Iowa Women's Suffrage Collection. Records, 1868-1951. 9.5 cubic feet (22 containers).

ABSTRACT

This collection contains the records and documents related to the women's suffrage movement in Iowa and the efforts to commemorate the suffrage movement following successful enactment of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution. Included are records of a number of Iowa suffrage organizations such as the Iowa Women's Suffrage Society, the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association, the Iowa Suffrage Memorial Commission, the Iowa League of Women Voters, and the Des Moines Political Equality Club. In addition, the collection includes correspondence and other documents related to Carrie Chapman Catt, the Women's Centennial Congress and various journals and publications including The Revolution (1868-1870); The Woman's Column (1892); The Woman Citizen (1917-1918); The Woman's Standard (1886-1888); as well as several scrapbooks compiled by those active in the women's suffrage movement.

Arranged and described by Michelle McQuisten, Andrea Stanton and Dwight Saunders.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the suffrage movement in Iowa cover a time span of about seventy-five years. For most of that time—from about the Civil War days until the passage of the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment" in 1919—the primary efforts of Iowa suffrage groups and persons were aimed at securing an amendment to the state constitution which would permit women to vote in local and state elections. In the process of this struggle a number of local organizations were formed, mostly by women. There also was formed a state organization which, after a few name changes, became the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association. This organization generally assumed leadership of the suffrage movement in Iowa.
This collection contains a number of newspaper clippings of suffragist activities; a fairly large number of biographies of both well known and obscure suffragists; a number of bound volumes of periodicals published by various individuals and organizations, including a rare collection of Susan B. Anthony's journal *The Revolution*; a number of items concerning the history of the movement in Polk County; a considerable collection of correspondence by both organizations and persons; several scrapbooks, including one kept by Carrie Chapman Catt; several books of minutes and treasurer's reports of the various organizations; a modest number of photographs of suffragist workers; and a relatively large amount of miscellaneous items.

In addition to the documents directly relating to the period 1865-1919, there are a variety of other items. For example, when the amendment to the United States Constitution was passed in 1919, the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association (the primary state-wide organization) held a state convention and voted to conclude its existence. The assembled group then immediately reorganized and formed the Iowa League of Women Voters. As a result, the collection contains some of the early documents of the Iowa League of Women Voters. Moreover, a movement arose within the League of Women Voters to in some fashion prepare a suitable memorial to the persons—men and women—who had struggled for women's suffrage for so many years. This project quickly grew beyond both the mandate and the capacity of the League, and there evolved a quasi-state organization called the Iowa Suffrage Memorial Commission, which eventually had a rather large bas relief created and placed in the halls of the State Capitol Building. The documents associated with the operations of the Iowa Suffrage Memorial Commission are included in this collection.

And finally, in 1940 there was held a "Women's Centennial Congress" to commemorate the hundred years of struggle for women's suffrage, and a rather full report of this activity is also included in the records found in this total collection.

**RELATED MATERIAL**

A significant number of photographs of women suffrage advocates has been removed from this collection and placed in the State Historical Society of Iowa's photograph collection in Des Moines. Please refer to the photograph collection finding aid for information on these photographs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folders 1-14:</th>
<th>Folders 15-17:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Women's suffrage correspondence, 1869-1920. [includes letter from Susan B. Anthony to Caroline Ingham, June 4, 1876]</td>
<td>Iowa Equal Suffrage Association, 1904-1919.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings (photocopies), 1870-1936.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 14A: Newspaper clippings: Susan B. Anthony.

Box 2 (cont.)


Box 3
Folders 1-17: Miscellaneous reports, speeches, etc. (There is a folder index in the box.)

Box 4
Folders 1-9: History of Polk County Suffrage, newspaper clippings (Originals and photocopies).
Folder 11: Des Moines Political Equality Club: articles of incorporation and bylaws, May 2, 1912.
Folder 12: Des Moines Political Equality Club: minutes, 1912-1913.
Folder 13: The Woman's Hour, 1877-1878.
Folder 14: Essay: 1919 Ratification of the National Suffrage Amendment.
Folder 15: Index of Polk County History, as compiled by the Iowa Suffrage Memorial Commission.
Folder 16: "Women Pioneers of Polk County" by Mary Ankeny Hunter (photocopy).

Box 5
History of Polk County Suffrage
Folders 1-7A: Political Equality Club: treasurer's reports and minutes, 1884-1919.
Folder 10: Pamphlets, speeches, etc. (No dates)

Box 6
Folders 1-12A: Various Iowa Local Organizations.
Folders 17-29: History of Iowa Suffrage Movement.

Box 7
Biographical files on notable women’s suffrage supporters
[files include one portrait except where noted otherwise]

Folder 1: Anderson, Joseph H.
Folder 2: Anderson, Orissa Kiziah [no portrait]
Folder 3: Anthony, Susan B. [no portrait]
Folder 4: Ballard, Mary Adelaide
Folder 5: Barnett, Eunice Sherman Tabor
Folder 6: Belden, Evelyn Humphry
Folder 7: Bemis, Narcisse T.
Folder 8: Blackwell, Alice Stone
Folder 9: Blackwell, Henry B.
Folder 10: Bloomer, Amelia Jenks and Dexter [portrait: Dexter only]
Folder 11: Branner, Virginia M. [no portrait]

Box 7 (cont.)

Folder 12: Callanan, James
Folder 13: Callanan, Martha C.
Folder 14: Campbell, Margaret W.
Folder 15: Carrell, Marie McCarthy [no portrait]
Folder 16: Catt, Carrie Chapman [2 portraits]
Folder 17: Coggeshall, Mary Jane
Folder 18: Crowley, Lillian Hall
Folder 19: Devitt, Pauline Lewelling [portrait of Devitt with children “taken to prove suffragists have children”]
Folder 20: Dewey, Victoria Josephine
Folder 21: Dickey, Carrie Harvison (Dr.)
Folder 22: Dugdale, Joseph (Rev.) and Ruth [portrait of the couple]
Folder 23: Dunlap, Flora
Folder 24: Eckerson, Ruby Jane
Folder 25: Evans, Harriet Belvel
Folder 26: Garfield, Mary W.
Folder 27: Glass, John P. (Mrs.) [no portrait]
Folder 28: Gordon, Eleanor E. (Rev.)
Folder 29: Griffiths, Henry Holcombe
Folder 30: Gue, Elizabeth Parker and Benjamin [portrait of each]
Folder 31: Haines, Ellen Wister [portrait with children]
Folder 32: Hallam, Julia Clark
Folder 33: Harbert, Elizabeth Boynton [no portrait]
Folder 34: “Hardin County Pioneer Suffragists” [portraits of Mrs. Anna C. Hoag, Mrs. C.H. Packard, Mrs. Lois Oviatt McMillen]
Folder 35: Harlan, Edgar R.
Folder 36: Harpel, Almeda Brenton
Folder 37: Harvison, Carrie Catlin
Folder 38: Henely, Louise Miller [no portrait]
Folder 39: Hunter, Mary Ankeny [3 portraits and photo of “first suffrage parade in Minneapolis (1914)” in which Hunter participated]
Folder 40: Hunter, Eliza Heaton
Folder 41: Ingham, Caroline A.
Folder 42: Ingham, Harvey
Folder 43: Kennedy, Myrtle Lloyd
Folder 44: Lawther, Anna Bell [no portrait]
Folder 45: Lingenfelter, Corinne Coggeshall
Folder 46: Melson-Crummer, Kate Henderson
Folder 47: Miller, Clara Allyn
Folder 48: Miller, Lola Brown
Folder 49: Noble, Nelle Sparks (Dr.)
Folder 50: O’Connor, Henry and John P. Irish (portrait of each)
Folder 51: Porter, M.W. (Mrs.), M.D. [no portrait]
Folder 52: Read, Lizzie B.
Folder 53: Rourke, Ellen M.
Folder 54: Safford, Mary Augusta (Rev.) [2 portraits]
Folder 55: Shaw, Anna Howard
Folder 56: Stanton, Elizabeth Cady [3 portraits]
Folder 57: Stevens, Rowena Edson [no portrait]
Folder 58: Stone, Lucy
Folder 59: Taft, Mary Burnham and Stephen Harris [no portraits]
Folder 60: Walker, Nellie Verne [1 portrait, 1 photo of Walker in her studio, and photos of sculptures: a) memorial marking Lincoln’s point of entry to Illinois, b) “Her Son”, and c) marine from Polish-American Memorial]
Folder 61: Welsh, Mary Beaumont
Folder 62: Work, Mary A. [no portrait]

Box 8
Folders 1-4: Iowa Women's Suffrage Society and Iowa Equal Suffrage Association: minutes, rosters and treasurer's reports, 1887-1912.
Folders 5-6: Iowa Equal Suffrage Association: minutes, rosters, miscellaneous records.
Folder 7: Boone (Iowa) suffrage parade, 1908 (with photographs).
Folder 8: Iowa Equal Suffrage Association Board: 1915 photograph.

Box 9
Folders 1-6: Iowa Women's Suffrage Association: minutes and treasurer's reports, 1903-1917.
Folder 7: Annual Programs, 1905-1919.

Box 10
Folders 1-12: Iowa Equal Suffrage Association: miscellaneous records, reports, legislative reports, receipts, and subscription lists of The Woman's Standard.

Box 11
Folders 1-15: Carrie Chapman Catt's correspondence, 1916-1915; various articles, pamphlets, and speeches; and her teacher's record book.

Box 12

Box 13
Folders 1-11: Various publications, pamphlets, and pro and anti suffrage materials:
Folders 1-4: Pamphlets.
Folder 5: Traveling "Kampaign Kit" of suffrage literature.
Folder 6: Suffrage Songs.
Folder 7: The Woman's Calendar, no date.
Folder 8: Peace Conference Book, no date.
Folder 9: Anti-suffrage materials.
Folder 10-11: Anti-suffrage

IOWA SUFFRAGE MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Box 14
Folder 1: History of Commission.
Folder 2: Preliminary plans for the commission.
Folder 3: Articles of incorporation.
Folder 4: Bylaws of commission.
Folders 5-6A: Fundraising plans.
Folder 7: Secretary's book.
Folder 8-9: Various minutes and reports, 1920-1938.
Folder 10: Miscellaneous papers, plans, and listings.
Folder 11: Miscellaneous financial information.
Folder 12: Materials for 1922 *Annals of Iowa* article.

Box 15
Folders 1-10: Correspondence, 1920-May 1936.

Box 16
Folders 1-7: Correspondence, June 1936-1951.
Folder 8: Correspondence, no date.
Folders 9-15: Correspondence with Nellie Walker, sculptor.
Folder 16: Program for dedication of the bas relief, May 10, 1936.
Folder 17: Dedicatory materials and records.

BIOGRAPHIES (See also Box 7)

Box 17
Folders 1-9: Biographical information for many Iowa suffragists, collected by the Iowa Suffrage Memorial Commission.
Folder 10: Miscellaneous and fragmentary biographical information.

IOWA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Box 18
Folder 1: Financial data.
Folder 2: Correspondence regarding a memorial tablet, 1916-1931.
Folder 3: Correspondence, 1931-1937.
Folder 4: Lists of Iowa suffragists.
Folder 5: National Convention, 1923 (Des Moines, Iowa.)

WOMEN'S CENTENNIAL CONGRESS (November 25-27, 1940)
Box 19
Folder 1: Facsimiles and newspaper clippings, 1838-1941.
Folder 2: Newsletters, program, banquet attendees, purpose of meeting.
Folder 3: Reports and speeches.
Box 19 (cont.)
Folder 4: Proceedings (213 pages); programs.
Folder 5: Reports for discussion: world peace, ethical and religious values, education.
Folder 6: Correspondence, January-November 1940.

Box 20
Miscellaneous Items:
Item 1: Woman's Suffrage Scrapbook by W.R. Cole, 1880.

Box 21
Miscellaneous Items:
Item 1: The Woman Citizen, October 27, 1917; March 16-December 28, 1918. This was the official organ of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. (Bound volume)
Items 2-4: The Revolution, Volumes I through V, 1868-1870. A weekly publication about women's issues, published by Susan B. Anthony. (Bound volumes)
Item 5: The Woman's Column, Volume V, 1892. This was a weekly newspaper sent free to newspapers, or sold for 25 cents per year to subscribers. Started in 1888. The editor was Alice Stone Blackwell.

Box 22
Miscellaneous Items - Scrapbooks:
Item 1: Eleanor C. Stockman scrapbook, 1899-1920.
Item 2: Virginia Branner scrapbook, 1911-1912.
Item 3: Newspaper clippings scrapbook, August and September, 1913. This item was probably put together by the Des Moines office of the Iowa Women's Suffrage Association.
Item 4: Anna B. Lawther, Scrapbook of "Circular Letters", 1916-1917. This is a collection of letters sent to various groups and persons in Iowa, mostly from the state headquarters of the Iowa Women's Suffrage Association which was then located in Davenport.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (OVERSIZED MATERIALS)

Oversized Box 23
Item 1: Scrapbook, 1915. No creator identified.
Please use microfilm version of *The Woman’s Standard* which is available in the State Historical Society reading room:
**LC number:** *JK1880.W63*

**Items 2-3:** *The Woman’s Standard.* Vol. 1 (September 1886) through Vol. IV (August 1888). A monthly publication and official organ of the Iowa Women's Suffrage Association. Editor: Mary J. Coggeshall. Published at Des Moines, Iowa. (Bound volumes)

**Oversized Box 24**

Item 1: Article about Carrie Chapman Catt from *Fashion Review,* January 1918.
Item 2: Anti-suffrage cartoon, and (reverse) "Facts and Figures."
Item 3: Photocopies of anti-suffrage materials.
Item 4: Anti-suffrage materials (originals).
Item 5: "Anti-Suffrage Notes."
Item 9: Susan B. Anthony: poster.