

Chicago Political Equality League

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FLORENTINE ROOM

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*has Oct 11/1915
sent photo to photo
see I would go to
Congress Hotel*

Chicago, Illinois,
October 6th, 1915.

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Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Miss Clay:-

This is to remind you that you have an engagement to speak before the CHICAGO POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE, Saturday, October 23rd, at 2:00 P. M. in the Florentine Room of the Congress Hotel. We hope you will be able to keep the engagement as we are all so interested in the Federal Bill discussion.

One of our leading newspapers "The Herald" has promised to give us a story in the Sunday edition so will you please send me some bits of history connected with your interesting, eventful life? Also your picture. I think I can get enough information concerning the discussion from your previous letters. An early reply will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially yours,

Maud Cain Taylor

Corresponding Secretary,
5609 Wayne Ave., Chicago.

Richmond, Ky.

Oct. 12th, 1915.

My dear Mrs. Hubbard:-

I am so gratified to learn from your letter of the 8th that you and Mr. Hubbard will study the Federal Suffrage Bill, and that you will be prepared to give an opinion on it at our convention. I am not preparing the program, however, and my intention was simply to bring it up in the discussion of new business. I do not know what Mrs. Brockinridge has planned; and as she has the program quite full already I doubt if we shall have any more than time to discuss it as business.

I thank you for your invitation to address your club on peace on Jan. 13th. I am very sorry I shall have to decline this. I have undertaken to give some time to the W. Virginia campaign in December; and I go to Richmond and Washington to the Conventions of the Southern Conference and the W. A. T. S. A., and with the legislature coming on and some few other engagements I have already made I find my hands almost more than full. I shall not have time to prepare a speech on peace; and I have already used in your Clph the most of my information on that subject.

I particularly regret that I shall not be able to enjoy at that time your hospitable invitation to be your guest. I enjoyed so much meeting you and Mr. Hubbard at Lexington that I am sorry to miss this opportunity to improve our acquaintance.

Please remember me to Mr. Hubbard and believe me

Very cordially yours,

Illinois Equal Suffrage Association

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CHICAGO Nov. 1, 1915.

My dear Miss Clay:

The State Convention did not endorse the Federal Bill, but endorsed the Susan B. Anthony Amendment simply on general principles, as there is a very strong feeling against the Shafroth in the State. However, there is a very friendly feeling for the Federal Bill; but it would have been bad policy right at this time to endorse the Federal Bill because it would have brought the McCormick faction out in full force, and we wish to keep the State harmonious if possible.

We will discuss the Federal Bill tomorrow at the State Board meeting and I think the Board will take some action on the Bill, which for your purposes will do just as much good as to have the Convention do so.

I enclose a copy of Judge Peelle's opinion. Judge Peelle was formerly of the Court of Claims at Washington, D. C. and is now retired and lives at Chevy Chase, Md., where you can communicate with him if you so desire.

We enjoyed having you with us so much at the League and you have aroused a great deal of interest in the Federal Bill.

I leave for Florida this week where I expect to spend the winter.

Very sincerely,

Grace Wilbur Trout

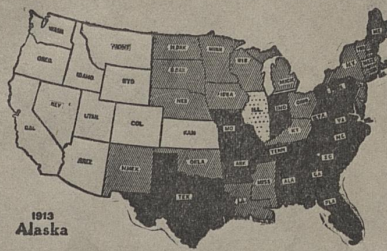
Kentucky Equal Rights Association

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1913
Alaska

WHITE STATES - FULL SUFFRAGE
SHADED " - PARTIAL
DARK " - NO

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STATE MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MRS. THOMAS J. SMITH, FRANKFORT

Lexington, Ky., Oct. 29, 1915.

Mrs. Elizabeth King Smith,
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Elizabeth:

I have been delayed by my own and my mother's illness in making my plans for our Equal Rights Convention, which is my apology for asking you so late in the day to do me a favor in regard to it. I want you to make a little talk at one of our afternoon sessions, I think now at the Wednesday afternoon one, on the School Suffrage for Women. I am writing Miss Mary Scrugham by this same mail asking her to speak on Why the Schools Need the Women as Voters. I thought that the two of you could supplement each other and it would be awfully nice to have you as the representative of the woman who isn't now in the schools who is interested in them, and her to speak from the point of the schools which need the outside interest. There won't be a great deal of time for anything at our sessions, but I should like what I have to be live. Please telephone me that you will accept, so that I can go right ahead with getting my program ready for the printer the first minute I can find for that. If I am not at the office Stella will take the message. Saturday night and Sunday you can get me at my mother's, 255.

I think it is perfectly splendid of you to make the school race. I hope you are going to win this time, but if you don't you

must simply be ready to let us run you again when we begin in time to do our job better.

Counting on you to help me out with my program - for you as one of the features will add very much to the interest. - I am

Cordially yours,

M. M. D. Breckinridge Pres.
(Mrs. Desha Breckinridge)

Oct. 30th, 1915.

Richmond, Ky.

Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout,

Chicago.

My dear Mrs. Trout,

By this time the heaviest cares of your State Convention are about over; and so I am writing to ask you what you did about the Federal Bill, and also to ask you please soon to send me the opinion on it that you told me Miss Althea Paul had given you.

Our own State Convention comes the 8th of November, and I am desirous to have all the opinions on the Bill I can collect before that time.

I enjoyed my trip to Chicago very much; and I feel encouraged by your interest in the Bill.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am

Very cordially yours,



WHY
NOT
LET
MOTHER
VOTE?

BY COURTESY OF THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD.

RALPH WILDER

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WOMAN SUFFRAGE COUNCIL
228

Woman Suff

POST CARD

1030 AM
111

PLACE ONE
CENT
POSTAGE STAMP
HERE

I am sending you
present of 2 copies of
my new leaflet for
distribution among
the conservation
C. W. M. G. L.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY of KENTUCKY

Miss Laura Clay
Lexington
Richmond
Ky.

[Nov. 1, 1915]

Art. 1, Sec. 2 of the Constitution not only creates the offices, if such they be, of Senator and Representative in Congress, but prescribe their qualifications as to age, citizenship, &c., leaving to the Legislature of each state (Art. 1, Sec. 4) the right to prescribe "the times, places and manner of holding elections" therefor, subject however to the further provision that "Congress may at any time make or alter such regulations, except as to the time and place of choosing Senators." But another provision of the Constitution, after defining the composition of the House of Representatives, says: "And the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for the electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature." Hence by necessary implication, if not in the terms, the Constitution reserves to each state the power to prescribe the qualifications requisite for electors for Representatives in Congress.

Senators were then and until quite recently elected by the Legislature of each state.

The question is therefore, whether, under the Constitution Congress have the power to enact into law the Bill there pending, giving to women, who are citizens of the United States and otherwise possess the qualifications required of men in the several states, the right to vote for Senators and Representatives in Congress. That is to say have Congress the power to prescribe qualifications for electors in the several states for Senators and Representatives in Congress, different from that prescribed by the State Legislatures.

By the 15th Amendment of the Constitution negroes, otherwise qualified, thereby secured the right to vote in the states, not alone because they were negroes, but because they were declared to be citizens of the United States under the 14th Amendment (Slaughterhouse Cases 16 Wall, 36.71) And the right of citizens of the United States to vote, the 15th Amendment declares, "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

By Art. 4, Sec. 2 it is declared that "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States"; while by Art. 14, Sec. 1, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside", and further that, "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."

It would seem therefore that as women are, and were before the adoption of the 14th Amendment, citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside and our Government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed - the citizens - that women, equally with men, should be entitled to vote. This it seems to me is not only in harmony with the spirit of our Representative form of Government and our Constitution but is in harmony with the principle announced when the Cargo of Tea was thrown overboard in Boston Harbor.

But at this point we are confronted with the ruling of the Supreme Court in the Case of Minor v. Happosett, 21 Wall, 162, wherein it is held that neither the Constitution nor the 14th Amendment made all citizens voters and that though women were equally citizens with men subject to taxation, it was no violation of the Constitution for a State to confine the privilege of voting to male citizens; that the right of suffrage was not necessarily one of the privileges or immunities of citizenship before or after the adoption of the 14th Amendment. This decision still stands without qualification or modification in any subsequent decision. Therefore under the Constitution as thus construed by the Supreme Court, the power to confer or withhold suffrage is lodged in the several states; and if they refuse to confer suffrage upon women, their only remaining remedy is by an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting such States from denying the right on account of sex.

Nov. 1, 1915

I am therefore constrained to say that I do not believe that the Congress have the constitutional power to pass the Bill referred to, much as I would like to see the question tested.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Stanton J. Peelle

Chevy Chase, Md.

St Paul, Minn.

Nov. 5, 1913

Miss Anna Oleson,
Chicago Ill.

My Dear Miss Oleson:

I

was present as a guest
at the meeting of the
Political Equality League
on Oct. 23.

The "Federal Bill", so well
discussed that afternoon
by Miss Clay, was a

subject entirely new to me, though I have been a member of suffrage clubs for many years.

I would like very much to have a copy of the provisions of the Federal Bill, so called, for use at a club meeting here on Nov. 12.

Have you a copy of the bill or any literature on the subject that I might have? I would

be very glad to pay any charge you might make for it.

I have one of your new year books and after looking it over I feel that your Chicago Political Equality League must be a truly wonderful organization.

Very sincerely yours

Era L. Sylvester (Mrs J. C.)

965 Marshall Ave.
St. Paul. Minn.

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Branch of International Woman Suffrage Alliance and of National Council of Women

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505 Fifth Avenue, New York

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505 Fifth Avenue, New York

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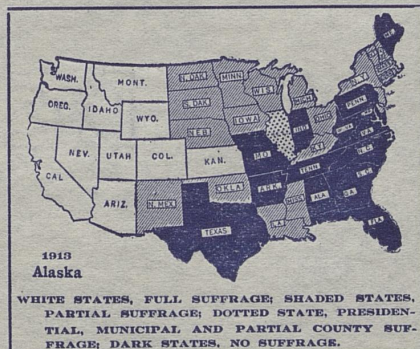
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Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Men's League for Woman Suffrage
James Lees Laidlaw, President
26 Broadway, New York

NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE PUBLISHING COMPANY, Inc.

President, Mrs. Cyrus W. Field
505 Fifth Avenue, New York

Telephone, 4818 Murray Hill



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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

November 8, 1915

Miss Laura Clay,
Kentucky Equal Rights Asso.,
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:

I presume you have received a letter from Miss Kate Gordon severely criticising me for a letter published over my signature in the WASHINGTON HERALD, discussing somewhat critically certain aspects of the work of the late Henry B. Blackwell. I should appreciate it if you would kindly read the enclosed copy of the letter I have sent to Miss Blackwell, explaining what must have seemed to her and to many a piece of publicity as uncalled for as anything could be. Miss Marshall may or may not have been entirely innocent in printing my letter without my consent. I can only say, as I have said to Miss Gordon, that the distinction between "a letter to the editor" and a publicity man's letter regarding publicity material is one well understood in most offices.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles T. Hallinan
Chairman Publicity Department.

CTH/MB.

Illinois Equal Suffrage Association

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MRS. S. HOLLOWAY McCLUNG, Monmouth
MISS KATHARINE M. PORTER, Freeport
MRS. J. W. McGRAW, Glencoe

CHICAGO Nov. 11, 1915.

My dear Miss Clay:

I wish to advise you of the unanimous action of the new Board of Directors at its first meeting concerning the Federal Bill in which you are so deeply interested.

After discussing the merits of the bill with the possibility of an Illinois lobby to work on the bill in the next session of Congress, the Board finally decided that we would endorse the idea of the Federal Bill and continue to study and look into that form of legislation.

As you may be aware, Mrs. Trout is at present in Florida and before leaving would give us no assurance that she would do any immediate work for suffrage. She seemed to realize the need of complete rest and change for herself for a while. Needless to say we regret her decision as we feel the need of her presence and activity all the time.

We are planning to send a full delegation to the National Convention. Our delegation this year will be much smaller than formerly, but we hope to have a full quota of Illinois women, whom we hope you will meet and get better acquainted.

I personally hope that the old direct methods of securing suffrage may be readopted at the Convention. With very best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Margaret B. Dobyne

Cor. Sec'y.

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Ky.

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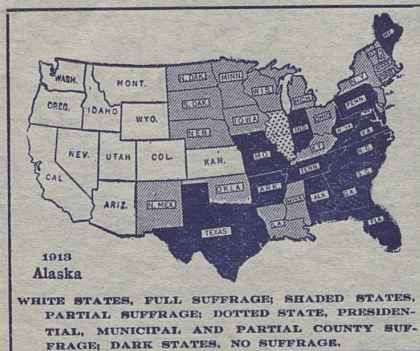
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1915
Alaska
WHITE STATES, FULL SUFFRAGE; SHADED STATES,
PARTIAL SUFFRAGE; DOTTED STATE, PRESIDEN-
TIAL, MUNICIPAL AND PARTIAL COUNTY SUFF-
FRAGE; DARK STATES, NO SUFFRAGE.



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Munsey Building, Washington, D. C.

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505 Fifth Avenue, New York

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mrs. Charles Forster Camp
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

November 11th, 1915

Miss Laura Clay,
Kentucky Equal Rights Association,
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:

I felt many times that I should have written you during the summer, but as you know perhaps, I went into the campaign work, and I found that I simply had to lay aside everything but the most immediately pressing correspondence until after the vote was taken.

I want to ask you first if you will not send at your very earliest convenience to Mr. Hallinan at Munsey Building, Washington (he will be there until after the convention) a 300 word statement upon what we call the Clay Bill -- as a matter of fact, the Elections Bill -- giving the constitutional argument upon the right of Congress to control the election of senators and representatives. This will appear with other articles in the Convention Issue of the News Letter. We planned first to have it contained in the last issue of that letter, but as our Convention Issue is going to be more of a feature, we decided to reserve it until that time.

I regret exceedingly to inform you that I have not been able to get favorable statements from lawyers concerning it that I had hoped. I am having a copy of the bill mailed out to you from Washington asking Dr. Shaw, Miss Blackwell and Miss Kate Gordon to write statements to appear in the same issue.

I have just read Dr. Shaw's letter to you of November 10th. There is but little I can do beyond saying this. I am very anxious indeed that if the convention this year endorse the National in working for the federal bill, and I shall be glad to assist you in any way in presenting this properly to the convention, I wish that it might be handled entirely by the National. I explained to you at length last summer in Chicago the difficulties we were facing under

Miss Laura Clay

-2-

11/11/15

the circumstances of the federal society. The controlling measure simply meant that our hands were tied except in a very limited way. Of course we could not under any circumstances put ourselves in position of rushing in and introducing a measure which has generally belonged to another organization. That is what the Union is trying to do with our federal amendment this year, but I do feel that owing to your long devotion to this phase of the federal work that a letter from you to the President of the federal society at Washington, Mrs. Morton (I will have sent from our office in Washington her full name and address. I am not able to recall it at this time) suggesting that they do not introduce the federal bill until after our National Convention which would be most helpful and that would give us an opportunity during convention week to take up with these women the feasibility of letting the National Congressional Committee handle the matter exclusively.

I am going to be in Washington the 15th and 16th of this month according to my present program, then I will be absent for a week or more. I should like very much indeed to hear from you during my stay in Washington and to receive your assurance that we may look for your article in season for its appearance in the News Letter. I expect to be in Chicago about the 19th and will make a report of anything you have to say to me with reference to the federal bill to Mrs. McCormick who has been deeply interested in that measure ever since she came into the work and has urgently continued it whenever I have seen her and by letter to let no opportunity escape to push it to consideration, and we are both hoping that the next congressional committee may have its hands untied in the matter of doing a little real work upon it.

I wish when you write me that you would give me a word about Mrs. Breckinridge. The reports concerning her health are very alarming. I do not feel that at this time she should be burdened with letters of inquiry. I trust her illness is not so alarming as was first reported.

With regards to Mrs. Bennett, I am -

Yours very sincerely,

Antoinette Funk

AF-S

Dictated but not read

249 Oak St.,
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Nov. 12th., 1915.

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Ky.,

My Dear Miss Clay:-

The Chattanooga Equal Suffrage Association adds a cordial invitation to that of the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association in requesting your presence at the State Convention to be held at Chattanooga, December 9th., day and evening.

We have arranged the date according to the wishes of those women who will be enroute to Richmond and Washington, and urge all suffragists making these trips to stop-over in Chattanooga and help us to give Chattanooga the boost it needs.

You will please notify both the Corresponding Secretaries of the State Association and of the Chattanooga League concerning your intention, as soon as you are fully decided.

Anticipating an early acceptance, I am

Sincerely Yours,

Corinne Harris Byron Cor. Secy.

Chattanooga Equal Suffrage Association.

249 Oak St.

Equal Suffrage League of Virginia

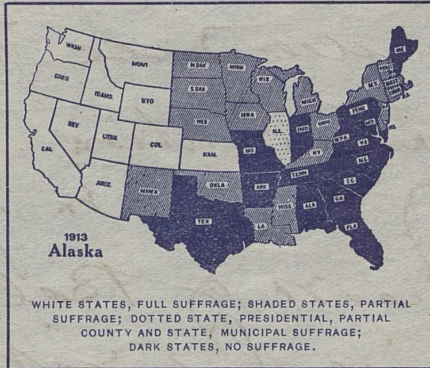
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STATE HEADQUARTERS, RICHMOND, VA.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SECOND STREET, BETWEEN BROAD AND GRACE

Nov. 14. 1915

My dear Miss Gordon.

I see that the
mechanics of Aberdeen, President of the
International Council of Women, is
the one of the speakers at the Southern
Commercial Congress meeting in Charleston
Dec 13-17 - Would it be possible to
secure her for the Southern Conference?
Or has your fertile brain already
begun work on that point? I believe
we shall have much interest in the
Southern Conference on the part of
Richmond people. We are already

pledging the merchants to decorate their shops
in Saffray color in return for a shopping list
that the Committee will print in every
program for our Convention. They would
like to have it of course in your programs
also. Mrs. Elliott of Baltimore writes me
that Mrs. Somerville had withdrawn from the
Conference. I regret this exceedingly - We
shall weaken our cause terribly if we
allow any of the Southern States to stay
outside. Our only strength lies in
solidarity in our appeal to the
Democratic party. I have written Wingo
her to come or send representatives from
Mississippi. I trust that you may
be able to get her to reconsider her
decision. If we allow the idea
to get abroad that membership in
the Southern Conference is disloyalty
to the National, we might as well give
up the idea of a Conference. I believe

NOV. 14, 1915

Equal Suffrage League of Virginia

President, Mrs. B. B. VALENTINE, 2338 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Va.

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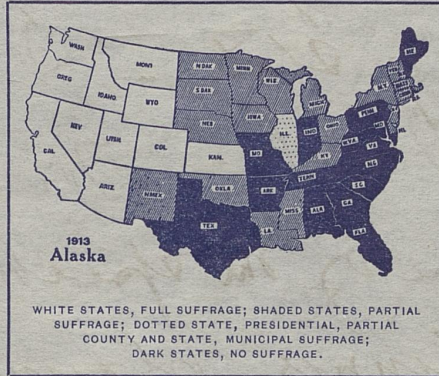
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STATE HEADQUARTERS, RICHMOND, VA.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SECOND STREET, BETWEEN BROAD AND GRACE

You would find no adherents in such a propaganda - That was the impression I gathered from Mrs. Elliott's letter of inquiry. I immediately replied that there was no question of disloyalty to the National in coming to the Conference. If there were, I should not be in it and urged her to come. I hope she will. Have you heard from South Carolina or Alabama? I wrote to Mrs. Harriet Lynch of Cheraw S. C. the new president, impressing upon her the importance of attending if we

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AMERICAN
WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association

MEMBER SOUTHERN STATES WOMAN
SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE

ORGANIZED 1885

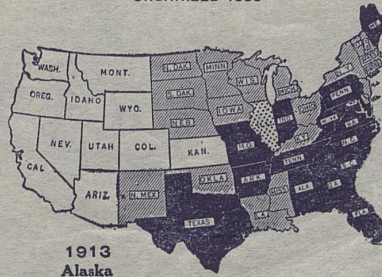
PRESIDENT, MRS. JAMES M. McCORMACK
7 S. M'LEAN BLVD., MEMPHIS

VICE PRESIDENT, EAST TENNESSEE
MRS. C. E. LUCKY KNOXVILLE

VICE PRESIDENT, WEST TENNESSEE
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TREASURER
MISS CATHERINE J. WESTER
426 JAMES BLDG., CHATTANOOGA

CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION
MISS MARGARET H. ERVIN, JR.
426 JAMES BLDG., CHATTANOOGA



1913
Alaska

WHITE STATES, FULL SUFFRAGE; SHADED STATES PARTIAL
SUFFRAGE; DOTTED STATES, PRESIDENTIAL, MUNICIPAL
AND PARTIAL COUNTY SUFFRAGE; DARK STATES NO
SUFFRAGE.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: MRS. MARY P. McVEIGH
1619 CENTRAL BANK BLDG., MEMPHIS

VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE
MISS SARAH RUTH FRAZIER
"THE CEDARS," NORTH CHATTANOOGA

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MRS. JOHN E. TURNEY NASHVILLE

RECORDING SECRETARY
MRS. DAVID MERRIWETHER KNOXVILLE

HONORARY PRESIDENT
MRS. J. D. ALLEN MEMPHIS

SUPERINTENDENT PRESS WORK
MRS. PERCY FINLAY MEMPHIS

November 15, 1915.

Miss Laura Clay,

Lexington, Ky. Vice Pres. at Large,

Seaside Conference

My dear Miss Clay:

The Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association will hold its eighth annual convention at Chattanooga December 10, 1915, as guest of the Chattanooga Equal Suffrage Association.

Because of the generous hospitality of Chattanooga suffragists we are permitted to extend invitations to workers in the cause from adjoining states to be with us on the occasion of our state meeting. So, we are writing to urge you to come to us on December 10, and to participate in the program of the open meeting to be held on the evening of the convention.

No Southern state has better prospect for the enfranchisement of its women in the near future than Tennessee, and it is of the utmost importance that a state-wide campaign for woman suffrage be inaugurated and pushed forward with efficiency and vigor.

We are laying great stress on the importance of this year's meeting; there we shall be able to measure our strength, there we shall discover what is most needed to broaden and quicken the suffrage cause in this commonwealth, hence we are most desirous of co-operation with workers who not only have contributed greatly towards the development of the cause in their own state but whose names have been written high on the scroll of the National's history. So, we are hoping to have the pleasure of your presence and the advantage of your counsel during the coming meeting.

Awaiting the pleasure of a reply at an early convenience, we are,

Very respectfully yours,

Eleanor M. McCormack

President

Mary P. McVeigh

Cor. Sec'y.

585 Boylston S'. Boston.

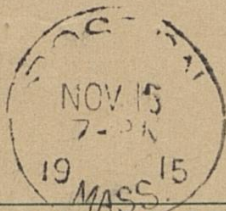
Nov. 15, 1915.

Dear Miss Clay:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of yours of Nov. 12th, enclosing \$2.10 to pay for three yearly subscriptions to the Woman's Journal.

Thanking you for your co-operation

Sincerely yours,
The Woman's Journal.



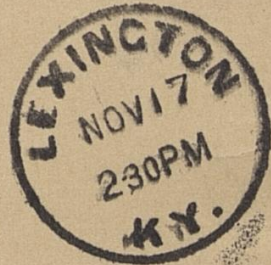
BACK DAY
STATION



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Laura Clay,
189 N. Mill St.,
Lexington, Ky.

Redmond



MARY RUTTER TOWLE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
1 BROADWAY, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE 203 RECTOR

Nov. 17th, 1915.

Miss Laura Clay,
726 McClellan Building,
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Miss Clay:-

I am writing as legal adviser for the National American Woman Suffrage Association to ask if you will kindly help us out in the matter of a bequest left the Association by Mrs. Mary J. Coggeshall of Des Moines, Iowa.

By the terms of the will the money is left to the National Woman Suffrage Association, and the administrator insists that before paying the money over he must have proof of the merger of that association with the American Woman Suffrage Association. As no minutes of either association are available, covering the period of the merger, it occurred to me that the administrator might accept as proof affidavits from members of the two earlier associations as to the proceedings of the meetings at which the merger was voted on and of the subsequent first meeting of the present association.

The substance of what was done at these meetings is given in the Woman's Journal in the issues of December 1, 1888, page 382, January 26, 1889, page 28 and March 1, 1890, p. 68, and with these to guide me I have prepared the enclosed affidavit. I think it very unlikely that you can sign the affidavit just as it is, but I am enclosing it on the chance, thinking that perhaps if the necessary changes are not too radical you may find it possible to adapt it by means of erasures and interlineations. It must, of course, be sworn to before a notary public, and it might be a good thing for him to attach a county clerk's certificate, though if this is not convenient it is possible that the administrator would accept it without.

It would be a great favor if you could do this for us. I am sending a similar affidavit to Hon. William Dudley Foulke, in the hope that he can recall at least a portion of the proceedings of these meetings. I had the pleasure of meeting you at the Washington Convention in 1913, but you have attended so many conventions that, of course, you would not remember a com-

MARY RUTTER TOWLE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
1 BROADWAY, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE 203 RECTOR

[Nov. 17, 1915]

-2-

Miss Laura Clay.

parative novice in suffrage activities like myself.

I am, Hoping to hear from you at your convenience,

Yours very sincerely,

Mary Rutter Towle

MRT.AO.

PRESIDENT
MISS PAULINE V. ORR
COLUMBUS

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. ANNIE K. DENT
YAZOO CITY

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. MARY P. CRANE
BELZONI

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
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RECORDING SECRETARY
MRS. ELLA O. BIGGS
JACKSON

Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

MRS. NELLIE N. SOMERVILLE
CHAIRMAN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

TREASURER
MISS ETHEL M. CLAGETT
NATCHEZ

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MRS. MONROE MCCLURG
GREENWOOD

MRS. NELLIE N. SOMERVILLE
GREENVILLE

MRS. M. V. JONES
HIGHLANDALE

Greenville, Miss. Nov/18/1915

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, KY.

My dear Miss Laura:-

A meeting of the National Board has been called for December 12. If there is anything you would like to have brought before the Board, or any suggestions which you can give me personally, I shall be pleased to have them. At present my daughter is here daily expecting confinement, so all of my plans depend upon her, but I hope conditions will be such that I can leave home and be present at the Board meeting. At the request of Mrs Medill McCormick I recently attended the North and South Carolina Conventions. In both states I found the women indignant about misrepresentations by the Congressional Union. In North Carolina they passed resolutions openly condemning the Union. Since my return home I have a letter from a South Carolina woman stating that her name was published without authority in the "Suffragist" of Oct. 23., as one of the signers to call for a convention in Charleston. It seems to me that the great danger to our work at present is internal dissention. One thing we can do is to be honest and consistent. I think we need quietness of spirit and cool heads in our leaders, because we are sure to win if the suffrage women themselves do not begin to fight each other.

On the other hand, it seems to me this Congressional Union has been guilty of actual falsehood and dishonest methods. I do not see how we can avoid coming out openly and letting it be known that we have no part in their methods.

Perhaps you have seen newspaper articles saying that the National Association will support the C.U. I wish to assure you that no such action has been taken by the National. The C.U. has stated plainly that the National will support them. One of our local papers, the Greenville Times, had this story and told me it came from the International News Service. The editor of this local paper very kindly wired the International News that I denied this story and referred them to our Washington Headquarters for reliable news.

This same story further stated that the C.U. would have a pageant, one prominent feature to illustrate the analogy between negro suffrage and woman suffrage. That negro suffrage having failed to win by state action was then carried by congressional action.

This thing of making a special feature of negro suffrage will, of course, be used against us in the South.

PRESIDENT
MISS PAULINE V. ORR
COLUMBUS

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MRS. ANNIE K. DENT
YAZOO CITY

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Nov/181915

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GREENVILLE

MRS. M. V. JONES
HIGHLANDALE

From various indications in different states I think we in the South must expect some vigorous opposition, more than here tofore. Many men who are opposed to us have not cared to exert themselves, since they did not consider the suffrage question a real issue, but now that it is becoming a real issue they will begin a vigorous and unscrupulous opposition. In the Alabama Legislature a scurrilous and anonymous pamphlet was circulated. The author of it when found out, stated that he did it because he thought the bill was actually going to pass.

I mention these things to you, because you are one of our most experienced and trusted women, and I assure you that any suggestions you may make to me will be appreciated.

With many good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely

Nellie N. Somerville

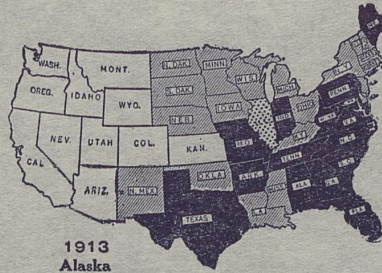
AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AMERICAN
WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association

MEMBER SOUTHERN STATES WOMAN
SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE

ORGANIZED 1885

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1913
Alaska
WHITE STATES, FULL SUFFRAGE; SHADED STATES, PARTIAL
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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: MRS. MARY P. McVEIGH
1619 CENTRAL BANK BLDG., MEMPHIS

November 20, 1915.

Miss Laura Clay,
Vice President at Large
Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference,
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:

We are highly delighted over your gracious acceptance of our invitation to be with us on the occasion of the state convention at Chattanooga December 9.

Mrs McCormack desires me to say that she will be happy to give you the time you request to speak in the afternoon to the delegates on the Federal Suffrage Law, and we would like your evening address to occupy thirty or forty minutes; we expect to have two, and perhaps three, other speakers.

Sincerely yours,

Mary P. McVeigh

Cor. Sec'y.

831 4th Ave South
Louisville Ky
Nov 20 1915-

Miss Laura Clay

Dear Madam

I read in

the papers here where
Lexington was going
to abolish the red light
district of this town
now I make a plea
to you Suffragets to stop
this if you can, for
our city that has done
this, The boarding

house cannot be kept
clean & rooming house
become things of ^{them} ~~them~~ ^{even}
I go about a great
deal as my business
take me to different
cities & I have found
that where ever this
corrupt district is
done a way with, its
worse condition of
supposed to be respectable
houses. They make it
very disagreeable for
those ^{as know} ~~the~~ ^{are}
not there kind

[Nov 20, 1915]

There are many single
women who are single
& board. I had an ex
perience which was very
humiliating. ^{in your town.} Lizzie Gay who
was in Mrs Betts boarding
house being left by Dr
Yarr so Mr Bullen said
of his wife went to
Miss Gay & said I said
so & what she & her
did I was to get a woman
in the Post Office
who was angry with me
to give the class to John
Allen in Lexington
who is your lawyer know
all about it. This is not

all the business world
is so corrupt that
those who are not right
young cannot get positions
That is all done so
they can take advantage
of the young person
Especially in the military
field for we have
to get our position
from the wholesale
houses. There are many
ways they can do to carry
there dirty work over the
face we this to get
people cheap & get
himself rich quick.
of something is not

to protect ^[NOV 20, 1915] reputable people
I hope your Suffragists
will be able to stop
this moving ~~away~~ with
the red light district

The men do this for
appearance that all
the world was ~~was~~
worse in pagan days
than it is right now.
I am sure woman
knows it but is afraid to say
so, I am Mrs Rebecca
Moran niece. I could
tell you many ~~other~~
thing for instance
on Judge Parkers day

on sight We had a
Oscar Wilde & when
it was put before a
Judge or court official
He was only told to leave
town & his name was
Gayer & he was living
in the basement - of
Mr Thompsons house
opposite the Hollways

I close hoping
you can do something
as you have had laws
changed in by that which
a disgrace to the state
Respectfully
(Miss) Alice New

Richmond, Ky.

Nov. 24th, 1915.

My dear Mrs. Somerville,

I received your letter of the 19th yesterday and am answering it as soon as I can send a long letter on what I consider an important subject.

As our representative of the South on the National Board I do hope your home conditions will allow you to attend the N.A.W.S.A. Board meeting on Dec. 12th. I feel exactly with you that dissension must be avoided in our suffrage work. I do not think we ought to put up with misrepresentations from the Congressional Union; but I had hoped that what we did in Chicago would suffice. The fact is, the C.U. has so many friends that the less we stir up contention about them the better.

I note what you say about the reported pageant of the C.U., in which there will be a special feature of an analogy between negro suffrage and woman suffrage. The truth is, that if the Anthony Amendment is successfully adopted the situation will be an exact repetition of the XV Amendment and as Southern women I think we ought to be studious of the effect of our own Congressional work in its effect upon our prospects in the Democratic State Rights States.

The present Democratic national administration, both by Democratic party caucus action and by repeated utterances by President Wilson, has emphatically said that the Anthony Amendment is opposed to State Rights as the doctrine is held by the Democratic Party. There is no likelihood of this party decision being reversed during the present administration. This creates a serious political situation for all of us who live in strongly Democratic states, where we have no hope of winning suffrage except by the action of the Democratic party. If all suffragists, irrespective of party doctrines, favor a measure which is opposed to Democratic principles, what is our future hope? I do not suppose the Democratic party can be coerced by fears of a Federal Amendment, because thirteen states can utterly block it in their legislatures, even if it should secure the two-thirds majority required in Congress. We have nothing to hope from the Amendment except agitation more or less valuable. Now the question is: Is all this agitation valuable to Southern suffragists?

At our Nashville Convention the Congressional Committee was instructed to work for the Amendment, which is strongly an anti-state Rights measure, and therefore anti-Democratic; and for the Federal Suffrage Law, which is strictly a State Rights measure, and therefore not anti-Democratic. As state workers we can choose either of these two measures with equal loyalty to the N.A.W.S.A. The country at large would see no division in our ranks if some of us, without discrediting the opinions or methods of others, should adopt either one of these measures rather than the other. What troubles me is that our Congressional Committee is making a tremendous "drive" for the Amendment, whilst it is maintaining at least apparently, perfect apathy towards the State Rights measure. This in my opinion is going to put the Southern suffragists in a very difficult position; and one which our enemies are going to use against us, just as your letter tells me.

Let me state the political situation, as I see it. 4,000,000 women

voters, having a share in electing 91 presidential electors, with perhaps additions by the passage of the suffrage amendment in Iowa next June, will for the first time in our political history make a "woman's vote" which all the political parties will have to reckon with, also for the first time. By the action of the Democratic Party in Congress on the Federal Amendment when it came to a vote, the Democratic party has shown itself antagonistic to the only suffrage measure which has been supported by the N.A.W.S.A. in Congress, thereby putting itself wrong on the suffrage question before these 4,000,000 women voters, who are quite numerous enough to turn the election against the Democrats in the national election of 1916. There is great probability that if the Republicans come into power in 1916 they will do what the suffragists ask, and thereby history will be likely to repeat itself, and by the influence of the new voters the Republicans will remain in power nationally for a generation or until another great issue comes up. But no party can carry the Suffrage Federal Amendment as long as thirteen legislatures block it; so that whatever the Republicans may do if they should come in power would not give suffrage to women who live in strongly State Rights states where the democratic party is in the ascendent, as in the south. Meanwhile, if the undisputed attitude of all suffragists is for a National Amendment, the state Rights states have every reason to fear that every state which gives suffrage by the state route just brings on danger of an extremely obnoxious amendment being adopted in the end. Fear of this and resentment at the assistance the woman vote gave in ousting the Democratic Party from National ascendancy will strengthen all the opponents to woman suffrage in every State Rights Democratic State. In view of these circumstances, I do not believe that unanimous support of suffragists for the Federal Amendment is good for the suffrage cause as a whole.

We might say that the Democrats deserve national defeat if they persevere in refusing political liberty to women. But what of the fact that a strictly state Rights measure is practicable, one in every way more valuable than an Amendment, one which is not antagonistic to Democratic policy, one which has been approved by the N.A.W.S.A., but which has never been presented to Congress by the N.A.W.S.A.?

For myself, I shall refrain from any special sympathy with any political party till that party shows by words and votes that it stands for the political liberty of women. If the N.A.W.S.A. presents to Congress this winter the Federal Suffrage Law, and the Democrats reject that also, though it is not opposed to state rights, then I should say it deserved any political disasters which might follow. But as long as only a measure opposed to the historic principles of the Democratic party is presented to Congress by the N.A.S.W.S.A. I feel that Southern women are doing a poor part by our section to join in without protest in Congressional methods which cannot benefit the South and may easily be the cause of the overthrow of the National Democratic party.

Since you invite me to make suggestions and to ask your help before the Board on Dec. 12, I beg that you will present as strongly as you feel justified in doing, the very serious injury which in my opinion is now being done to Southern states by our Congressional Committee in asking all suffragists, without regard to sectional politics, to join in a movement which the party dominant in our section has declared itself opposed to on well-understood political principles.

Hoping to see you in Washington, I am
Very cordially yours,

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Branch of International Woman Suffrage Alliance and of National Council of Women

President

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw
505 Fifth Avenue, New York

1st Vice-President

Mrs. Stanley McCormick
505 Fifth Avenue, New York

2nd Vice-President

Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville
Greenville, Miss.

3rd Vice-President

Miss Katharine Bement Davis
145 East 45th Street, New York

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College Equal Suffrage League
Miss M. Carey Thomas, President
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

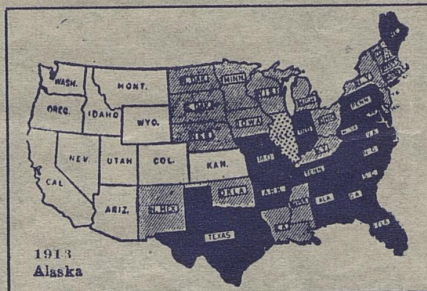
Men's League for Woman Suffrage
James Lees Laidlaw, President
26 Broadway, New York

NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE PUBLISHING COMPANY, Inc.

President, Mrs. Cyrus W. Field
505 Fifth Avenue, New York

Telephone, Main 4477

1745 Conway Bldg.,
Chicago, Ill.



White States, Full Suffrage; Shaded States, Partial Suffrage; Dotted State, Presidential, Municipal and Partial County Suffrage; Dark States, No Suffrage.

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Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Antoinette Funk

Headquarters,

Munsey Building, Washington, D. C.

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

Chairman, Charles T. Halliman
Press Bureau, Miss Clara Savage
505 Fifth Avenue, New York

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mrs. Charles Forster Camp



November 24, 1915.

Miss Laura Clay,
726 McLelland Bldg.,
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:

I have not heard from with with reference to your article for the News Letter upon the Clay Bill; it is possible there is a letter awaiting me at Washington, and I will write Mr. Hallinan, asking him to look my mail over for it.

I want to urge you not to fail to have your article there in due season.

Yours very truly,

A. Funk

(Mrs. A. Funk.)

AH/S

K.

Richmond, Kentucky.

Nov.25th, 1915.

Mr.Charles T.Hallinan,

Munsey Building,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Some days ago Mrs.A.Funk wrote asking me to send an article of 300 words of the Federal Suffrage Law to be put in the convention number of the Headquarters News Letter.

I feel that 300 words are far too few to convey a n adequate idea of the argument for the Federal Suffrage Law; but appreciating the importance of having something appear on the subject I have done the best I can within those limits.

Very respectfully yours,

2 enclosures.

The Federal Suffrage Law.

[Nov. 25, 1915]

In the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution this sentence occurs: "We, the People, in order.... to secure the blessings of liberty to OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY; etc." In the words "OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY" there is an unavoidable implication that the "PEOPLE" means a community capable of producing posterity, and therefore composed of two sexes. This duality of sex is a descriptive characteristic of the "People;" and essential to its definition wherever the term is used in the instrument. Therefore, when Sec. 2, Article I, providing for election of the House of Representatives, and Sec. 1; Amendment XVII, providing for election of Senators, declare they shall be chosen by the "PEOPLE" of the several states, they must mean by male and female citizens. Because these clauses adopt for U.S. electors for Representatives and Senators the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures and because many states limit the right of State suffrage to male citizens, the right of female citizens to Federal suffrage is not thereby nullified. For the right to vote for U.S. Representatives and Senators is derived from the Federal Constitution and not from the States; and the adoption by the Constitution of qualifications prescribed by States for their own State electors does not extend to the States the power to alter the definition of the term "People" as used in the Constitution and thereby limit to citizens of one sex a right granted by the Constitution to "People" of two sexes, which only is capable of producing posterity and continuing the existence of the nation. State constitutions may require to be amended to qualify women to vote in State elections; the Federal Constitution does not require to be amended to qualify them to vote for U.S. Representatives and Senators. Congress has power to provide ^{simply} by appropriate legislation ~~merely~~ for the protection of women citizens in this Federal right conferred upon them by the U.S. Constitution; and women in asking for a Federal Suffrage Law appeal to Congress to exercise its powers to protect them in this right as citizens of the United States and not as as citizens of the several states.

Miss will be present
and speak.

We would attempt to place
for you but to arrange the
two talks, afternoon and
evening.

Chattanooga.

Sincerely
(Mrs) C. H. Pymon
249 Chestnut

My dear Miss Cloy:

[NOV. 26, 1915]

We are delighted at the prospect of seeing you. You made many converts especially men and had you so much. Sorry to say that as yet

Be fore trouble - Nashville
insists upon having the
work with them, and
everytime we meet its the same
old fuss - I consider Miss
Peters' opinion above every
ones here and she and our
local president, Miss Noa

Richmond, Ky.

Nov. 29th, 1915.

Miss Mary E. Towle,

New York City.

My dear Miss Towle,

I have not been able to reply to your letter of Nov. 17th till today, for I have not had opportunity to consult my references at my home in Lexington on the matter about which you wrote, till yesterday. Now that I have done so I fear that my recollections are so different from the material you have gathered that I can be of little use to you.

I

I recollect that I was at the convention of the American Woman Suffrage Assn. in Cincinnati in the fall of 1888; that union on equitable terms with the National Suffrage Assn. was discussed and carried. But I do not recollect that I am appointed on a committee to confer with the National. I recollect attending the convention of the National in Washington, and I am confident it was in 1889, and not in 1890, as your paper has it. There it was decided to unite with the American, under the name of the National-American, and I was appointed and served as one of the Committee to draw up a Constitution, which is the same (except with the almost annual amendments which it has undergone since) that the National American is to-day.

In proof that the National American was formed before the fall of 1889 I can show the minutes of the W. E. Rights Association, which made itself auxiliary to the National American in the fall of 1889.

Beyond these facts I can testify to nothing; and so I have not taken any steps to testify. I shall be in Washington at the Convention of the N. A. S. A., and if any of this information is valuable to you I can testify to it there. I shall be on the wing until I arrive in Washington, so that it would be useless to write to me.

2.

If you care to write, however, you can address me about the 10th of December at Richmond, Virginia, in care of Mrs. S. Dabney Crenshaw, 919 West Franklin Street,.

I hope I shall see you in Washington at the Convention and that I shall have the pleasure of renewing the acquaintance begun in 1913.

Regretting that I cannot perform the service you wish, I am

Very sincerely yours,

P.S. It may interest you to know that I had the same difficulty you are now experiencing with a legacy left as trustee for the National Woman Suffrage Association by Miss Laura M. Bruce. My attorney successfully overcame the difficulty by proving that there was no other National Suffrage Asso. existent except the National - American Woman Suffrage Asso.

L.C.

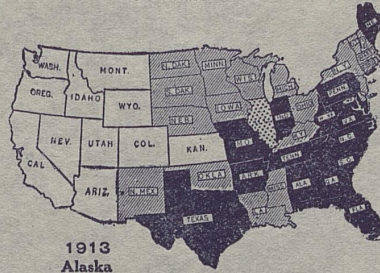
AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AMERICAN
WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association

MEMBER SOUTHERN STATES WOMAN
SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE

ORGANIZED 1885

PRESIDENT, MRS. JAMES M. McCORMACK
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VICE PRESIDENT, EAST TENNESSEE
MRS. C. E. LUCKY KNOXVILLE
VICE PRESIDENT, WEST TENNESSEE
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426 JAMES BLDG., CHATTANOOGA
CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION
MISS MARGARET H. ERVIN, JR.
426 JAMES BLDG., CHATTANOOGA



1913
Alaska
WHITE STATES, FULL SUFFRAGE; SHADED STATES PARTIAL
SUFFRAGE; DOTTED STATES, PRESIDENTIAL, MUNICIPAL
AND PARTIAL COUNTY SUFFRAGE; DARK STATES NO
SUFFRAGE.

VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE
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SUPERINTENDENT PRESS WORK
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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: MRS. MARY P. McVEIGH
1619 CENTRAL BANK BLDG., MEMPHIS

November 29, 1915.

Miss Laura Clay,
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:

Will you please let me know immediately the subject of your evening address to be given on the occasion of our annual convention December 9? We are hoping to complete the program within the next few days, and would like your subject (if you have decided upon a topic) to appear thereon. We are thoroughly delighted over having you with us, and shall be so glad to give you the time you requested for an afternoon address to the delegates, and thirty minutes for your evening address.

Sincerely yours,

Mary P. McVeigh

Cor. Sec'y.

SOUTHERN STATES WOMAN SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE

MRS. O. F. ELLINGTON, Rec. Sec'y,
721 W. Morkham St., Little Rock, Ark.

MRS. JOHN B. PARKER, Cor. Sec'y,
1520 Audubon St., New Orleans, La.

MRS. H. B. BARTLETT, Treasurer,
155 Audubon Boulevard, New Orleans, La.

IDA PORTER-BOYER, Executive Sec'y,
319 Carondelet St., New Orleans, La.

KATE M. GORDON, President,
1800 Prytania St., New Orleans, La.

LAURA CLAY, Vice-President at Large,
Lexington, Ky.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS.

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107 Brown Arcade, Baltimore, Md.

MRS. D. P. MONTAGUE,
Chattanooga, Tenn.

HEADQUARTERS:

NEW ORLEANS, LA.



NEW ORLEANS, LA.

November 30 1915

Miss Laura Clay
Lexington Ky.

Dear Miss Clay

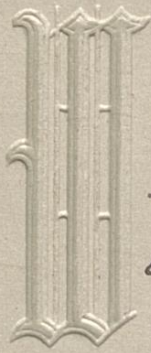
Your note inclosing check
for four Dollars just received. Thank
you very much for attending to all
this. I am sending your receipt
to Lexington and the receipts for
Mrs. Mary Clay and the Madison County
Association of Richmond.

I am sure there will be interesting
times in store for all who ^{attend} the
Richmond and Washington conventions.
I am more than sorry that this
year I cannot attend them.

Yours Cordially
Mary S. Bartlett

My dear Miss Clay,

NOV. 1945



The Executive Council of the Woman's Peace Party has called a special meeting, to be held at Hotel McAlpin, New York City Nov 19th and 20th.

The meeting will be composed of the members of the Executive Committee, Council, the State and Congressional District-Chairmen and one representative from each group or branch.

As chairman of the 8th Congressional District - of Kentucky, you are entitled to attend this very important meeting and I hope that you can do so. If you think that you will go, please inform me and also the Chicago Headquarters of your intention. I hope that you received the literature that I ordered and will have a good meeting tomorrow, the 8th and will get individuals to telegraph the President. Sincerely yours Laura R. White