

**Vermont Equal Suffrage Association
Papers, 1883-1927
MSC 144-146
Ms Size B**

Introduction

The papers of the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association were collected for the most part by one of its members, Annette Parmelee, and include documents generated by the association and publications from national suffrage organizations. It is housed in three boxes and occupies 3 linear feet of shelf space. There are also some oversize materials in Ms Size C.

This finding guide was produced as part of a project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Agency Sketch

The Vermont Woman's Suffrage Association was organized in 1883 and held its first annual meeting in January 1885 in Barton Landing. The membership was made up of both men and women and was closely allied with the American Woman's Suffrage Association and Lucy Stone. (In 1869 in New York City the National Woman's Suffrage Association was organized to fight exclusively for woman's rights, and the leaders, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, did not even allow men as members. To counter that radical approach of the National Woman's Suffrage Association, Lucy Stone and husband Henry Blackwell and Henry Ward Beecher organized the American Woman Suffrage Association.) One of the women who was active in the Vermont Woman's Suffrage Association was Laura Moore from Barnet who served as secretary from the beginning until her death in 1906. Some of the other people who were consistently among the officers of the Association were L. F. Wilbur, Mr. C. W. Wyman, Mrs. A. D. Chandler, and Mr. Willard Chase.

In 1890 the National and American Woman's Suffrage Associations merged their names and their organizations as the National American Woman's Suffrage Association and chose as its leaders Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt. The group had become more moderate and therefore more acceptable and membership soared, although their work was not as effective and many other organizations working for essentially the same cause but using different methods were created. Among them were the Federal Association, with Olympia Brown as president in 1892; the College Equal Suffrage League organized in 1908 by M. Cary Thomas; the National League for Woman Suffrage in 1911; the Congressional Union formed in 1913 with Alice Paul as director.

In 1907 in Vermont the Vermont Woman's Suffrage Association changed its name to the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association. Annette W. Parmelee became active in the organization and was named Superintendent of Press Work, a position she held until 1912. She was born Annette Watson in Burlington, Vermont, and married Edward Jones Parmelee, an accountant of Enosburg Falls, in 1889. As superintendent of press work she made contact with all the editors in the state urging their support and wrote

letters and editorials about woman's rights. She became known as "Annette the Suffragette."

An attempt was made by the Vermont government to grant women the right to vote in 1910 but it was defeated. In 1917 the state became one of the first in the east to allow women to vote and hold office but only at the local level. The 19th amendment was passed by Congress in 1919 and then sent to the states to be ratified. It was received in Vermont after the legislative session had ended, and in spite of the work of the state's suffragists, Governor Percival Clement refused to convene a special session to vote on the amendment. The national amendment was ratified in 1920, but Vermont did not amend its constitution until 1924.

When it became clear in 1920 that women had the right to vote the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association voted to dissolve itself and form the Vermont League of Women Voters, affiliated with the National League of Women Voters.

Scope and Content

This collection documents the struggle of women in Vermont and in the United States to have the right to vote, in town meetings and in national ballots. The collection is made up of newspaper clippings and scrapbooks detailing the activities of the various suffrage organizations including most prominently the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association, The League of Women Voters, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The papers were collected by Annette Parmelee and include some of her correspondence with the press and with national suffrage associations. There are also membership lists of the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association, suffrage pamphlets, information on suffrage conventions, petitions from each county and details of the legislative activity on women's suffrage.

Organization

The collection is organized in six series: I. Correspondence; II. Lists; III. Suffrage publications; IV. Political and legislative work; V. Suffrage organizations (other than Vermont Equal Suffrage Association); VI. Newspapers, broadsides, etc.

Related Collections

Another collection at the Vermont Historical Society that includes material about the woman's suffrage movement in Vermont is the Mary Grace Canfield Papers (Doc 419). There is also a broadside advertising a speech by Annette Parmelee (Bside D 324.3 P24). Other information can be found in the card catalog and Brigham index under the heading Woman--Suffrage.

Inventory

I. Correspondence

MSC 144:1	Correspondence, n.d.
2	_____, n.d.
3	_____, 1904

- 4 _____, 1907
 5 _____, 1908
 6 _____, 1909
 7 _____, 1910
 8 _____, 1911
 9 _____, 1912
 10 _____, 1913
 11 _____, 1914
 12 _____, 1915 January-March
 13 _____, 1915 April-December
 14 _____, 1916
 15 _____, 1917 January-April
 16 _____, 1917 May-December
 17 _____, 1918 January-August
 18 _____, 1918 September-October
 19 _____, 1918 November
 20 _____, 1918 December
 21 _____, 1919 January-February
 22 _____, 1919 March-June
 23 _____, 1919 July-August
 24 _____, 1919 September-December
 25 _____, 1920 January-March
 26 _____, 1920 April 2-10
 27 _____, 1920 April 10-17
 28 _____, 1920 April 18-30
 29 _____, 1920 May-December
 30 _____, 1921
 31 _____, 1922
 32 _____, 1923

II. Lists

- 33 Unidentified list
 34 _____
 35 Lists of names and some addresses, mostly women, from Addison
 County
 36 _____, Bennington County
 37 _____, Caledonia County
 38 _____, Chittenden County
 39 _____, Franklin County
 40 _____, Grand Isle County
 41 _____, Lamoille County
 42 _____, Orleans County
 43 _____, Rutland County
 44 _____, Washington County
 45 _____, Windham County
 46 _____, Windsor County
 MSC 145:1 Vermont Equal Suffrage Association, membership lists
 2 _____, membership book

III. Suffrage publications

- 3 Vermont Equal Suffrage Association, reports
- 4 _____, publications
- 5 _____, yearbook, 1915
- 6 _____, convention, 1920
- 7 "Vermont Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage," circular, 1919
- 8 "Progress in Vermont, by Anna Hawke Putnam, article from [*Woman Citizen?*]
- 9 Suffrage pamphlets presented by Katherine Mackay
- 10 Suffrage publications: *Life*, vol. 62, no. 1616, October 16, 1913 (pro-suffrage number); *The Elm Tree Monthly and Spirit of the Age*, letter to editor by Ann Batchelder, n.d.; *Zion's Herald*, May 31, 1916. Excerpts including information on woman's suffrage; Excerpt from unnamed publication with article, "Franchise," by Mrs. Annette W. Parmelee; Excerpt from *The Union Signal*, May 30, 1912, "Will Vermont Women Come into their Own?" by Mrs. Annette W. Parmelee;

IV. Political and legislative work

- 11 Ratification survey, by Mrs. L. H. Olzendam
 - 12 Legislative work, 1883-1909, collected by A. Parmelee
 - 13 _____, 1914-1915, collected by A. Parmelee
 - 14 _____, 1916-1917, collected by A. Parmelee
 - 15 _____, 1919, collected by A. Parmelee
 - 16 _____, 1919, collected by A. Parmelee
 - 17 Bills and resolutions of Vermont legislature, 1910-1921
 - 18 Vermont legislative guides, 1908, 1918, 1919
 - 19 Constitution of the State of Vermont (1913 printing)
 - 20 Vermont legislature, voting, etc.
 - 21 _____, petition for special session, 1919
 - 22 _____, 1919-1921
- MSC 146:1 Addison County, petition
- 2 Bennington County
 - 3 Caledonia County
 - 4 Chittenden County
 - 5 Franklin County
 - 6 Franklin County
 - 7 Grand Isle County
 - 8 Lamoille County
 - 9 Orange County
 - 10 Orange County
 - 11 Rutland County
 - 12 Orleans County
 - 13 Washington County
 - 14 Washington County
 - 15 Washington County
 - 16 Windham County
 - 17 Windham County
 - 18 Windsor County

- 19 Windsor County
- 20 Windsor County
- 21 Windsor County
- 22 Petitions, ca. 1920

V. Suffrage organizations (other than Vermont Equal Suffrage Association)

- MSC 145:23 Woodstock Suffrage Study Club, constitution, 1917-1918
- 24 Woodstock Civics Club, constitution, by-laws, 1919
- 25 Suffrage publicity, etc., state and national
- 26 Windsor County (Vermont) Convention, broadsides
- 27 Suffrage conventions, state, regional, national, international, ca. 1918-1920
- 28 Woman's Christian Temperance Union, publications
- 29 National Voters League
- 30 Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage publications
- 31 United Suffragettes of America, *American Suffragette*
- 32 National American Woman Suffrage Association, National Woman Suffrage Publishing Co., Inc.
- 33 National American Woman Suffrage Association, press releases, 1919-1920
- 34 National League of Women Voters, ca. 1920-1923
- 35 League of Women Voters Constitution, 1920
- 36 Suffrage conventions, state, regional, national, ca. 1918-1920
- 37 Sample ballots
- 38 Photographs of Mary Garrett Hay
- 39 Miscellaneous

VI. Newspapers, broadsides, etc.

- Ms Size B *The Advance*, vol. 1, no. 17, May 9, 1914 (2 copies--very fragile)
- The Woman Citizen*, vol. 4, no. 41, May 1, 1920 (fragment)
- The Woman Citizen*, vol. 3, no. 39, February 22, 1919
- The Union Signal*, vol. 38, no. 22, May 30, 1912 (2 copies)
- The Vermont Advance*, vol. 2, no. 40, October 16, 1915 (3 copies)
- The Woman's Journal*, vol. 40, no. 40, October 2, 1909
- _____, vol. 38, no. 25, June 22, 1907
- _____, vol. 40, no. 21, May 22, 1909
- _____, vol. 48, no. 11, March 17, 1917
- _____, vol. 48, no. 7, February 17, 1917
- _____, vol. 48, no. 1, January 6, 1917
- Excerpt from *The Sunday American*, October 24, 1915 (advertisement for woman suffrage)
- The Bethel Courier*, vol. 46, no. 50-2442, September 9, 1920
- Rochester Herald*, vol. 46, no. 50-2442, September 9, 1920
- The Jeffersonville Sentinel*, vol. 12, no. 34, September 8, 1920
- Herald and News*, vol. 46, no. 50-2442, September 9, 1920
- Burlington Daily Free Press*, vol. 70, no. 264, November 4, 1910 (fragment)
- New England Farmer*, vol. 14, No. 17, April 23, 1859
- Vermont Home Guards*, vol. 27, no. 2, February 1910

-
- _____, vol. 27, no. 3, March 1910 (2 copies)
_____, vol. 30, no. 12, December 1912
_____, vol. 31, no. 2, February 1913 (2 copies)
_____, vol. 31, no. 10, October 1913
Broadside: Orange County Suffrage Convention
MSC 146:23 Newspaper clippings, n.d.
24 _____, 1907
25 _____, 1908
26 _____, 1909
27 _____, 1910
28 _____, 1911
29 _____, 1912
30 _____, 1913
31 _____, 1914
32 _____, 1915
33 _____, 1916
34 _____, 1917
35 _____, 1917
36 _____, 1918
37 _____, 1918
38 _____, 1918
39 _____, 1919
40 _____, 1920
41 _____, 1921
42 _____, 1922
43 _____, 1926
44 _____, 1927

October 10, 2007