

# National American Woman Suffrage Association

(Member National Council of Women and International Woman Suffrage Alliance)

President, Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, Moylan, Pa.  
First Vice President, Rachel Foster Avery, Swarthmore, Pa.  
Second Vice President, Florence Kelley,  
105 East 22nd Street, New York City.  
Corresponding Secretary, Kate M. Gordon,  
1800 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
Warren, Ohio

Recording Secretary, Alice Stone Blackwell,  
3 Park Street, Boston, Mass.  
Treasurer, Harriet Taylor Upton, Warren, Ohio.  
Auditors: { Laura Clay, Lexington, Ky.  
{ Mary Simpson Sperry,  
2100 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, Cal.

November 1/1907

Dear Miss Clay:-

I have to-day sent you, by Wells Fargo Express, charges prepaid, one set of the History of Woman Suffrage and the Life & Work of Susan B. Anthony, in accordance with your letter of October 31. These were shipped to you at Richmond, Ky., care Mrs. Mary B. Clay, as you instructed.

I am sending you the History in the leather binding at the same price as the cloth, as we thought you ought to have the best.

Mrs. Upton has just this moment returned from Washington, and you will no doubt hear from her soon. I had a letter yesterday from Miss Gordon, written from Washington, and she said she was very much impressed with Mrs. Kitty Reed Balentine, who came to the Shoreham to see them. She says she considers her one of the most practical suffragists she has met. Miss Gordon wrote me of her visit to you in Lexington, and said when she looked at some of the beautiful things in your home she was sorely tempted to cry fire and run off with the goods. Isn't she charming?

The office force wishes to be remembered to you.

Very truly

Caroline I. Reilly

Newport Nov. 7. 1907

My dear Miss Clay:—

Your letter received this morning. I will make the response if you think I can do so properly! We have been trying to collect our dues and find that many of our members have moved away & several have died, but we hope ~~to~~ to keep the membership at least at 60.

I think there will not be more than five delegates from here. I will know after the meeting tomorrow and will write you then, positively, also as to train time etc. Am very busy. With best wishes for a good convention.

Very sincerely,  
Cammie M. Robucke

Frankfort Ky  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 07

My dear Miss Clay: -

The members  
of the Frankfort E. P. Soc.  
Associations are just now  
so scattered that it is  
not possible for me to  
do anything - except for-  
ward your letter to  
some whose names a-  
bout I know - you

will have to rally the  
forces when you could  
draft similar for layola  
free work - The Good

which you have done  
in Kentucky shall never  
be forgotten - In the mean  
time our Women's  
Club, while not lobby-  
ing was also the  
agent of petition in  
non-partisan and  
non-sectarian direc-  
tions -

With greetings  
from the family  
of Coville -

Sincerely,  
Rebecca G. Coville

Dear Anna I enclose this letter - the-  
ck should have been paid to you  
shouldn't it or he has several envelopes  
number will send off also soon now.

My dear Mrs. Clay: - <sup>hope you are</sup>  
well.

Home was reached in safety -  
butter, eggs and all. Your kind  
delightful hospitality and the  
very successful convention, not  
to say anything of the very great  
pleasure of being with you, all  
bring such pleasant remembrances  
of November 14-15, 1907 in Richmond.

I hope all of your good people  
have fully recovered from strenuousness  
that such affairs always bring to  
the 'faithful few'. I am sending  
a cheque for printing programs  
which I forgot to give you. I did

attend to it - and other business  
as soon as I returned, but - could  
not find one moment to write to you.

My daughter is just recovering from  
a severe attack of Tonsilitis - and  
have been without a regular servant -  
our cook having had an attack of  
quinsy - which has been so prevalent  
here for the past three weeks.

Mrs. Ruckel told me that Miss Laura  
had gone to Mississippi.

I told Mr. Wolcott of his appointment -  
he will be happy to serve.

asked Mrs. Wolcott to go to Association  
Charity Conference at Frankfort - as  
paternal delegate - if she is able to  
go - will do so. Is now suffering with  
cold - is not well at all.

Happy Xmas and glad New Year to you -  
Have you any more members?  
Very cordially yours  
L. Shepard

Richmond, Kentucky.

Nov. 17th, 1907.

My dear Miss Kearney,

Your letter of the 11th inst. reached me just whilst I was in the midst of our State R.R.A. convention; and I was unable to give it the thought and time for a prompter answer.

I thank you very much for your invitation to meet with the Ex.Com. of the Mississippi W.S.A. at Jackson, on the 28th of this month; and I accept it and will meet you then, if nothing unforeseen prevents it. Yes, Mr. Blackwell and Miss Gordon have kept me informed of the movement in Mississippi, and I believe it to be one of great importance; so much so, that I am willing to make the exertion to meet with you at this time. I cannot, however, promise to remain to help in the campaign. In fact, I believe I would not be of any material help. This whole undertaking should be carried through by Mississippi women, or by women from states where the political conditions are nearly similar. I believe that Miss Gordon will be of invaluable assistance. As for myself, you know that Ky. has just gone Republican; and I am of a family generally known as Republican, though personally I owe no allegiance to that or any other party. But these circumstances would impair my value as a worker in your Legislature, I am very confident.

I shall write, as you suggest, to Mrs. Thompson, to engage a room at the Edwards House. I thank you for your proffer to find entertainment for me during my short stay in Jackson; but I do not desire it, as I feel my time would be freer at a hotel; and I want to put in every moment in conferring with the workers. What I expend I shall do cheerfully. I feel that all of us owe at least that much, since you have set the example of such brave sacrifice. I pray that you may reap results which will richly repay you.

(Over)

If by any chance the conference is put off or deferred, please telegraph me at Richmond, care of my sister, Mrs. James Bennett. I shall have to start on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 26th, in order to reach Jackson on the night before the conference. Thursday is Thanksgiving day, and I have wondered if you overlooked that, in selecting that date. Even as late as Tuesday afternoon a telegram might reach me, if you find it necessary to change your plan as late as that. But its reaching me would be very uncertain; so let me know of any change, if any, as promptly as possible.

If I hear nothing to the contrary, I shall start in time to reach Jackson on the evening of the 27th.

Hoping that you will continue to recover your strength, and that your conference will be in every way successful, I am

Very cordially yours,

*Laura Clay*



Richmond, Ky.

Nov. 18th, 1907.

Mrs. Lily W. Thompson,

Jackson, Miss.

Dear Madam,

I have received a pressing invitation from Miss Belle Kearney to be present with the Executive Committee of the Miss. W. S. A. at their conference on Nov. 28th, in Jackson. I am intensely interested in the work which Mississippi suffragists are proposing this winter; and so I have accepted Miss Kearney's invitation. She desired me to write to you, in case I decided to come. If you think there is any likelihood of the hotel being crowded, will you kindly engage a room for me at the Edwards House, for Nov. 27th, as I shall try to reach Jackson on the evening of that day?

Nov. 28th is Thanksgiving day; and while it makes no difference to me, it has occurred to me that Miss Kearney appointed that day in forgetfulness of that fact. If for that or any other reason the conference is deferred, will you kindly notify me promptly, directing your communication to me at Richmond? If it should be so late that you will have to telegraph, please telegraph in the care of my sister, Mrs. James Bennett, Richmond, Ky. I shall have to start on the afternoon of the 26th, in order to reach Jackson on the evening of the 27th.

Hoping the conference may be productive of great good, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Laura Clay

Richmond, Ky.

Nov. 18th, 1907.

My dear Mrs. Obenchain,

I was so sorry to learn that you have been so seriously ill. I trust you will continue to gain your strength steadily.

I was obliged to tell the convention that you had been sick; but I did not tell how seriously sick you had been.

I told the convention of your liberality in declining the so-called salary you have been receiving. But it was agreed by a unanimous vote that the policy of our Association is to pay for certain work, including the Press work; and so we all hope that you will not obstruct what we feel is the rightful policy, but will continue to receive the five dollars a month. The treasurer was instructed to send a check for fifty dollars, which is up to Nov. 1st. Free-will offerings last convention more than covered this, and this convention also made free-will offerings more than the sixty dollars voted to you. Mrs. Shepard tells me she had sent no part of your salary because your letter in July declined it. Your account and hers tallied. Twenty-five dollars was voted for stationery, stamps, etc/, which will be paid in installments.

I am told that your articles are printed in the Richmond papers. We made an appeal for a better looking-after of the papers; for I am sure a little local pressure would insure all the papers printing our articles.

I enclose a program. The books presented were ; four volumes Woman Suffrage History; two Life and Works of Susan B. Anthony; Aunt Jane of Kentucky; Subjection of Women, by John Stuart Mill; Josiah Allen's Wife; and a bound file of Woman's Journals for a number of years.

By this mail I send you a copy of the minutes. Please observe Page 19, the marked passages concerning an Advisory Committee. Though the Consti-

tution was revised last year, nothing was done about electing the Advisory Committee. This year, however, we wish it done. The Ex.Com. was given power to make out the list. What is in the constitution explains their whole duties. We have thought of Hon. James (is it?) Mitchell, of Bowling Green, for that senatorial (state) district. Of course, we use no one's name without permission; and so I wish you would ask Mr. Mitchell if he will allow this use of his name. If you think of some one else, any suggestions will be gladly received.

I am going to try to write a somewhat full account of the convention to the Woman's Journal, and you will see that. I send you a copy of the resolutions; also one of a recent editorial in the Lexington Herald.

Our minutes will not be printed till after Jan. 1st, because our treasurer's books do not close till then. So there is still time for you to, send in your report. Send it to Mrs. EMMA M. Roebuck, 329 York Street, Newport.

Hoping to hear from you when you feel equal to writing, I

am

Very cordially yours,

## The Woman's Journal

No. 3 Park Street, Room 16

Boston, Mass., Nov 20 1907

Dear Miss Colay

As the time approaches (~~Nov~~ <sup>Nov</sup> 30) when Miss Burney will be in Jackson to help inaugurate the legislative campaign for full woman suffrage for white women, which has been decided upon by the Congress of the Missouri suffragists, I am exceedingly desirous that you & Miss Gordon shall be in Jackson to give your counsel & aid. I think the most effective (preliminary) work will have to be done, ~~in~~ <sup>promptly,</sup> during the month preceding the session of the legislature - If possible the leading men and women should be secured, both outside & inside the Legislature - the retiring Gov. Warden, & the governor elect, should, if possible, allude favorably to the movement in their messages. The influence of the Senator & Senator elect - the leading editors & papers, the leading politicians, &c. and especially the leading women.

You may command the help of the W. Journal, which we wish, if it be thought wise, mail as an exchange to the 150 ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> leading newspapers of the State - I think

now is the time & Mississippi the State,  
where the Southern movement should be  
made. The difficult questions which  
the South has to solve make the movement  
especially timely there. It may prove  
the basis of a new coalition between  
South & West with woman suffrage as a  
bond of union in a new national  
party. Anyhow it is worth  
trying. A Mrs Jones, of Crystal  
Spring, Miss. who is, I believe,  
pendant of the Federation of Mississippi  
women's clubs is out in a letter to  
the Vicksburg News, strongly deprecating the  
woman suffrage movement, & pledging herself  
to oppose it. Her letter is well-written  
temperate, & more than usually ~~well~~  
fair in tone and temper. I wish  
she could be personally reasoned with  
by you & Miss Garden.


Hoping that you will feel able &  
willing to give your invaluable  
aid to the movement in December at  
Jackson, Mississippi,

Your friend,  
Henry B. Blackwell

# National American Woman Suffrage Association

(MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN)

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2  
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Auditors: { Laura Clay, Lexington, Ky.  
Mary Simpson Sperry,  
2100 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, Cal.

November 20, 1907

DEAR MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE:-

Ever since I returned to the office from my protracted summer vacation, I have been intending to write you a letter. I wanted to tell you that I very much appreciated the spirit of the Board in giving me so long a leave of absence with pay. I feel, however, that I was not wholly out of the work even while I was away. I was gone from the office a little less than 10 weeks. When I went away, on July 3, I left press material enough on hand to keep the department going for three weeks. The weeks of Aug. 24, Aug. 30 and Sept. 13 I supplied all the press material. There were but three weeks in my vacation time when I supplied nothing for the press department. Miss Blackwell sent a great deal of material to Headquarters, and this helped out beautifully, and lessened Mrs. Upton's responsibility to a considerable extent. While I was visiting in Cleveland, I established a friendship with Mr. Johnson which I knew was in large part responsible for his acceptance of our invitation to him to speak at the Ohio State Convention. While I was in Sandusky, I called on the editors of both newspapers in that town, in the interests of our work. In Toledo, I saw a correspondent of one of the Sunday papers, also in the interests of our work. I visited Clyde and Fremont in company with Dr. Carrie Chase Davis, and called upon suffragists in both places in the interests of organization and press work. I took charge of my regular Political Equality meeting in Warren, which came during my vacation time, and I read the proof on September Progress. I spent a good many hours at home in helping to look over exchanges which my sister had brought from the office.

[Nov. 20, 1907]

The school suffrage campaign in my home town, which resulted, as I previously reported, in the election for four years of a splendid woman to the Board of Education, was a severe strain and left me very tired. I was obliged to take a few days' rest following that. I am now feeling better than I have in many months, and hope to be sensible enough to conserve my strength, - a thing I never have done in the past.

Yours sincerely

EJH.-R.

*Elizabeth J. Hauser*

Richmond, Ky.

Nov. 21st, 1907.

My dear Mrs. Roebuck,

If nothing unforeseen occurs, on Tuesday I am going to Jackson, Miss., for a few days, to meet with the Ex. Committee of the Miss. Woman Syffrage Asso., and I want to carry some of our new membership cards with me. I may possibly stop off somewhere in Ky., where I can use them. Can you hurry up the printing, so as to send my five hundred in time to reach me in Lexington not later than Monday afternoon? Direct to me at my Lexington Address, 189 North Mill Street.

Mrs. Bennett wants two hundred sent to her for the Richmond Asso. Can you send each of us a list of the delegates and alternates to the National convention?

After you left, Elise Bennett Smith told me she would be obliged to decline being fraternal delegate to the convention of Charities and Corrections in Frankfort, for she had already made as many engagements to leave home on club business in the next few months as she thought she ought to. This leaves that appointment open; and I intend to ask Mrs. Breckinridge if she can think of some one else interested. I should be glad of a name from Newport or Covington, if one would go from there.

I am longing to hear how you come on with your Field Secretary. I hope you succeeded in engaging her. I have had no news from any one since the convention. Every one was delighted with that.

Very cordially yours,



E. Kearney

Toronto, Canada,  
Nov. 21, 1907.

Thursday.

My dear Friend,

It is blessed  
in your consent  
to meet with the Ex.  
Com. of the Miss.  
W.S.A., and I thank  
you with my whole  
heart. Yesterday I  
sent you a telegram  
asking you to meet

Nov. 21, 1907 p. 2

me at the Edward's  
House, the besting  
hotel in Jackson,  
Friday, Nov. 29.  
I shall be there to  
greet you, and then  
we will hold our  
meeting. I was forced  
to change the site,  
as Mrs. Thompson,  
our state treasurer,  
wrote me, in a  
letter rec'd. yesterday,  
that she was

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to have a dining at  
her home and  
Thanksgiving day,  
Nov. 28, and that  
she could not  
meet with the 4.  
However, she will  
be with us on the  
29 of Nov. If you  
get this in time,  
you had best  
write ahead, or  
telegram, to the  
clerk at the Edwards'

Nov. 21, 1907 O. 4

House, Jackson,  
Miss., saying when  
you will arrive  
and asking West  
a room be re-  
served for you.  
So much, for the  
enfranchisement  
of all Southern  
women, depends  
upon West meeting  
in Jackson, Nov. 29.  
Miss Kate Gordon

NOV. 21, 1917 P. 5

has consented to be  
with us. I shall  
leave Buffalo for  
Jackson, Miss.,  
Monday, Nov. 25,  
and shall go di-  
rectly to the Edward's  
House. On arriving,  
please ask for me.  
With all love and  
hope, I am,  
Yours Faithfully,  
Bill Kearney.

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

PRESIDENT—MISS BELLE KEARNEY, FLORA  
VICE-PRESIDENT AT LARGE—MRS. HARRIET B. KELLS, FAYETTE  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT—MRS. NELLIE NUGENT SOMMERVILLE, GREENVILLE  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT—R. W. MILLSAPS, JACKSON  
SECRETARY—MRS. LOUISE M. LIPSCOMB, MAGEE  
TREASURER—MRS. LILY WILKINSON THOMPSON, JACKSON

## Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

500 Fortification St.

Jackson, Miss.

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1907.

My Dear Miss Lelay:—

As soon as Miss Kearney wrote me that she had planned to have a meeting here on the 28<sup>th</sup>, I replied at once, reminding her that the 28<sup>th</sup> was Thanksgiving Day, & saying that my husband had just two holidays in the year, Thanksgiving & Christmas, & that I felt that on those days I belonged exclusively to him.

As the meeting is to be at my home, I take the privilege of taking the date for the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> or both dates.

Mrs. Somerville can not come earlier than that time, & for that reason, if no other the conference should be postponed.

Let me know exactly what day, & by what train you will arrive. I shall be most happy to meet you - & hope for great strength & inspiration from the conference. I am having light fever, and am somewhat in dread of typhoid or malaria, but I hope to control the condition in a day or two, & be quite well before the 5<sup>th</sup>. With best wishes & hopes of seeing you soon.

Very sincerely yours,  
Lily Wilkinson Thompson

205 Davis St ✓  
Greenville Miss.

Nov. 24, 1907.

My dear Miss Blay,

As you know an effort is being made to arrange a conference in Jackson. Perhaps before this reaches you the final decision will have reached you. In that event this will not affect your plans. On account of Miss Kearney's being so far away I can not wait to hear from her and therefore am writing direct to others concerned. I have stated



my inability to leave home this week and asked her to postpone the meeting until Dec. 6. I now find I can be in Jackson, God willing it so, on Dec. 4. I write this to explain the matter to you. If Miss Kearney has agreed to the postponement she will see our Treas. Mr. Thompson, to whom I am writing, & will wire you. If you can be there Dec. 4 or 6 please at once write Mr. Lily H. Thompson Fortification St. Jackson Miss.

I will write Miss Gordon to this effect also. Miss Kearney will see Mr. Thompson, get the facts & make final decision. I suppose you can write Mr. Thompson in time for her to get your letter 27. 28 or 29. However, if Miss Kearney has held to the last date Nov. 29 - this is not to interfere in any way. I do not assume to usurp authority but have merely tried to do my best.

with the handicap of a  
long distance president. In  
the first instance Miss K.  
set the date without asking  
if it suited all parties concerned  
I can not help any work  
unless my convenience is  
consulted.

With much appreciation of  
your kindness I am

Yours truly  
Kellie K. Somerville

Newport, Nov. 24, 1907

My dear Miss Clay: -

Your letter received yesterday morning. Fortunately the cards were being printed at the time. They were delivered to me last night and I sent you 500 at once. Hope they will suit. I found I could not get a ~~the~~ colored card as heavy as a white one unless specially ordering the card-board, which would be expensive. I had 1500 printed for \$3.50.

I am more than sorry to say that Mrs. Dealens will not consider the Field-secretaryship. She is writing for magazines and coaching pupils for college and says her time is pretty fully occupied. She said she would like the work very much, but could not leave home, even for a while. At present she knew of no one, but might hear of "somebody."

Am sending you the names of the delegates to the national convention. Also Mrs. Bennett. Sent 250 cards to Mrs. Bennett last night when I sent yours.

With best wishes for a successful meeting in Mississippi, I am

Very sincerely  
Yours,  
Emma D. Rockwell.

Delegates to the Nat. Convention

Mrs. Mary B. Claj	Richmond
" W. S. McLaughlin	Lexington
" Sarah Charles	Newport
Miss Laura White	Ashland

Alternates

Mrs. — Gibson	Richmond
Miss Lucia Burnham	"
Mrs. H. R. Wiggins	"
" A. C. Buchanan	"
" — McCann	"
" Mary C. Cramer	Lexington.



# MINNESOTA WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

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Litchfield

*our new list*

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 26, 1907.

Dear Miss Clay:

I was real homesick to be with you when I read the report of the K.E.R.A. convention. What good work you are doing and increasing so largely in membership. We have recently added to our state association, the Scandinavian association of women. They are a very religious people, and are anxious to work to free their people in this country.

This association will work hard for a Governor like Johnson or our present Lieut. Governor Eberhart, who is not afraid to speak publicly that women should have the ballot. I enclose a copy of our resolutions.

Your report in the recent Journal, is very interesting.

I am glad that Mr. Willson was elected Governor. and I hope that Mr. Bradley will be sent to Congress.

I hope you are all well. Do not forget to give our united love to each sister. We cannot forget the kindnesses received from your dear mother, your sisters, and your dear self. The Lord shower his blessings upon you all, and that this may find each one in health.

Ever lovingly your friend,  
*Eugenia B. Farmer*

[Nov. 29, 1907]

Alumnae Club.

Dear Miss Clay,

As the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs passed a resolution asking for school suffrage for women, and Mrs. Breckinridge has informed me that Louisville as a city of the first class must have a separate bill before the legislature, I ask you for any statistics of other places or other information tending to show the advantage to be obtained by granting <sup>school</sup> suffrage to the women of Louisville. I want to give as much

information as possible  
when I present the sub-  
ject to the Alumnae Club  
at the regular meeting next  
Thursday.

A sub-committee <sup>of the state</sup> on  
legislative work has been  
formed by Mrs. Breckenridge  
with Mrs. Weaver as chair-  
man to learn if the women  
of Louisville will work  
for suffrage here.

Of course I am desirous  
of presenting the case in  
the most favorable light  
that the members may  
take intelligent action  
at the club, then talk  
authoritatively to others.

With thanks for any  
information and best wishes  
for yourself. I am

841 Second St. Sincerely yours  
Eliza G. Martin

Nov. 29, 1907

Chairman, Leg Com Alumnae Club



## The Woman's Journal

No. 3 Park Street, Room 16

Boston, Mass., Nov 29 1907

Dear Miss Kay

I sincerely hope that your health and engagements have made it possible for you to attend the Conference of Mississippi workers, which is to meet in Jackson this week next, to make plans for campaign for women suffrage in the coming Legislature.

Miss Gordon writes me that she will be there.

As both Miss Kearney and Miss Gordon are ladies of very definite and decided views, I am extremely desirous that there may not be, as in Oregon, any clashing of views with regard to the conduct of campaign, which I consider to be an event of national importance.

If successful it may lead, in the future, to a new alliance between the progressive South & North for the extension of suffrage to women. To succeed it must be a Southern movement managed and controlled by united Southern workers. I shall feel great

confidence in your ability to  
prevent misunderstanding and to  
harmonize individualities.

Hoping that you are already  
in Jackson, or if not, that you will  
soon be there,

I am, as ever,  
Yours Truly

Henry B. Blackwell

I think that a special effort should  
be made to secure the cooperation  
of the Society Ladies of Jackson, the  
wives and daughters of Legislators, and  
the Daughters of the Confederacy and  
Southern veterans. It must have the  
active participation of the Mississippi  
women. Mrs. Jones, president of the  
Nep Federation of Women's Clubs is out  
against the movement in a letter to the  
Jackson News; temperate, but pronounced  
in opposition. Her residence is Crystal  
Springs, Miss. Cannot the president of  
the Kentucky Federation write a letter to  
stay her hand?

189 N. Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 5th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Knowing your intense interest in the Mississippi work I am writing at once of the conference there. I returned last night. I reached Jackson on Friday morning. Miss Gordon came that afternoon. It was impossible for Mrs. Somerville to come till Monday; so we five, Miss Kearney/ Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Kells, Miss Gordon and myself, discussed the situation; and then, at the request of the Mississippi ladies, we agreed to wait over Monday to see Mrs. Somerville and to get her final advice and co-operation for our matured plans. Miss Gordon explained her hope of proving that there is no constitutional bar to the extension of suffrage to white women alone. I expressed my conviction of the importance of such a construction, if it could be sustained. Even more than before I met with these Mississippians, I became convinced that there is little hope of the Southern states where there are many negroes ever re-opening the suffrage question unless it can be done in a way not to jeopardize the present white supremacy status. We spent Friday evening and Saturday in visiting prominent persons, as you suggested in your former letter, which was read the first afternoon. In this way we interviewed three judges of the Supreme Court, Gov. Vardaman, the prospective Speaker of the House of the incoming Legislature, two of the legislators, and others. Every where, except in one instance, we thought the enfranchisement of white women only would be welcomed, as a permanent assurance of white supremacy. In that one case, (a legislator) he did not want any woman suffrage on any terms. We found no one, however, to encourage us in the hope that "white women" suffrage would stand the test of constitutionality. Miss Gordon had not yet received a brief from any of the legal friends to whom she had submitted her views. As we found no person

who accepted her point of view, we all agreed that the first step was securing a responsible legal opinion, from a lawyer whose opinion would command respect, that he thought such a view could be sustained. We thought the opinion should be written as a brief, and signed with the author's name. Miss Gordon promised that she would try to expedite the legal opinions which she is now expecting; and the Mississippi ladies are to look for a state lawyer who will stand sponsor for such an opinion. We are all hopeful such opinions can be secured, from Miss Gordon's reports of favorable expressions, from men somewhat unprofessionally. Waiting for carefully studied opinions, however, may cause some delay in introducing the bill; for we all agreed that it would be useless to ask the legislature to pass a resolution to submit an amendment until they had a reasonable assurance that it would be supported by the legal talent of the state. The final ~~announced~~ outcome of the conference, then, was; that they would ask for a constitutional amendment granting white women full suffrage on the same terms men vote now, provided that the constitutionality of the word "white" was sustained by reliable legal opinion; and provided that a selected number of political men, favorable to such a measure advised that there was nothing in such an amendment to affect injuriously the present status of white supremacy. You see, that not even for woman suffrage would these southern suffragists jeopardize white supremacy. The political advisers were chosen at once, - about seven of them.

In case the word "white" is pronounced unconstitutional by their legal advisers, the women are going to ask for full suffrage on the same terms men now exercise it, for educational purposes, for they have no hope of having such an amendment submitted. In case both these fail, Miss Kearney received assent to her proposition to work for Presidential Suffrage. They would not give her the support of the Miss. W. S. A.; as all

[Dec 5, 1907]

took the view of Miss Gordon, that in a state where there is practically only one party, such a franchise would not be worth the effort to gain it.

They decided to ask also for some minor legislation. The conference was harmonious throughout, though as you will remark, there were some divergent opinions as to what was desirable.

I am in great hopes that the words "white women" will prove constitutional; as it affords the best opening I have seen to interest men and politicians in our enfranchisement. When the movement extends to northern states, as I doubt not emulation will make it do, the fact that vast numbers of negro women will be enfranchised there ought to reconcile the friends of negro women suffrage to deferring their suffrage in the southern states; and the protection given both south and north to women's industrial and civic rights will rejoice us all, north and south.

Please remember to have my Journal sent to my address in Lexington, instead of to Richmond, as it is now sent.

Give my regards to Miss Alice, and believe me

Very sincerely yours,

189 N.Hill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 5th, 1907.

Dear Mrs.Martin,

I received your letter of the 29th ult. last night, on my return after nearly a week's absence. I am sorry that what information I can give you will not reach you in time for this week's meeting of the Alumnae Club.

The Suffrage Association has never compiled statistics of the results of school suffrage for women. Considerably more than half of the states have school suffrage for women to various extents; and the most favorable testimony in its behalf is the very creditable showing of these states in literacy in comparison with other states of similar conditions which do not have it.

I made a summary of some of these facts in a little type-written leaflet, of which I am sorry I had only a few copies and now have none left to send you. I will try to send one before your next club meeting. The facts were compiled from the official reports of the U.S. Commissioner of Education, and the U.S.census of 1900.

The fact that the Ky.Educational Association has twice passed a School suffrage resolution is a strong indication that our educators believe the women's vote would be advantageous to education. Also, the fact that our State Superintendent elect, Prof.Crabbe, made it a part of his platform, is assurance that he takes that view of it. Regretting that I am not able to assist you more, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Laura Clay.

189 North Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 7th, 1907.

My dear Mrs. McCulloch,

I hope you read with care the marked editorial of Nov. 7th of the Lexington Herald, which I sent you at the time. If you did not keep it, you will see it in the W. Journal of November 23rd, under head of Ky. correspondence. I think this attitude of a Democratic editor is a sign of the times, and of good times for woman suffrage and the Democratic party. In Ky. we are going to push for a constitutional amendment, and are looking for emulation between the two parties, now so nearly balanced, to win the submission of the amendment and its success, when submitted. But further south, in the real black belt, it will require additional security for white supremacy to induce those states to re-open the suffrage question, which they have settled temporarily by the expedients which they recognize are neither permanent nor commendable. To secure white supremacy on permanent and legal grounds, Miss Kate M. Gordon has put forward a new interpretation of the 15th Amendment to the National constitution. She believes that it can be established that the 15th Amendment will not prevent the extension of the ballot to white women only. Her grounds for this belief are: The 14th Amendment has been decided by the Minor v. Happersett case does not confer upon women the right of suffrage. It declares that the right of voting is not a privilege or immunity of citizens of the U.S., but that it is a privilege exclusively within the grant of the several states. The 15th Amendment was designed to secure black men in their right to vote, and did not contemplate the rights of women at all. Now as it specifically says, "the right of citizens of the U.S. to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S., or by any state, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude" there can be no denial or abridgement to women, who do not and did not at

the time of the passage of the 15th Amendment, possess the right to vote. Nothing is said in the Amendment about the extension of rights ~~rights~~ at all. Miss Gordon believes the granting of a new right, which did not exist at that time, and which that Amendment was not designed to protect, will not constitutionally be restricted by the provisions of that amendment. She does not enter into the question at all whether or not the authors of that amendment designed to forbid an extension of the right of suffrage to white women only, but merely that the amendment as it was framed did not do so. She has submitted her contention to several Louisiana lawyers, and several have told her that she had raised a very interesting point, and several have said that they thought her contention could be sustained. However, she has not as yet secured from any one a brief, supporting that contention. Now the Mississippi women, under the leadership of Miss Belle Kearney, ~~are~~ are going to ask for suffrage rights from their legislature this winter. Miss Gordon and I were requested to meet with their Ex. Committee last week, Nov. 29th-- Dec. 2. I returned from that conference on Wednesday. We found the women pleased with the possibility of such a solution of the white supremacy problem. We visited three Judges of the Supreme Court, Gov. Vardaman, three of the incoming legislators, and other prominent persons. All except one legislator welcomed such a solution. That one did not want any women suffrage on any terms. However, we did not find that any of those gentlemen ~~do~~ believed the constitutionality of such an interpretation could be sustained. That did not surprise me, as I did not suppose any legal person would off-hand give an opinion contrary to the accepted interpretation of many years. At the same time, as Miss Gordon had received careful opinions, I was not convinced that such an interpretation may not be sustained by good legal opinions. The result was that the Ex. Committee resolved: To ask for a constitutional amendment to the Miss. Constitution granting suffrage to white women on the same terms as men now have it, provided, that respectable



Dec. 7, 1907

legal opinions are obtained to support the constitutionality of the words "white women"; and provided that political advisers who believe in woman suffrage do not fear ~~to disturb~~ <sup>such action would affect injuriously</sup> the present status of white supremacy.

The political advisers were selected while I was there, -about seven of them. Getting legal advice will probably delay action; as I suppose it would take some time for a lawyer to draw up an argument on such an important subject.

You can readily perceive what a tremendous effect such a construction would have on the woman suffrage question and on the Democratic party. At present, the Democratic party in the south is paralyzed by the ever present terror of negro suffrage, with reconstruction days before the mental vision of the people. They cannot hope to benefit by the woman vote as the Republicans have benefitted by the negro vote for forty years. And if they are not reinforced somewhere, somehow, there seems not much chance of ever being strong enough to regain any National control. Miss Gordon is very anxious to have your opinion on this constitutional point; but feared to ask it, lest you should take sides against it, because it would not include negro women at this time. But I think you have done too much legislative work not to believe thoroughly that women, both white and black, are now needing the ballot in the hands of some women to protect women in their civil rights. The black women may have still to suffer from the burden of their color; but it would be a tremendous uplift to them, as well as to white women, to have removed the discriminations of sex. I think their chances of obtaining the ballot will be advanced, rather than retarded, by the present extension of suffrage to white women; for I find that many people are afraid of suffrage for any women; and the ballot in the hands of the poor negroes is not calculated to relieve that fear. White women may do it. The extension of suffrage to some classes, and after intervals of time, larger extensions, is the historical precedent; and as long as the ballot gives the power not only to govern one self, but to help to govern others, those who possess the ballot will strong-

4.

ly resist its extension to those whose use of it they fear, as is the case in the south now, in regard to negro suffrage.

If white woman suffrage could obtain in the South, I think there is little doubt that party policy, if nothing else, would induce the Northern states to follow quickly. I feel that we are not likely to get suffrage from politicians, who control the situation, till women have some advantage to offer them by their vote. In the South, nothing is so much desired as a sure, permanent and legal white supremacy. I do not suppose that southern politicians desire woman suffrage, in itself, more than Northern ones do; but white supremacy would reconcile them to it.

I wish you would give this question your careful thought. I would like to hear what you think of it at your earliest possible moment.

I do not believe I have ever told you that Mr. Kerr told me that your information, given in the Laura Bruce bequest case, was what enabled him to carry that case successfully through the courts. I want to thank you for it again, for I think I have surely thanked you before.

Please remember me to the dear children, and to Mr. McCulloch, and believe me.

Very sincerely your friend,

Laura Clay

## The Woman's Journal

No. 3 Park Street, Room 16

Boston, Mass., Dec 7 1907

Dear Miss Clay

I am delighted to hear of your presence & Miss Gordon's, at the Mississippi Conference, and the actions taken seems to me very judicious (with the possible exception of taking legal advice as to the constitutionality of an amendment for white woman suffrage). On that point legal opinion is absolutely without value. No human being can predict with confidence, what the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court would be if the case were practically before it. That would depend upon circumstances, upon considerations of partisan expediency, and upon personal bias. The opinion would probably not <sup>be</sup> unanimous. In any case, even if after the amendment had been adopted, it were nullified by the U.S. Supreme Court, such a State recommitment would be thereby aroused, that an amendment could then be adopted for woman suffrage on some terms as one with similar limitations on its exercise. We have also already the legal opinion of the late U.S. Senator Morgan of Alabama (an eminent lawyer). He is on record

as affirming that the extension of  
suffrage to white women is not in  
conflict with the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, because  
it would disfranchise nobody who now  
has it. Morgan was warmly in favor of  
such action. I cannot, at the moment,  
name time, place, or person of the  
interview, but I am sure of the  
fact.

I wish that Kentucky women would  
also ask for an Amendment. The  
cause grows by agitation. The  
deep movement would be greatly  
strengthened by a simultaneous  
movement in other Southern States.  
Will it not be possible for you to  
spend the winter or a part of it  
in Jackson? I think the next  
few weeks before the Legislature  
meets will be most important.

In any case I am glad you went  
to the Conference.

Yours truly

Henry D. Blackwell

Alice sends kind regards.

Alumnae Club.

Dear Miss Clay,

Please to accept my thanks for your courteous reply to my questions.

I am happy to inform you that the Alumnae Club by a unanimous vote decided to work for woman suffrage on school questions in Louisville.

With best wishes for yourself and a hope of some good accomplished by our federation this year,

I am

Sincerely yours  
Eliza G. Martin

Dec. 10, 1907

M. Cullach & M. Cullach,  
LAWYERS.

1104 MERCHANTS LOAN & TRUST BLDG.  
CHICAGO.

FRANK H. McCULLOCH.  
CATHARINE WAUGH McCULLOCH.

December 10, 1907.

Miss Laura Clay,  
189 N. Mill Street,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

My dear Miss Clay : -

As to the political wisdom of the Mississippi women asking for the enfranchisement of white women, this effort is in the same class with our former movement in Illinois for municipal and tax official suffrage for tax-paying women. It is a movement along the line of least resistance or supposedly least resistance. If the Mississippi women could secure the ballot for red-haired women first, that too, however foolish the qualification seems to me, would help break down the sex line and in a small proportion protect the rest of the women and lead probably to the early enfranchisement of those with blonde hair, gray or black. The race line, however, will be harder to break down and negro women will not be likely to secure enfranchisement very soon. But the extension to white women in Mississippi will without doubt be helpful to all women and assist our earlier enfranchisement.

It seems a great pity though for you to be obliged to use the hatred of the black race to secure justice for white women, and to argue to white men that the enfranchisement of white women only will keep the whites dominant. It is a poor motive for a noble deed. However it is a war stratagem. If you go on, however, I shall not say these almost harsh things publicly but will defend your action as a war measure, the entering of the thin edge of the wedge.

However, I think you should not expect the National officers of the North to help this matter. You and Miss Gordon bred in the South can sympathize with the Southern man's prejudice as we Northern women can not. I never could argue with a serious face as to the peril of the black man's vote, for I can't see it. You who can see it, can in good conscience use the argument, but you ought to keep the movement among Southern women. In a Buffalo convention next year, you would be sure to meet many an old abolitionist, who had never crossed Mason and Dixon's line, who would drag the argument away from the main question, the possible enfranchisement of white women to the continued disfranchisement of black women, - opportunity for oratorical fireworks.

Now as to Miss Gordon's constitutional argument, it is clever, and on a splitting of hairs, might be adjudged good. The 15th amendment does not forbid the States extending suffrage with a racial qualification, and the U.S. Sup. Court might uphold her contention. It is more than likely however that no Mississippian would ever take the matter up. If no one did contest the matter the women could keep voting. It would be a good plan for Miss Gordon to have some Southern lawyer prepare a brief covering her point, for few legislators would give a woman's opinion, yours, or hers, or mine, the same consideration as a man's.

Dec. 10, 1907 p. 2

-2-

I sent you a copy of my brief on the constitutionality of Chicago Municipal suffrage for women. That is in neat workmanlike shape, just as lawyers do them. Those arguments would not be helpful, but I only called your attention to the form.

The enclosed leaflet was on the enfranchisement of tax-paying women five or six years ago. It is not in as good form for a brief. We had thousands of them distributed at State Conventions. In this I have so many references to decisions on various phases of the woman suffrage question. Miss Gordon's lawyer might through some of them, get track of something helpful.

I am very glad our brief was helpful in the Laura Bruce matter. I think we ought to say more in our conventions about bequeathing property for woman suffrage.

Yours truly,

*Catherine Vaughn McCulloch*

*Thanks for your inquiries about the children and Mr. McCulloch. They are well and hearty and I am rapidly becoming so.*

189 N. Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 13th, 1907.

My dear Mrs. McCulloch,

I thank you very much for your prompt reply to my letter, which I received yesterday. I am very glad you think Miss Gordon's contention about the 15th amendment is tenable. I sent her your opinion at once. You neglected to enclose the leaflet of which you spoke, and I wish you could send her one to her New Orleans Address, 1800 Prytania Street. I always keep documents you send me; but until the last few weeks, for seven years I have "lived in a trunk", and moved about so much that I can seldom lay my hands promptly on any thing which I am not constantly using. Now that I have a place to rest the sole of my foot, in my little flat here, I hope to be able to maintain some order in my papers.

I agree with you that this aspect of the question should be pushed by Southern people entirely. Miss Gordon asked a vote of the Business Com. in regard to it a few weeks ago; and I voted that it was not desirable that the National should take any steps at this time to forward it. Probably it ought not ever to do so. It can stand for that part of the ballot, - that it is the expression of the inalienable right of self-government; if some states are obliged to remember the other aspect of the ballot, - that it gives power to help govern others, - such states ought to manage the bestowal of it and the restrictions necessary, without introducing an element of discord into the National body, where we can all agree on the one aspect, - the right of self-government.

I must disclaim only one expression of your letter. The southern people do not "hate the negro"; but they do not indulge in any delusions about a childish and irresponsible race. Their circumstances force them to see that a ballot for every man and a fair count means, where there are more negroes



than whites, as in Mississippi, means an abandonment of civilization as white Americans have maintained it, and a ~~decline~~ to a state of society suited to the mental and moral development of negroes.

I trust that Miss Gordon's scheme will result in the relief of the southern states from the terror of the negro woman's vote, so that they can consider the woman suffrage question calmly. When they can do so, then the Democratic party, which so largely depends upon the south, can begin to look forward to the woman vote to rehabilitate the party, as is recommended in The Herald's editorial, which I sent to <sup>you</sup> marked. I believe we are all becoming hopeful that suffrage sentiment is ripening, and our victory is near. I suppose it will come by one or the other of the parties seeing a party advantage in bidding for the woman vote, just as the Republicans bid for the negro vote forty years ago. I believe there are multitudes of women all over the nation whose political opinions are not yet crystalized on party lines, or who are of the mental turn of the independent voter among men; and these women will naturally incline to use their votes for the party which takes the lead in enfranchising them. This is only human nature; and I believe a strong political party will calculate rightly that advocacy of woman suffrage will draw a strong support to it from the enfranchised women. As long as so many Democratic states of the south believe that woman suffrage, with an inevitable negro woman vote, is suicidal to ~~their~~ <sup>their</sup> civilization, of course the national Democratic party is hopelessly barred from bidding for the woman vote in this manner; and the Republican party will not do so as long as it is as strong as it is at present. For neither party desires to add <sup>to</sup> the number of voters where it does not see an advantage to itself in doing so. But let the Democratic party be free to advocate woman suffrage, and then I think we may look for a contest between the Democrats and the Republicans which can get the most advantage from the extension of the suffrage to women, which all farsighted observers admit cannot long be staved off. This is my hope; so you see why I am an earnest supporter of Miss Gordon's experiment. I do not  
(Over)

3.

[ Dec. 13, 1907 ]

at all desire that either party shall shall advocate a qualification of color, or even taht a section of the country shall do so; but I do earnestly hope that it may turn out that there is no constitutional bar to an individual state's regulating woman suffrage by such qualifications as it feels is necessary for its own prosperity.

I trust that you will continue to regain your strength. I am glad to know that the children are well.

Please give my regards to them and to Mr. McCulloch. Again thanking you very heartily for your letter, I am

Affectionately yours,

189 N. Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 14th, 1907.

Dear Mrs. Martin,

I enclose you the table of states which have school suffrage for women. Since I prepared it I have learned from a resident of Nevada that Nevada has school suffrage for women.

The instructive points in this table are these:

All the states where illiteracy is less than one percent, - that is, has almost reached the vanishing point - have school suffrage for women.

The states which have school suffrage compare favorably with other states of the same group and surrounded by the same conditions which have not school suffrage. Compare Florida with Georgia and Alabama; Mississippi with Louisiana and Arkansas. The contrast of Oklahoma with Indian Territory, and of Arizona with New Mexico is particularly instructive.

I am not disposed to lay to school suffrage all the credit for the favorable standing of the states which have it; for the extent of school suffrage and the recent time of its grant, <sup>in some cases,</sup> preclude the claim. I think the facts indicate, indeed, that the states which early adopted this measure proved it so satisfactory, that other states, when interest in education was aroused, looked to them and were encouraged to adopt the same measure in the hope and expectation of improving their own educational standing.

Hoping you will have complete success in your efforts,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

189 N. Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 18th, 1907.

Senator James B. McCreary,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I observe that you have introduced a bill for an appropriation to colleges, to be expended in promoting instruction in agriculture, manual training and domestic science. I am gratified that you have remembered the requirements of women by specifying instruction in domestic science. In our own state the women have appealed for years to have such instruction raised to the dignity of a department in the State Agricultural and Mechanical College; and though finally they have succeeded in obtaining some instruction for the women students in this branch, the study has not been placed upon the co-ordinate and financial basis which many think its importance to women, and through them to the people in general, deserves. I trust the specifications in your bill are so definite that this branch of study may not be deprived of its due share of support by Boards of Trustees, composed only of men, whose prejudices may incline them to those branches which have men students principally for their beneficiaries.

I believe I express the feelings of multitudes of Kentucky women when I thank you very heartily for your interest in the higher education of women on lines where their life-work most likely will lead them.

I am most respectfully yours,

189 N. Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 18th, 1907.

Senator James B. McCreary,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I observe that you have introduced a bill for an appropriation to colleges, to be expended in promoting instruction in agriculture, manual training and domestic science. I am gratified that you have remembered the requirements of women by specifying instruction in domestic science. In our own state the women have appealed for years to have such instruction raised to the dignity of a department in our A. & M. College; and though finally they have succeeded in securing some instruction for the students in this branch, the study has not been placed upon the ~~best~~ scientific and financial basis which many think its importance to women and, through them, to the people in general, deserves. I trust the specifications in your bill are so definite that this branch of study may not be deprived of its due share of consideration by ~~the prejudices~~ <sup>support</sup> whose prejudices may incline ~~of~~ Boards of Trustees, composed only of men, may ~~be~~ <sup>of</sup> those branches which have men students principally for their beneficiaries.

I believe I express the feelings of multitudes of Kentucky women when I say that I thank you very heartily for your interest in the <sup>higher</sup> education of women on a line where their life-work must most likely lead them.

I am most respectfully yours,



# MINNESOTA WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

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Litchfield

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 19, 1907.

Dear Miss Clay:

Just a few lines that you may know the action of the Scandinavian women on their connection with our State association.

Mrs. Martin, their president, met with us in executive session last Friday to notify us of their decision to become auxiliary to our State and National association and they<sup>to</sup> form themselves into a local. Our committee decided to elect Mrs. Martin a Vice-President, until our next convention. Mrs. Martin will, with others, go through the State to organize among her people. I do hope that you will be successful with your legislature to ~~and~~ secure the co-guardian law. I would love to be with you, at that time. The work here is so different~~ness~~, or, the manner of procedure, which makes it more difficult to gain access to the members.

Our Lieut. Governor Eberhardt, was exceedingly kind to us, even placing us on the floor of the Senate quite near to his seat.

We would like, very much to have him for our next Governor, and iff we ? succeed, there will be a recommendation in his inaugural address for women to have the ballot. I wish we all had the ballot.

I wish for you and all the dear members of your family, a very happy and prosperous New Year in addition to a pleasant Christmas.

Mr. Farmer desires to be remembered, and with best love, I am,

Always your loving friend,

*Evgenia B. Farmer*

[Dec 20, 1907]

Dear Miss Clay,

Please to accept  
my sincere thanks for  
your kind letter and  
the enclosed statistics.

I delayed writing till  
I could report progress  
in our work here.

Yesterday afternoon the  
sub-committee appointed  
by Mrs. Breckinridge re-  
ceived the reports from the  
federated clubs here and  
learned that all clubs hav-  
ing taken action favored the



we will try to obtain the unanimous endorsement of our representatives.

Two of these senators are already committed to any bill we may present as are also several of our representatives.

Hoping we may succeed in our efforts and again thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours  
Edija G. Martin

841 Second St.  
Dec. 20, 1907

movement, but a few were not quite ready to commit themselves.

A committee was formed to consult with some of our leading lawyers as to a bill to be presented to the legislature. That consultation will be next Monday afternoon. As soon thereafter as possible a bill will be presented to the sub-committee for their approval and the approval of the state committee, then

Lexington, Ky. Dec. 20th, 1907.

My dear Mrs. Roebuck,

I am enclosing my first circular letter of the new convention year. I hope the suggestions about legislative work will prove satisfactory.

You may be interested to know that I went to Jackson, Miss., and met with the Ex. Com. of the Miss. Woman Suffrage Asso. They decided to bring in a bill for full suffrage for white women, provided they could get respectable legal advice that the word white would be constitutional. From the information Miss Gordon receives, it seems probable that such an extension of suffrage would stand the constitutional test. If it does, and Miss. grants it, it looks as if we might all hope to see our enfranchisement in a few years; for the north would emulate the south in granting suffrage, in order to get the woman vote.

I received the 500 enrollment cards; and our E.R.A. voted to adopt the membership, and, moreover, to give the enrolled members full voting privileges, even without dues, in the local meetings. I enclose my check for the cards, including 28 cents for postage. I have been so busy I could not answer your letter sooner, though I was very glad to get it. I regret very much we could not get Miss Neelans.

Let me hear any news you may have from your club. I must try to send out our little Ky. News letter again.

Hoping all your family are in their usual health, and wishing you a Happy Christmas,

I am very cordially yours,

(Over.)

2.

P.S. Did I by any chance leave Mr. Simmons' co-guardianship bill among your papers? I have looked high and low for it, but cannot find it.

If you have it, please send it to me. Or if you have a copy of your own please lend it to me.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 21, 1907.

Miss Laura Clay,  
President, Kentucky Equal Rights Association,  
189 N. Mills Street,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

Dear Miss Laura:

I was glad to receive yours of the 18th instant.

Congress appropriates every session millions of dollars for various purposes. I believe an appropriation should be made annually for the purpose of promoting instruction in agriculture, manual training and domestic science in the State normal schools of the United States. You know that I am in favor of thorough education of women on lines, as you say, where their life work most likely will lead them.

Inclosed I send you a copy of the bill.

I am always pleased when I am indorsed by Kentucky women.

With kind regards, I am,

Respectfully,

*James B. McHenry*

Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 23rd, 1907.

My dear Mrs. Farmer,

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Your last letter gave me a great deal of satisfaction, by telling me how agreeably your Executive Committee had arranged with the association of Scandinavian women. I wish the Kansas women had used as much good sense in settling any objections they had to the National. I think you must be entitled to some of that spirit which showed a determination to find a working basis for all who are with us to pull together.

Now I want to ask your assistance for some of our Ky. work. You know the Federation of Women's clubs declared for school suffrage at their last convention. The N.R.A. decided at our convention to leave the bill for school suffrage in the hands of the Committee from the Federation. They, in conjunction with others interested in the educational affairs of the state, are working on a new bill to present to the legislature, in which they wish to take the schools out of politics. They want the women to vote for all the offices of the schools which are not forbidden by the constitution. It is mooted whether or not they can be empowered by the legislature to vote for County School Superintendent. We want to see how other states do. I notice that the laws of Minnesota are more liberal than others; and I have been requested to get the school laws of that state. Will you kindly send me a copy as soon as you can? I might write for it myself, but I do not know to whom to address myself. Also, please write any thing which you know on the subject. Have you county superintendents in Ky. Has? Do the women vote for them? Are the school elections held at a different time from the other elections? That is, are they made a

special election? Are they held at the school houses or where? You see, any information you can give, besides the copy of the school laws, will be acceptable.

I got your pretty Christmas card this morning, and thank you for it. Please give my regards to Mr. Farmer, and believe me

Your affectionate friend,  
= Laura Clay =

189 N. Mill St. Lexington, Ky.

Dec. 23rd, 1907.

Supt. J. H. Fuqua,

Frankfort, Ky.

Dear Sir,

I have occasion to examine the school laws of South Dakota and North Dakota. Can you supply me with a copy of either? If not, can you give me the proper address in those states, to which I might write for a copy?

Any thing you can do to help me in this matter will be very gratefully received.

Yours, respectfully, *Laina Clay*



# MINNESOTA WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

## Officers

MRS. MAUD C. STOCKWELL, President  
3204 E. 51st St., Minneapolis

MRS. ALPHA BOOSTROM, Vice-President  
Austin

DR. ETHEL E. HURD, Recording Secretary  
716 Pillsbury Building, Minneapolis

MISS JOSEPHENE SCHAIN, Corresponding Sec'y  
806 S. E. 6th St., Minneapolis

DR. MARGARET KOCH, Treasurer  
716 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis

MR. H. C. FARMER, First Auditor  
615 Cedar St., St. Paul

MR. GEO. W. LUTZ, Second Auditor  
Austin

## Chairmen Standing Committees

**Press**—MRS. EUGENIA B. FARMER—  
615 Cedar St., St. Paul

**Membership and Enrollment**—MRS. L. H. CORSER  
615 James Ave. N., Minneapolis

**Legislation**—MR. S. A. STOCKWELL  
304 Andrus Building, Minneapolis

**Lecture Bureau**—DR. FLORENCE C. BAIER  
2946 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis

**Member National Executive Board**—  
MRS. CONCHETA F. LUTZ, Austin

**State Organizer**—MRS. LIZZIE McCLARY  
131 E. 14th St., Minneapolis

## Executive Committee

MRS. SARAH G. HELM  
Northfield

MRS. MARGARET K. ROGERS  
284 S. Exchange St., St. Paul

MRS. LORA C. LITTLE  
1114 21st Ave. N., Minneapolis

MRS. MARY GRACE CANFIELD  
Owatonna

MRS. LILLA P. CLARK  
803 E. 15th St., Minneapolis

MRS. JULIA B. NELSON  
Red Wing

MISS MARION L. SLOAN  
Rochester

MRS. ALICE ADAMS HUNT  
Litchfield

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 27, 1907.

Dear Miss Clay:

I went to the Capitol yesterday to see the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, concerning the questions asked in your letter of the 23d instant. He will give me the information within a few days which I will forward to you. Under separate cover, I have sent a copy of the Laws of Minnesota relating to Schools and Education, enclosing the chapter from the St. Paul Charter, of the laws governing the School Board of this city and Ramsey County. You will notice that the members are called inspectors. Our city council is in the hands of politicians, the Mayor is supposed to be the head, when in fact, the Chief of Police is the dictator. Women in this city have no vote on education.

In Minneapolis, the women can nominate a woman for the school board, and



can vote for the same, but our charter is different. Our State Superintendent is appointed by the Governor, and the city Superintendent by the School Board. We have an able, good man here now, a religious man, and is determined to put a stop to the cigarette smoking in this city among the scholars. Over 2000 boys in this <sup>City</sup> Supt. Heeter has found smoking, and many of them, he says, will never recover from the effect. We have a state law forbidding the sale to minors, and the use at home, near the schools, or on the street, but the laws are not enforced, and many fathers do not object to their sons using cigarettes <sup>because they do the same thing.</sup> *The law is now to be enforced.* We had a glorious Christmas day. Mr. Farmer and I went to church at ten in the morning, and then our four families as usual, spent the day in feasting and fun which we generally keep up until nine in the evening, when all are glad to go home. These families, our nephews, with ourselves, meet together Thanksgiving and Christmas, which makes it very pleasant for us, as we do not keep house. There are presents given and exchanged, among sixteen. The youngest member is 7 and we all feel like children when together. I hope that you will have a prosperous New Year, and that you may be able to secure all that you desire from your next Legislature.

The Lord bless you dear sister, and when our labors are ended here, may we be with each other in the "land beyond the sea."

*Mr Farmer sends kind regards. Ever lovingly your friend,  
Eugenia B. Farmer*



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MRS. JULIA B. NELSON  
Red Wing

MISS MARION L. SLOAN  
Rochester

MRS. ALICE ADAMS HUNT  
Litchfield

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 28, 1907.

Dear Miss Clay,—

Mr. Farmer mailed to you yesterday, a copy of the Minnesota School Laws, and I have just received from the Assistant Superintendent, the reply to your questions.

I gave him that part of your letter referring to the County Superintendents, which will explain why he mentions returning your letter. You will gain some information from the laws of our city by the portion of the school law governing Ramsey County, which I sent you yesterday.

I hope that you will be able to accomplish something with your next Legislature. You never mentioned receiving the Minnesota Bill for Co-guardianship. I hope you received it. I enclose a letter from Mrs. Henry, and I believe she could be persuaded to take up something in the line of Press Work. I wish she would, for it will not be long before

her aunt will be taken, and then she will be left alone. How much good she could do, and has the means to accomplish it.

Her two sisters live in New York on the Hudson.

Did I tell <sup>you</sup> that a College Suffrage League has been formed in our State University, with a number of the Professors and teachers as members.

They are auxiliary to our State and National organizations.

Wherever there are Co-educational colleges, it seems the right thing to form these Leagues. We expect to form at least two more in this State.

The Minneapolis club has two hundred members, but it is just as difficult for them to get a quorum for their monthly meetings as it is for us with a few members. The women of the Federation seem to think here that the suffrage should come through their efforts, entirely ignoring the fact, that they would not be where they are now, if dear Susan B. Anthony had not paved the way. Dear friend, secure all you can, and I think the time is short, when the women who want to vote, will have the opportunity.

Good bye for this year, and everything good for you for the next year.

Lovingly your friend and co-laborer.

*Eugenia B. Fowler.*

1  
Versailles Kentucky

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1907

My Dear Mrs Farmer

Your kind letter  
reached me in due time and I  
was so glad to hear from you  
and Mr Farmer and to get  
your pictures. They are certainly  
good ones. You must both have  
found the fountain of youth  
since you went to St Paul as  
you look much younger than  
you did before you left Kentucky.  
I am so glad you have such  
congenial work. Nothing like it  
to bring health & contentment  
in this life I would love to spend  
the rest of my life in just such  
work but I have had so many  
deaths, and business came that  
they have unfitted me for any  
thing. I am struggling now to  
get the estate adjusted and  
my business all settled then  
I want to do some literary  
work, but I don't know how it  
will be. If the Capt had turned  
the business all over to me  
the 2 years of his last illness

I would have had every thing in  
fine shape, but he did not so  
I must struggle with it alone  
It seems to me I would have  
spared him all the trouble I could  
but the past is in the eternal past  
and I must make the best of it  
yet I am than kept I have a  
competence to afford me a good  
living my Aunt Jane & I live  
alone & I have rented out my  
old homestead, your meeting  
must have been quite interesting  
and the resolutions you and I  
we were fine. The Suffrage cause  
is gaining rapidly in England  
they will get there long before  
we do, but the N.A.W.S.A. is in  
the hands now of incompetents  
whose chief aim is to exploit  
themselves and get all they  
can out of it, Suffrage is in  
spite of them gaining a little  
in the U.S because the Evolution  
decrees that it shall. Nothing can  
gain say we have, the Rep. Re-  
publicans go into power next week  
here in Kentucky and they may  
help some but we have so  
much to do for ourselves

Dec. 8, 1907

2  
that they have little time or inclination to attend to the needs of women, and the National Am. so busy collecting money, touring Europe & they have no time to advance the cause, and they have no results to show; Suffrage under their regime has lost its old prestige but it will come in time.

A friend wrote last week that Mrs. Catt was to be married soon again, that will be no good - To me that is perfectly disgusting.

Give my best regards to Mr. Thayer with a lot of love for yourself.

Write me when you can  
May all good come to you  
both

Your loyal friend  
Josephine K. Henry

Dec 30th '87

Dear Miss Clay

I will answer  
briefly now and write again  
after seeing our club members  
about taking up the Co-  
Guardianship work. I feel  
sure they will help, and we  
have some personal friends  
of Mr. Simmons in our  
ranks. We can always  
count on the Giltners to  
do all they are able. Mrs G.  
has had poor health for  
two winters past, and I can

help worrying a little on her account. Mrs Worley is here and will I am sure call on Mr Simmons. Mrs Worley addressed the Crington Art Club at their last meeting, and I tell you what she said was suffrage from start to finish. She was invited to talk to them and would only promise on condition that it might be on that subject - she was heartily applauded and all seemed to agree with her.

By all means place in the hands of the Lexington

committee the Board of Control of State Institutions legislative work.

School suffrage work is well placed, and I am sure we need not worry about the care of it, Mrs Beckenridge will see to that.

Sorry Mrs Roebuck failed to secure a field secretary. I do not know of any one, but will keep it in mind.

Our treasurer has collected dues from fifteen more members and will try to get a few more by tomorrow. I will go in, and



help her tomorrow afternoon  
in time to turn over what all  
we collect to Mrs Shephard same  
day - last day of year - Miss Aylward<sup>22</sup>  
brother is to be buried this  
morning and another brother is  
seriously sick, only for the  
urgency of paying the money  
before January first she would  
not get out at all.

Will call a meeting for  
Monday January 6th and will  
write next day and tell you  
all I know.

Light Hill  
Nov. 12

Sincerely

N. S. McLaughlin

Superintendent of Public Instruction

J. H. FUGUA, Sr.

Frankfort, Kentucky

Dec. 30. 1907

My dear Miss Clay:

I am sending you under separate cover by this mail a copy of the school laws of North Dakota but could not find the other. You can return this book at any time to suit your convenience. Am very sorry that I was unable to find the other one.

*Harry G. Jandy*  
Chief Clerk.

[1907]

Dear Madam,

I desire to express my warm ~~gratitude~~<sup>thanks</sup> for the successful efforts you have made in raising \$6000 for the Woman Suffrage cause. It is a noble memorial to that great and good woman, Susan B. Anthony; and is a most material help to what

is, to my mind, the most  
philanthropic cause now  
before the American <sup>people</sup>, bas-  
ing only the promulgation  
of the Gospel of Christ, just  
laws, framed and administere-  
d according to the princi-  
ples of our forefathers, pre-  
vent and relieve far more  
of human misery than any  
other human instrumen-  
tality.

With a deep sense <sup>of the im-</sup>  
<sup>portance</sup> gratitude for  
what you have done for the  
political enfranchisement  
of women I am, with great  
respect, gratefully yours.

[1907]

Miss Mary Garrett,  
Baltimore.

Dear Madam,

Please accept my  
very hearty thanks to you and  
your Committee ~~what~~ for your  
efforts in raising <sup>the</sup> \$50,000 for the  
Susan B. Anthony Memorial fund.  
Surely the money cannot be used  
in a nobler cause than for the  
political enfranchisement of women.  
I trust that you will see great re-  
sults for good as ~~the result~~ <sup>from</sup> of your  
generous efforts; and as one of

the officers of the National American  
Woman Suffrage Association I wish  
to thank you for lifting from it  
a part of its burden of care in  
raising the necessary funds for  
its work; ~~and~~ We trust and be-  
lieve that this timely help will  
bring results which will repay your  
benevolent heart for the labor you  
have so freely bestowed.

With ~~a sincere~~ <sup>deep</sup> appreciation  
~~deep~~ gratitude for ~~their~~  
noble expression of sympathy  
with our cause and work, I am

Very truly yours,

Laura Clay.

Dec 1907?

-2-

It is simply out of the question, in my mind, for us to make even a decent headway. We have two of the Democratic minority with us but they too are certain we can not win and would hate to take up a fight in which they felt they had no chance. In the house, where the Democratic majority is to be found - I think we might get a few scattered votes - but we have no champion.

Nor can I get responses from the Mormons. One young Mormon in this county was nominated. He was a nice young fellow. The W.C.T.U. fought him. He was beaten by two votes and the Mesa people are bitter. Mrs. Robinson is not in the Territory at all. She not only "flew off" that time at Mrs. Upton - but she is out of sorts with the territorial people as well, and I fear will not work any more, even when she returns. Dr. Halsey - our ministerial standby is gone.

It is hardly probable that Kibby will hold longer than these next two years, so we might come in then, but in that case we shall be obliged to win back the Mormons, and find women backers anew. Mrs. Munds says in that case - if she knew a long time ahead she would arrange to spend the winter in Phoenix.

I shall work around here, and at Mesa until I hear from you what to do next.

I am sorry to be the bearer of ill tidings and that so near Xmas.

Wishing you a happy Xmas, I am

Sincerely,

(signed) Frances Woods.

[Dec. 1907]

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our cause —

We shall have an annual meeting of our Association probably early in Jan.

Although as I told you most, if not all of the members, would be influenced by Mrs. Colby yet anything we should be willing to do, should be voted upon by them for a final decision. I shall go to Washington next Friday & remain 4 or 5 weeks.  
Yours Olympia Brown