

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P. O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
The Woods Hole Womans Equal Suffrage League
1913 – 1915
1 box

The Woods Hole Woman's Equal Suffrage League

History

The Woods Hole Womans Equal Suffrage League was organized on August 21, 1913 at the home of Mrs. Gilman A. Drew. At that meeting, eight members met with Mrs. Glendower Evans, who gave them "aid and advice" on organizing the League. Mabel C Robinson was elected the first president and Emilie B. Howes the first Secretary/Treasurer. It was not until November 2, 1914 that the League adopted its constitution and by-laws. Article 2 of the constitution stated, "The object of the League shall be to advance the cause of equal franchise and to aid any work that leads to better citizenship in general." On July 6, 1914, even before the adoption of that article, the League moved to advance their cause by calling "upon the House of Representatives to make an immediate and favorable report upon House Resolution 514, providing time for consideration of the Suffrage Amendment." At the same time, it resolved to call "upon the Senators from this state to use every effort to secure passage of the Suffrage Amendment (Bristow Resolution) in the United States Senate this session." Also to advance their cause, the members of the League engaged in the canvassing of Barnstable county, distribution of Suffragette literature, and sponsoring speakers in both Woods Hole and Falmouth. Many these activities would have been directed toward the November 2, 1915 election. In this election, male voters in Massachusetts were asked to decide on an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution that would strike the word "male" from the article that gave men the right to vote. By nearly a two-to-one margin, the men voted "no." The WHHC has no meeting minutes beyond August 3, 1915. Therefore, it has no record of the League's response to this vote nor of how or when the League disbanded.

Scope

This collection includes a Record Book which contains a membership list, the meeting minutes from August 21, 1913 to August 3, 1915, and an annual treasurer's report from August 21, 1913 to August 21, 1914. The ephemera of the collection, which dates from 1915, includes several receipts for club expenses and two letters to Ruth Crowell, the Secretary. One letter, from Harold C. Jones, informs Ruth of his favorable attitude toward woman's suffrage. Of particular interest may be several brochures published by the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, Inc.: *Better Babies* (nd), *Why Women Should Vote* (nd), and *Chivalry versus Justice – Why Women of the Nation Demand the Right to Vote* (April 1915). The only artifact of this collection is the **Vote "Yes"** suffragette banner.

The Woods Hole Womans Equal Suffrage League

Box 1

- 1-1 Record Book: containing Membership List; Meeting Minutes – August 21, 1913 to August 3, 1915; and Treasurer’s Report, August 21, 1913 to August 21, 1914. Handwritten ink original.
- 1-2. Appeal to Massachusetts’ Senators: written after the July 6, 1914 vote by League members to request “favorable consideration” by the Senators of a bill granting suffrage to women. Handwritten ink original.
- 1-3. Notes: secretary’s meeting notes and treasurer’s lists from various meetings. August 24, 1914 to August 3, 1915. Handwritten pencil originals.
- 1-4. Ephemera
 - a. Receipt: to Woods Hole Equal Suffrage League from Mass. Woman Suffrage Ass. for 14 members. January 1, 1915. Handwritten ink original.
 - b. Receipt: for 200 copies of the “Suffrage Edition” of the *Boston American*. April 9, 1915. Handwritten ink original.
 - c. Letter: to Ruth Crowell from Harold C. Jones regarding his favorable attitude toward woman’s suffrage. October 27, 1915. Handwritten ink original.
 - d. Receipt and note: to Ruth Crowell from Zilpha Emerson Wright regarding canvassing in Barnstable County. November 3, 1915. Handwritten ink original.
 - e. Letter: to Ruth Crowell, Secretary, from Lena S. Drew, President, regarding League business. December 6, 1915. Handwritten ink original.
 - f. Receipts: Six money order receipts issued by the Woods Hole Post Office used to pay for club expenses. 1915. Originals.
 - g. Negatives: 3 negatives – one of the cover and two of pages from the League record book (see 1-1).
- 1-5. Suffragette Literature and Broadsides.
 - a. Poem by Miss Julia Rogers. nd. 1 handwritten ink copy.
 - b. Brochure: *Better Babies*. New York City. National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, Inc. 1915(?). 1 original.
 - c. Brochure: Alice Stone Blackwell. *Why Women Should Vote*. New York City. National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, Inc. nd. 1 original.
 - d. Brochure: George Creel. *Chivalry versus Justice – Why the Women of the Nation Demand the Right to Vote*. New York. National Woman Suffrage

Company, Inc. April 1915. 1 original.

- e. Broadside: "Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Victory Parade – Instructions For Marchers." 1915(?). 2 originals.

1-6.. Artifact: Suffragette Banner - a 23" long blue and gold felt triangular banner with the words, Vote "Yes".

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