

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, GEORGIA COLLECTION, 1890 - 1895, 1911 - 1920, 1944, 1958 - 1959 AND 1964. .5 cu. ft. and oversized storage.

Donors: League of Women Voters of Atlanta; Eleanore Raoul Greene; Lethea Turman Lochridge; others.

This collection primarily includes records of the Georgia Woman's Suffrage Association (correspondence, printed material, constitution and by-laws); the Equal Suffrage Party of Georgia (correspondence and printed material); and the Central Committee of Woman Citizens [Atlanta] (correspondence, minutes, membership lists, printed material). Included also are 1913 - 1919 clippings concerning women's suffrage in Georgia, printed material of various national women's suffrage organizations, copies of articles from the *Georgia Historical Society Quarterly* on women's suffrage in Georgia, and copies of the Eleanore Raoul Greene scrapbooks, 1964, honoring her 1919 founding of the Central Committee of Woman Citizens.

In May 1919, women were granted the vote in the white primary of Atlanta by the city Democratic Executive Committee (composed of men from each ward who regulated voting practices in the municipal primary). The records suggest that the women involved in these groups focused their attention on the registration and voting of white women. Under the direction of Eleanore Raoul [Mrs. Harry L. Greene], the Central Committee of Woman Citizens was involved with mass publicity (and some mass meetings) about the registration of women to vote in Atlanta. She was also very active in the administration of the work of the Atlanta League of Women Voters, which was founded in 1920, one month before the founding of the national organization. The Atlanta League was an out-growth of the Central Committee, composed of many of the same women. Miss Raoul's political insight and astuteness in both the Central Committee and the Atlanta League provided an invaluable source of direction to women in the initiative for suffrage and representative government. She wrote in May 1919 that since the granting of women's suffrage in the municipal primary was not a "chartered right," she did not heartily endorse this limited suffrage privilege. By 1922, the Atlanta League was involved with massive publicity about the need for a revised city charter for Atlanta.

The term "Atlanta League of Women Voters" has an interesting background. The June 3, 1919, minutes of the Central Committee of Woman Citizens record a motion "to change the name Atlanta League of Women Voters which was purely of newspaper origin to the Central Committee of Woman Citizens." The Central Committee continued to function under that name until the Atlanta League of Women Voters was founded after the ratification of the Woman Suffrage Amendment in 1920. For the purposes of the Georgia Archives collections, the Atlanta League is termed the "League of Women Voters of Atlanta."

The records in the collection document some of activities of the various women's suffrage organizations in Georgia and indicate their affiliations with national women's suffrage organizations. Information on the following organizations is included:

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF WOMAN CITIZENS [Atlanta]. This organization was sometimes called the Central Committee of the Women Voters League. Eleanore Raoul, chairman. The minutes and correspondence document a lengthy deliberation with the city Democratic Executive Committee concerning the registration funds received by the city from the registration of women to vote. The Central Committee understood that a representative "Central Committee" of women was to be formed to register women and that the proceeds would be spent for a worthy civic cause. The city, however, held the over \$3000 registration fund, and legal litigation over the fund continued for over 10 years. (See also, League of Women Voters of Atlanta Records, Series 11, folder 27, concerning the 1930 litigation.)

EQUAL SUFFRAGE PARTY OF GEORGIA. Organized in 1914. Mrs. Emily MacDougald, President *ca.* 1915 - 1918. Mrs. W.G. Raoul was also involved with this organization. By 1915, there were about 2000 members. Correspondence files in this collection indicate that this organization was affiliated with the National American Woman Suffrage Association. They also indicate that Mrs. MacDougald was involved with the issue of municipal suffrage, *ca.* 1915.

FULTON COUNTY SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION. Mrs. A. G. Helmer, chairman. May 11, 1919, correspondence from Eleanore Raoul indicates that this association quietly canvassed members of the Democratic Executive Committee to obtain support for municipal suffrage in Atlanta and arranged to call an extra meeting of the committee where suffrage was granted to women voting in the 1919 Atlanta municipal election. No minutes or other records of this organization, however, are located with this collection.

GEORGIA WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION. Organized in 1890 by H. Augusta Howard of Columbus. She arranged to bring the annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association to Atlanta in 1895. Mrs. Mary Latimer. McLendon was president of the Georgia Woman's Suffrage Association *ca.* 1915 - 1918. The collection includes various records of this organization.

GEORGIA WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEAGUE. Organized in 1913, composed of teachers and business women. Mrs. Frances Smith Whiteside, sister of Hoke Smith, was involved with this League. The collection includes an August, 1916, letter from Mrs. Smith of this organization to Carrie Chapman Catt concerning the work of the League. At this time, Mrs. A.G. Helmer, cited above, was listed as the auditor of the organization; Ethel Merk was listed as the treasurer.

The collection also contains minimal correspondence and/or information about these Georgia women's suffrage organizations:

Bibb County Equal Suffrage Party
Equal Suffrage League of Augusta
Muscogee County Equal Franchise League
Rome Woman Suffrage Association

This collection documents some of the contact these groups had with the national women's suffrage organizations. In 1890, the American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman Suffrage Association combined to form the NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN

SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION (NAWSA). Their publication was titled, *The Woman Citizen*. Rose Young was editor in 1919; contributing editors included Alice Stone Blackwell and Carrie Chapman Catt. The collection includes correspondence of NAWSA, particularly with Mary Sumner Boyd of the NAWSA Data Department which conducted research concerning states' suffrage laws, suffrage activities, and state legislation concerning women. This organization was affiliated with the INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE and the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

See also these related records in the Georgia Archives: League of Women Voters of Atlanta Records, 1920-1963; League of Women Voters of Georgia Records, 1920 - 2008; Ethel Merk Papers, 1915-1916; Women's Equality Day Rally Records, 1981; and Robert L. Rodgers Collection, 1872-1927 (contains anti-women's suffrage broadsides).

FOLDER

1 Correspondence of Georgia Suffrage Organizations, 1911 - 1918

Primarily records of the Georgia Woman's Suffrage Association and the Equal Suffrage Party of Georgia. Also included are telegrams of congratulations from NAWSA about the 1916 women's suffrage parade in Atlanta, correspondence from NAWSA about legislative data concerning women in Georgia, and one undated letter to Mrs. S.B. Turman (later very active in the League of Women Voters of Atlanta) from the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, New York.

2 Correspondence of Georgia Suffrage Organizations, 1919 - 1920 and undated

Includes telegrams of congratulations from NAWSA to Emily MacDougald and from other groups to the city Democratic Executive Committee concerning the May, 1919, granting of suffrage to women in the Atlanta municipal election. Includes also correspondence of Eleanore Raoul of the Central Committee of Woman Citizens concerning the organization of the 1919 registration drive for women, the mechanics of summer mass meetings, and suggestions for the use of the registration fund; correspondence between Emily MacDougald and Carrie Chapman Catt of NAWSA; and letters of support from public officials and other citizens to representatives of women's suffrage groups.

3 Minutes of the Central Committee of Woman Citizens, 1919

Contains records concerning the registration of women for the municipal primary in Atlanta dating from May (when the Democratic Executive Committee ruled that women could vote in the primary) to August 5 (deadline for registration). Contains also some legislative information, names of ward and other leaders of the Central Committee, proceedings of meetings, finance records, and information concerning mass meetings and the use of the registration funds.

4 Membership Lists of the Central Committee of Woman Citizens, ca. 1919 and undated

The membership lists cite members' names, addresses, and telephone numbers.

FOLDER

5 Reports on Women's Suffrage in Georgia, ca. 1911 - 1919

Contains reports and essays or texts of speeches concerning the 1911 status of equal suffrage in Georgia; typed transcriptions of 1915 press releases/news articles; 1919 report or press release from NAWSA concerning municipal suffrage in Atlanta and elsewhere; compilations of Georgia laws affecting women; a brief history of the Equal Suffrage Party of Georgia by Mrs. Emily MacDougald; and other essays/speeches concerning the registration fund and voting for women.

6 Printed Material of Georgia Women's Suffrage Organizations, 1890, 1894, 1919, and undated

Contains broadsides printed by the Equal Suffrage Party of Georgia and the Central Committee of Woman Citizens; suffrage handbills; and one-leaf printed items of the Georgia Woman Suffrage Organization including constitution, by-laws, and the following printed articles: Hon. Walter B. Hill on *Woman Suffrage*, undated, and *Prominent Men in Favor of Woman Suffrage*, October, 1894. Also included are official ballots of the September 3, 1919, Atlanta white primary, possibly prepared by the Central Committee to be posted prior to voting, a function later implemented by the League of Women Voters of Atlanta. (See also oversized folder, 053).

7 Printed material of National Women's Suffrage Organizations, 1891 - 1895, 1916, 1919, and undated

Contains programs and broadsides of the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company and the Woman's International League; leaflets of the National Woman's Party by Mary Beard and Florence Kelly; and other items printed by NAWSA's *Woman's Journal* of Boston and the National Birth Control League. Also ribbons worn at the 27th NAWSA convention held in Atlanta, 1895. Filed here is a report of a subcommittee of the U.S. Committee on the Judiciary, which met in 1894 to consider a resolution on a constitutional amendment to allow women to vote. The remarks of several women, including Augusta Howard, are printed (annotated).

8 Georgia and National Women's Suffrage Publications, 1893, 1913, 1915, and undated

Contains the following pamphlets: *Objections Answered* by Alice Stone Blackwell of NAWSA, 1913; *Fulton and DeKalb Counties Branch of the Equal Suffrage Party of Georgia Yearbook*, 1915; *The Subjection of Women* and *The Enfranchisement of Women* by Mrs. William H. Felton of Cartersville, 1915; and *Woman Suffrage, Arguments and Results*, a bound compilation of small pamphlets published by NAWSA. Also an 1893 (Nov.) issue of *Woman's Progress* (v. II, #2) with an article by Augusta Howard on women's suffrage in Georgia.

9 Miscellaneous Printed Women's Suffrage Information, 1911 - 1918 and undated

Contains parts of NAWSA's printed minutes concerning Georgia, information from *New Southern Citizen* about suffrage in Georgia, information about Georgia suffrage legislation, part of *Suffrage in the Southern States* containing printed photographs of Georgia Equal Suffrage Party leaders, and other items.

FOLDER

10 Georgia Women's Suffrage Clippings, pages 1 - 29, 1913 - 1918

The very fragile scrapbook clippings in this collection were photocopied for preservation purposes. The majority contain source citations. Clippings in folders 10-13 are primarily from Atlanta newspapers.

11 Georgia Women's Suffrage Clippings, pages 30 - 79, 1919, January - May.

12 Georgia Women's Suffrage Clippings, pages 80 - 121, 1919, May - July.

13 Georgia Women's Suffrage Clippings, pages 122 - 168, 1919, July - September.

14 Georgia Women's Suffrage Clippings from National Publications, pages 169 - 199, 1916 - 1919.

These clippings are grouped together because they appear to be from *New Southern Citizen* and *Woman Citizen*, publications not printed on the highly acidic newsprint used by newspapers. Most are dated but cite no publication source.

15 Georgia (Non-Atlanta) Women's Suffrage Clippings, pages 201 - 216, 1914 - 1919.

These items concern suffrage activity in Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Savannah, and other cities.

16 Eleanore Raoul Greene Scrapbooks, 1964.

Contains clippings, correspondence, and other material collected around the 1964 "Eleanore Raoul Greene Day" honoring her as the 1919 founder of the Central Committee of Woman Citizens. Miss Raoul [Mrs. Harry L. Greene], was a 1920 graduate of Emory University Law School.

17 "...Woman Suffrage Movement in Georgia," 1944, 1958, 1959, by A. Elizabeth Taylor.

Comprehensive articles by Taylor from the *Georgia Historical Society Quarterly* concerning three phases of the women's suffrage movement in Georgia, 1895 - 1921.

Oversize

o-053 Oversize Women's Suffrage Publications, 1891 - 1894 and 1914 - 1919. Printed material, 8 items.

Includes *The Women's Tribune*, Washington, D.C., December 5, 1891, July 9, 1892 (incomplete), and February 19 - 20, 1894; *Virginia Suffrage News*, November 1914; and *The Suffragist*, official organ of the National Woman's Party, October 27, 1917.

Artifact

709 Woven cloth with Women's Suffrage inscription, n.d. This item measures 10 inches x 11 1/2 inches and contains the inscription: "Taxation Without Representation is Tyranny; Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Washington Vote for Women.