 & I could also find the women
 now to do the work - I don't
 think we can do any big
 thing until we can pay at
 least one woman to devote
 her time to it.

Now in general. This affair
 of Era Hunt & Kate Gordon is

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deplorable, not only because
our State is so valuable &
whatever injures her injures
the cause but because the
condition in New Orleans
& conflicts between Woman
Suffrage Party & Era Club
can no longer be kept
from the general public.
Needless to say I am entirely
on Miss Gordon's side of
the entire matter.
It looks to me this way, to wit,
suffrage work, having passed
the earlier stages of violent
opposition, has now reached
the stage of internal dissension
formerly the condition kept out

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those who were not true & devoted
 now some will join for
 mere notoriety & if they fail
 at once to get notoriety their
 policy will be to oppose &
 abuse the women who have
 a justly earned prominence
 & influence -

This I take to be a phase
 which every reform organization
 or movement has to expect -

Now it looks to me as if the
 loose scheme of membership
 in the National invited &
 promotes discussion in the
 states, for example, here in
 N. D. these W. S. Party women

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trying to destroy Kate Gordon's reputation & influence & yet they can claim perfectly good standing with the National -

The W. S. A. had this stage in their work but when a few dissatisfied women wanted to form separate state unions & get recognition from the National the leaders wisely saw the ultimate result & wisely refused. I think Michigan is the only state which had two state organizations which was allowed on account of geographical conditions. This is

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Greenville, Miss.

my recollection tho I am a
bit rusty in W. S. A. affairs.
Now what is to be done?
I feel that we in the south
must know the true
honorable, disinterested women
in each southern state
at least.

A fighting machine should
be compact - how can we
so direct this southern conf.
as to make it a real
compact fighting machine?
or must we have such
loose methods that traitors
can get in or must we
fight it out in the states?

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Greenville, Miss.

I see this W. S. Party has started in Ga & I look for a split in Tennessee as result of fuss over National con.

As long as it is so easy to get recognition from the National these divisions are bound to continue & seem to be perfectly proper.

I have no confidence in women who will not join any existing organization & fight out their differences within it -

Let me hear from you.

Yours sincerely
Nellie N. Somerville

Richmond, Ky.

Sept. 4th, 1914.

My dear Mrs. Beauchamp,

Your letter of Aug. 29th came duly to hand; and it reminded me forcibly how little I have done in my department this year. I began to consider how I could retrieve myself, but I am forced to the conclusion that I ought to do at once what it would have been better for me to have done last spring, when Dr. Washburn advised me that I had better cease work of all kinds for a considerable period. I am sending my resignation as Superintendent of the Franchise Department. I am in the country where I cannot get stenographic assistance, even if I felt equal to directing it; and I do not think that I ought to keep this Department any longer under the circumstances. Had I realized that the rest of the summer would still leave me so unequal to its duties I would have sent this resignation in the spring. I do so now with much regret, all the more as I know it is now too late to get any one else who can do justice to the Department in the short time left before the convention.

Please express to the Board my thanks for all their helpfulness and consideration during the term of my superintendency, and my regrets at being obliged to resign at this untimely moment.

With my best wishes for the success of the Temperance movement,
Believe me very sincerely your co-worker and friend,

Richmond, Ky.

Sept. 9th, 1914.

My dear Mrs. Somerville,

Your letter of the 3rd was delayed by having been missent to Paducah.

I enclose samples of our membership cards. We have done away with the dues system, as productive of less money and more work than the free-will offering system, though we base the representation in our state convention on the number of members for whom the annual dues, 35cents, are paid. The 35 cents pay both state and National dues- 10 cts. for National. Our system brings in more money, and very many more members. All do not pay, but those who do contribute understand that their donation should be as liberal as possible, and not limited to the small annual dues. The card signed by the member, and never under any circumstances by proxy, is considered a responsible declaration of the opinions of the ~~signer~~ signer, and therefore a reliable testimonial for all purposes of testing public sentiment. The signer assumes no other responsibility. But the officers are expected to call for such assistance as they may need, and the members respond or not according to their degree of interest, but if they do not respond it is no impeachment of their loyalty to their membership card.

I have an engagement for the 13th of October, and our state convention is set for Nov. 5, 6 & 7. I expect to go to the National, and I could not ~~promise~~ promise to go to Meridian, for the dates conflict.

About the policy of the Southern Conference:- I deplore as much as you do such dissensions as have arisen in New Orleans. I am wholly unable to suggest any preventive measures. My hope is that suffrage will be practically universal in the U.S. within five years, and that the states still unenfranchised will not need a national organization of any sort to help them do their work. Even as it is, the campaign states ask little or

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nothing now of the National except to assist them to raise campaign funds. Even for that, the Woman's Journal sometimes proves more useful. I believe that for the whole nation the Woman's Journal is the best rallying center. Of course, our Southern Conference has a specific work to do which can be done only by the Southern states; but I think its work, also, will be practically finished within a few years. So I hope prosperity will not have time to raise up much dissension in that ~~sinew~~ space.

I am very much pleased with the folder on Legislative work you sent me. I am entirely of your opinion that the Legislative committee should have a free hand when it goes to the Legislature. My own experience teaches me that if it is restricted it may lose something it could have gained by trying after something impossible. Which is best to choose can only be told after arriving on the ground.

Hoping I may have the pleasure of seeing you some time during the fall,

I am

Very cordially yours,

[Sept 13, 1914]

I BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN
and I HEREBY ENROLL MYSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE

MISSISSIPPI WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE _____

SECURED BY _____

National Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Franchise Department

MRS. DEBORAH K. LIVINGSTON, SUPERINTENDENT
149 CEDAR STREET
BANGOR, MAINE

Bangor, Maine, September 14, 1914.

Dear Comrade:

Enclosed please find blank for your annual report in the Department of Franchise. These blanks must be returned to me not later than October 15th.

I have tried to simplify the questions and to ask only those that have to do with our effort to secure the ballot for women.

If there is anything you desire to report that is not covered by these questions, please do so on the other side of the blank.

We have had a year of great success in the department and I wish to express my sincere thanks to you for your share in it.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah K. Livingston.

Answered. Sept. 26, 1914

My Dear Mrs Clay -
Please come to
State Con - with re-
port ready for Prin-
cipal - & send your 10
minutes - telling how
your Dept can help
win Constitutional
Amendment - I think
you will have easier
sailing than any of the
State Supts. The only
thing you will have an
embarassment of truth
on your hand for 10
minutes - talk - well
God is moving + stirring
Hoping to see you
at Wash Church - Yours -
Anna B Wheeler

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SHELBYVILLE
SEP 25
5 PM
KY



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

1914

Miss Laura Clay,
Supt. - Trans. N. C. & U.
Lexington
Richmond Ky.

Oct. 3, 1914.

Mrs. Geo. H. Rudy,
Owensboro, Ky.

My dear Mrs. Rudy:

Your letter of Oct. 1st., is just received. Though I knew of your father's illness, I had not heard of his death. I am greatly distressed to know of this grief you have had.

Thank you very much for the check for \$10.00 for the campaign states' fund. I am still getting in a few contributions and am delighted to have this to swell Kentucky's gift to the campaign states.

I am somewhat thunderstruck to get your inquiry as to where the Annual Convention is to be held. We have counted on its being held in Owensboro, since we sent you the notice of the board's action on July 20th. We presumed that your complying with the conditions laid down was a mere formality, that you would certainly do so. We declined the Covington invitation and the Owensboro invitation was the only one before us. I had one letter from a member of your board asking more definite information as to the Convention and I have simply assumed and have been stating in recent letters that it would be held at Owensboro. Apparently you did not get my two letters, written one before I went to Missouri and Nebraska and the other after I returned. I enclose copies of these and of the letter written after our board meeting.

Don't you think it will be possible for you now to arrange for the meeting? I have already instructed Miss Glenn that she is to go there a week or two weeks before in order that she may help with the

Mrs. R.

-2-

Oct 3, 1914

advertisement and all arrangements.

The National has sent me a check to buy a bale of cotton for our Association and I thought I would order it sent to Owensboro and let Miss Glenn use it in advertising the meeting. Putting it on the street, for instance, at some prominent point with notices of the meeting on it. Also, of course, a notice that it was bought by the Kentucky Equal Rights Association to help out the southern planters.

I am going to write by this same mail to each one of your officers and to several of the names that you gave me when I was in Owensboro - I have to confess that I didn't get letters written then in the one day I was home between that trip and Chicago, and only discovered their names again recently in my note book - asking them to rally to your support and make the meeting at Owensboro possible. Won't you call a meeting at once and telegraph me that I may go ahead with my arrangements for Owensboro?

It was possibly wrong of me to assume that Owensboro was going to come up to the terms laid down and stand behind the invitation, but I did so assume, and I don't know how in the short time left with the multitudinous things I have to do in it, I can now arrange to go to another place.

Cordially yours,

Pres.

(Mrs. Desha Breckinridge)

Enclosures.

Oct. 3, 1914.

Mrs. L. S. Petit, 1st. V. Pres.,
Davies County Equal Rights Ass'n.,
Owensboro, Ky.

My dear Mrs. Petit:

I have a letter this morning from Mrs. Rudy that gives me a fearful shock. She asks me where the Annual Convention is to be held!

We have simply assumed that Owensboro would come up to its invitation and that it will be held there. I had heard through Mr. McDowell of the illness of Mrs. Rudy's father, though not of his death, and I imagined that it was due to this illness that my letters had not been answered.

It is so late now that I don't see how we can arrange to have the meeting anywhere else. The Board voted that I should send Miss Glenn, at the expense of the State Association, to Owensboro for a week or two weeks, if you desired it, ahead of the Convention to help make arrangements and advertise it and work it up. I am sure that with this help you will not have any trouble.

The conditions laid down by our Board before accepting the Owensboro invitation was simply that you supply suitable halls for the meeting free of charge to the State Association and that you take care of the local advertising.

I am writing Mrs. Rudy by this same mail asking her to call a meeting of one of her board or her Association to confirm the invitation and to let me know the result.

Expts. 19107

I am working hard to get a splendid program. I think the whole community, no matter what its sentiments may be on the suffrage question, will enjoy hearing the speakers we are going to have from the different parts of the country.

I remember sending you some messages through your husband - we struck up a relationship - and I wish both you and he would decide to lend a hand in this suffrage work just now. I am sure you won't regret getting the State meeting to Owensboro.

Thanking you in advance both personally and for the cause for any help you may be able to give, I am

Cordially yours,

Pres.

(Mrs. Pesha Breckinridge)