



Kentucky Suffragists Primary Source Packet



**KENTUCKY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**





Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies

Fourth Grade:

4.C.RR.1 Describe the importance of civic participation and locate examples in the past and current events.

4.C.PR.1 Describe the processes people use to change rules and laws.

Eighth Grade:

8.C.RR.1 Analyze the role of citizens in the U.S. political system, with attention to the definition of who is a citizen, expansion of that definition over time and changes in participation over time.

8.C.RR.3 Analyze how groups in the United States have challenged Constitutional provisions, laws and court rulings denying them the rights of citizens.

High School:

HS.C.RR.2 Explain how active citizens can affect the lawmaking process locally, nationally internationally.

HS.UH.CH.1 Examine the ways diverse groups viewed themselves and contributed to the identity of the United States in the world from 1877-present.

HS.C.KGO.3 Describe how active citizens can affect change in their communities and Kentucky.

HS.C.PR.2 Analyze the role of elections, bureaucracy, political parties, interest groups and media in shaping public policy.

HS. C.CV.3 Analyze the impact of the efforts of individuals and reform movements on the expansion of civil rights and liberties locally, nationally and internationally.





Brief Historical Overview

Laura White (1852-1929), an Ashland woman, was involved in the women's suffrage movement in Kentucky. Laura attended Science Hill Female Academy before she graduated from the University of Michigan in 1874 as part of the first class of women.

A practicing architect, she continued her education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Sorbonne in Paris, France. After her father passed away in 1875, Laura moved closer to home to help her family. She served as the chairperson of the state Peace Party during the 1910s. Correspondence in the collection suggests that she wrote poetry for publication and was once employed in an office in Washington, D.C. She was acquainted with Susan Look Avery (1817-1915), the founder of the Women's Club of Louisville, as well as Laura Clay (1849-1941), a prominent suffragist.





Primary Source Reference Guide

Source 1: What the Kentucky Equal Rights Association Has Done and What it Proposes to Do, 1896. Accession Number MSS23_Box1_FF10_02.

Source 2: Susan Look Avery to Laura White Letter, July 27, 1912. Accession Number MSS23_Box1_FF02_06.

Source 3: Newspaper clipping from an unknown newspaper. Accession Number MSS23_Box1_FF08_03_01.

Source 4: Susan Look Avery to Laura White Letter, July 7th, 1913. Accession Number MSS23_Box1_FF02_09.

Source 5: Laura Clay to Laura White Letter, February 26, 1915. Accession Number MSS23_Box1_FF02_14.



WHAT
—THE—
KENTUCKY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
HAS DONE
—AND—
WHAT IT PROPOSES TO DO.

In 1888 the Kentucky Equal Rights Association was organized for the purpose of obtaining for women equality with men in educational, industrial, legal and political rights.

We found on the statute books a law that permitted a husband to collect his wife's wages.

We found Kentucky the only State that did not permit a married woman to make a will.

We found that marriage gave to the husband all the wife's personal property, which could be reduced to possession, and the use of all her real estate, owned at the time or acquired by her after marriage, with power to rent the same for not more than three years at a time and receive the rent.

We found that the common law of curtesy and dower prevailed whereby, on the death of the wife the husband inherited absolutely all personalty not hitherto reduced to possession, and when there were children, a life interest in all her real estate; while the wife, when there were children, inherited one-third of her husband's personalty and a life interest in one-third of his real estate possessed during marriage.

I. In 1890 we secured a law which made the wife's wages payable only to herself.

II. From the General Assembly of 1892-93 we secured a law giving a married woman the right to make a will and control her real estate.

III. From the General Assembly of 1894 we secured the enactment of the present righteous Husband and Wife law.

The main features of this law are :

1st. Courtesy and dower are equalized. After the death of either husband or wife, the survivor is given a life estate in one-third of the real estate of the deceased and an absolute estate in one-half of the personalty of such decedent.

2d. The wife has entire control of her property, real and personal. She owns her personal property absolutely and can dispose of it as she pleases. The Statute gives her the right to make contracts, and to sue and be sued as a single woman. This clause enables a married woman to enter business and hold her stock in trade free from the control of her husband and liability to his creditors.

3d. The power to make a will is the same in the husband as in the wife and neither can by will divest the other of dower or interest in his or her estate.

This triumph of justice is the result of years of labor devoted to the circulation of petitions and securing thousands of signatures, to the publication of leaflets and unnumbered newspaper articles, to public speeches, and a regular presentation of the work, by a committee, before the session of the Constitutional Convention and of the General Assembly.

This measure of justice would have been obtained with vastly less labor, had women possessed the ballots to elect representatives for themselves. Realizing this from the beginning we have labored to secure the right of suffrage for women. In this line of work we have achieved a triumph in the Charter of the Cities of the Second Class., viz: Covington, Newport and Lexington, whereby women are eligible to and may vote for the School Boards on the same terms as men.

IV. We have labored to secure the highest educational advantages for the young women of our State. Through the publication and distribution of literature, and by appeals to college authorities, we have succeeded in opening to women the doors of several colleges, which are now co-educational.

V. Finally by persistent effort, in conjunction with the W. C. T. U., we prevailed upon the General Assembly of 1896 to provide Houses of Reform for Juvenile Offenders, one for girls and one for boys, and that women shall be appointed on the Boards of Management of both institutions. This work should engage the hearty good will and co-operation of all benevolent persons who are brought in contact with vagrant and neglected children, and who would keep them out of the penitentiary, where the young are now confirmed in vice and crime by association with hardened offenders.

While after years of toil, we rejoice that we have been able to present these just laws to the women of Kentucky, we have been defeated in the General Assembly in our efforts to secure others:

1. To secure the humane measure of placing women physicians in the women's wards of the lunatic asylums, where helpless insane women are still denied the protection and care of physicians of their own sex. [One exception to our failure to effect this measure of humanity and justice is now happily to

be noted. Yielding to the petition of women of Lexington, the Senate, upon the nomination of the Governor, appointed a female physician on the staff of the Western Lunatic Asylum.]

2. Our efforts have been unavailing to raise "the age of consent" from twelve to eighteen years, and the law still throws upon a female child of twelve years of age the whole responsibility of protecting her personal purity from the licentious who would rob her of it.

3. Married mothers still have no legal share with their husbands in the control and care of their minor children, the present law even permitting a father by will to deprive his wife of the guardianship of her child after his death. The only mother who has a legal claim to her child, equal to that of the married father, is the woman whose offspring is the sign of her own shame.

4. We have unsuccessfully endeavored to secure a General School Suffrage law, so as to give the women an equal voice with the men in the control of public schools.

Though we have failed to effect these objects, we are not discouraged and shall not cease to petition the General Assembly, for all these are but steps to the crowning right of citizenship, and we shall not abate our efforts until the women of Kentucky possess the ballot which through the established channels of representation will give them a voice in making the laws that they are compelled to obey.

We appeal to all men and women who love justice to join our Association and assist us in obtaining the full measure of our rights, which is *complete equality before the law*.

All who desire further information can correspond with

MISS LAURA CLAY, *President Ky. E. R. A.*

78 N. Broadway, Lexington, Ky.

MRS. JOSEPHINE K. HENRY, *Supt. Legislative Work,*

Versailles, Ky.

MRS. SARAH H. SAWYER, *Supt. Literature,*

Wilmore, Ky.

PUBLISHED BY
KENTUCKY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

1896.

PRICE, 30 CENTS PER HUNDRED, POST PAID.

Saturday, July 27th 1912.
My dear Miss White,
Since we have a son
born living at 824 Fourth
St. Louisville. Miss Briggs
Miss Macdonald & I left
Louisville on the last morning
in May & reached Wyoming,
on mother Peach Creek (3 miles
away) where we staid, as
last year with friends, till
our house should be opened.
I hurried off from Erie
somewhat, to give Mrs. Rob-
inson better opportunity to pre-
pare for going abroad to
finish work wh. she began
last year. She had much
at heart. She sailed June
8th with Mrs. George

C. Avery & her daughter who
went immediately to their
home in France. Mrs. R.
has till now been with Mrs.
Shanklin in London. She
(Mrs Shanklin) sails to-day
for this dear home - our
summer home for fifty-five
summers. Sunday P.M.

Does your Oxboro brother
- my - law read The Woman's
Journal? Lucy Thomas paper
I hope so, for I think every
one who can afford the sub-
scription price (!) ought to do
so - to keep themselves thor-
oughly informed on all im-
portant subjects. I am glad
that you read The Public -
I am delighted that there
are women who are equal

2
ly interested with men
in the Single Tax on land
values. I hope you saw
read the article by Dr.
Mr. MacKendrick of Glas-
gow - Then I saw George
Commonwealth ad-
dress Sept. 10th - 1911 -
Miss Macdonald knew
Mr. MacKendrick & we
thought it a piece of
fun writing - Monday
July 29th - I wish it were
possible to talk - writing
is so slow a process.
I hope you are an ad-
mirer of Mr. Bryan & the
Commonwealth as I am. I
get that Mr. Bryan has

not thought enough on
W. Sup. to make him an
advocate. It does not
require much honest, com-
est thought, either perhaps
I should add unselfish to
the category! I am often ask-
ed how I like what the
suffragettes are doing in
England - to wh. I reply
"No better than they do."
I wish that those enough
interested to criticize them
would thoroughly inform
themselves.

I seldom have occasion
to specially guard my
equanimity, lest it be dis-
turbed! But when I first
learn from your ~~first~~ letter

of the ³ ~~un~~significant Con-
tribution of \$5. wh. Mrs.
Lusk made of my money
to my friend of many years
I do not know ^{what} ~~how~~ to think
or how to feel. - I have ^{always} ~~never~~
felt that the person who
was a very ignoble one
for giving. Mrs. L. has not
yet mentioned the matter
to me. It seems to me that
our federation of churches
begin a class in ethnic
teaching. Why?
When Mrs. L. appealed for
a contribution for the endow-
ment, I contributed at once.
I was not so well informed
then as now, in the attitude
of many of the prominent of-
ficials of the Federation.
She came to acknowledge

my contribution & in the
course of conversation she
told me that many of the
officials were anti suffrag-
ists. She doubted if a W.
Suf. who was being consid-
ered as a new president
could be elected simply
because the district in
wh. she lived was so strong-
ly in favor of U. Suf. - While
she herself was a W.S. she thought
we could not afford to an-
tagonize the anti's. Therefore
the W.S. are yielding their
principles to women who
have no principles. I told
Mrs. L. that if I had known
the lack of principle I should
not have given a penny to
the federation ^{in disregard of} principles.
ed an anti? I have not

yet written ²¹ To Miss Clay-
but shall soon -

I really find it difficult
to excuse an intelligent
woman who is not a
suffragist.

I must not write more -
That I am disturbed in-
militates me.

Have you seen The Cir-
cular for "A Woman's
public". I should never
waste a word or thought
on it. I believe that God
made virtuous men & women
to live & work together
I am always glad to hear
from you. With kindest re-
gard & best wishes I am
Susan Look Avery

Saturday July 27th, 1912

My dear Miss White,

Since when have you been living at 824 Fourth St. Louisville? Miss Briggs Miss Macdonald and I left Louisville on the last morning in May and reached Wyoming, or rather Pearl Creek (3 miles away) whom we staid, as last year with friends, till our house should be open and I hurried off from L'ville somewhat, to give Mrs. Robinson better support to prepare for going abroad to finish work which, she began last year and which she had much at heart. She sailed June 8th with Mrs. George C. Avery, and her daughter who went immediately to their home in France. Mrs. R. has till now been with Mrs. Shanklin in London. She (Mrs. Shanklin) sails today for this dear home and our summer home for fifty-five summers. Sunday P.M. Does your Owensboro brother-in-law read The Woman's Journal? Lucy Stones papers? I hope so, for I think every one who can afford the subscription price (!) ought to do so—to keep themselves thoroughly informed on all important subjects. I am glad that you read The Public I am delighted that there are women who are equally interested with men in the single tax on land values—I hope, you saw and read. The article by a Mr. MacKendrick of Glasgow—The Henry George Commemoration address Sept. 10th 1911—Miss Macdonald knowing Mr. MacKendrick and we thought it a piece of fine writing—Monday July 29th I wish it were possible to talk, writing is a slow a process! I hope you are an admirer of Mr. Bryan and The Commoner as I am. Ive [ineligible] that Mr. Bryan has not thought enough on W. Suf to make him an advocate It does not require much honest, earnest, thought, either perhaps I should add unselfish to the category! I am often asked how I like what the suffragettes are doing in England to who I reply “no better than they do”! I wish that those enough interested to criticize them would thoroughly inform themselves!



I seldom have occasion to specifically guard my equanimity lest it be disturbed! But when I first learn from your letter of the munificent contribution of \$5 which Mrs. Lench made of my money to my friend of many years I do not know what to think or how to feel—I have always felt that the honor matter was a very ignoble one for giving. Mrs. L has not yet mentioned the matter to me. It seems to me that our federation of clubs should begin a class in ethical teaching! Why?

When Mrs. L. appealed for a contribution for the endowment, I contributed at once—I was not so well informed then as now, in the attitude of many of the prominent officials of this federation.

She came to acknowledge my contribution and in the course of conversation she told me that many of the officials were anti suffragists—she doubted if a W. Suf who was being considered as a new President could be elected simply because the district in which she lived was so strong by in favor of W. Suf—While she herself was a W.S. she thought we could not afford to antagonize the antis. Therefore the W.S. are yielding their principles to women who have no principles. I told Mrs. L. that if I had known the lack of principles I should not have given a penny to the federation. They elected an anti! I have not yet written to Miss Clay—but shall soon--

I really find it difficult to excuse an intelligent woman who is not a W. Suffragist.

I must not write more—That I am disturbed humiliates me.

Have you seen the circular for “a womans Republic.” I should never waste a word or thought on it. I believe that God made and intended men and women to live and work together I am always glad to hear from you. With kindest regard and best wishes I am

Susan Look Avery



Kentucky Women Asked To Take Part In Suffrage Parade At Capital And Help To Bolster The Cause

[Special to The Herald.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—An appeal to Kentucky suffragists to come to Washington and march in the suffrage parade which is to take place here on March 3 has just been issued by Mrs. Genevieve F. Stone, wife of Representative Stone of Illinois, who holds the position of "organizer of delegations from the States."

One of the prime objects of the big suffrage demonstration that is to take place here is to bolster up the cause in States where it is now weak. As Kentucky has not been a pronounced suffrage State, it is hoped that the showing of strength at the Nation's capital will result in an appreciable strengthening of the movement in Kentucky.

Within the next few days Kentucky advocates of woman's right to vote will receive from Mrs. Stone a letter which is expected to waken Kentucky interest in the coming pageant. In this letter, Mrs. Stone will say:

"A woman suffrage procession will take place in Washington, D. C., on the afternoon of Monday, March 3, under

the auspices of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the suffrage societies of the District of Columbia.

"The procession has been planned for this time in order to take advantage of the host of spectators who will be gathered here from all parts of the country. Many will come from places where the suffrage movement is still weak. A great demonstration of strength, such as a procession affords, will probably do more than any other one thing to spread the suffrage cause in these regions.

"This is the first time that a national suffrage procession has been undertaken. It has a peculiar significance, not only because spectators will come from every part of the land, but also because it is to take place at the political center of the Nation.

"We hope that suffragists throughout the country will feel a responsibility for making this national procession a success and one which will bear comparison with the inaugural parade on the following day.

"As organizer of the delegations from the various States I am writing to ask that your society send a contingent to the procession and a banner to be carried at the head of your group. Please have the enclosed pledges filled out and mailed as soon as possible. Can you let me know at once about how many women we can count upon from your society and whether you can supply a banner?"

The letter asks for a contribution toward the cost of the procession.

"Washington women," it adds, "are endeavoring to provide hospitality for as many marchers as possible. Any one wishing hospitality or information with regard to boarding houses should apply at once to Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, 1420 F Street, N. W. The congestion of traffic at this time is so great that trains are frequently several hours late, so that our marchers should all aim to be here by Sunday, March 2."

The organizers of the big parade will be disappointed if Kentucky doesn't send a militant representation of the fair sex to march behind a Bluegrass banner.



That's a "Surety"

Wilmington N.C.
July 7.

My dear Miss White

It is a long time
since I heard from you - or
looking over my letters I find
the last I received from you
was written on March 11th & I
find I wrote you on the 14th.

You were going to ask me
an apartment. I hope you
are comfortably settled
but at this time you will pro.

bably be away - out of the
heat of Louisville.

My grand daughter W. P. Davis
& her children are here &
several others of the family
all glad to be away from
the noise & heat of the
city - It has been very
warm here too but today
it's quite cool, so much so
that we were glad of a
fire this morning -

I think I have told you
how much I have been dis-
turbed by the attitude of
the officers of the General
Federation of Women's Clubs.
Ever since the biennial at
San Francisco I have felt
this. You know, that I think
the time has come when no
subject should be tabooed.
Religion, politics and every
thing ^{should be discussed} many think with me

that the question of woman
Suffrage should have been
made an issue at the
meeting. When this was
decided against it was
suggested that a census
be taken to find out how
many were for & against
but Mr. Mason came
promptly forward &
said it was a closed

2

question, As if a business
man were to put a notice
in his office "Errors not
corrected"!

The Antis do not wish to
vote. I do. What right have
they to prevent my voting
when I have no wish to
compel them to vote?

Your letter has just been
read to me - I have been

hoping to write with my
own hand but last week
Dr. Bissell was here & gave
me no hope that I shall
read or write again.

I know I have much to
be thankful for since
I suffer no pain.

The General Federation as
far as I see the condition
has sacrificed their prin

ciples to obtain numbers.
They claim over 800000
members. if they would
aid those who wish to vote
how quickly the White Slave
traffic & other evils could
be disposed of. ~~instead~~
~~of which I have no~~
~~sympathy with.~~ I hope
Sunday I may talk with
you about this what seems
X X X

to be a very important
matter -

For how a Kinsman spends
the summer with us - Dr.
Elroy M. Garry of Chardon
he is a graduate of Michigan
and remembers your solution
of that great mathematical
problem - I think he said
he had met you - he &
Dr. Angell are good friends
& I am sure if you & he were

3

much you would hear
much in Columbus.

Do you subscribe for &
read regularly the Wokeens
Journal? Lucy Stone's paper
the last two or three issues
have contained severe de-
nunciations of Miss Shaw &
other prominent suffragists
by the Anti's.

Do you know Dr. Lathrop
of Michigan University?
His mother in law W^m. Julia

C. Angell is an old friend
of mine & Dr. Warthen is
a fine man & doing a
great work with young
men, teaching them what
they should know about
themselves. I wish our
State Universities were more
richly endowed.

We have just had a visit
from one of our old pastor's
daughters Miss Harriet Conger

She is Dean of women at
Hillsdale College - Mich -
This is a very long letter. I
should like to say
more but think it best
to end & begin again
in the near future.

With kindest regard

I am very sincerely

Susan Look Avery.

dictated -

Wyoming, New York

July 7th, 1913

My dear Miss White

It is a long time since I heard from you on looking over my letters I find the last I received from you was written on March 11th. I wrote you on the 14th.

You were going to move into an apartment, I hope you are comfortably settled but at this time you will probably be away out of the heart of Louisville.

My granddaughter Mrs. Davies and her children are here and several others of the family are glad to be away from the noise and heat of the cities. It has been very warm here too but today its quite cool, so much so that we were glad of a fire this morning.

I think I have told you how much I have been disturbed by the attitude of the officers of the General Federation of Women Club. Ever since the biennial San Francisco I have felt this. You know that I think the time has come when no subject should be tabooed, religion, politics and every thing should be discussed many think with me that the question of women suffrage should have been made an issue at the meeting. When this was decided against it was suggested that a census be taken to find out how many were for and against but Mrs. Moore called promptly forward and said it was a closed question, as if a business, man were to put a notice in his office "Error not Corrected"!

The antis do not wish to vote I do-- what right have they to prevent my voting when I hear no wish to compel them to vote?

Your letter has just been reread to me I have been hoping to write with my own hand but last week Dr. Bissell was here and gave me no hope that I shall read or write again I know I have much to be thankful for since I suffer no pain.

The General Federation as far as I see the condition has sacrificed their principles to obtain members. They claim over 800,000 members if they would aid there who wish to vote how quickly the white slave traffic and other evils would be disposed of I hope someday I may talk with you about this what seems to be a very important matter.



We have a kinsman spending the summer with us Dr. Elroy M. Avery of Cleveland he is a graduate of Michigan and remembers you solving of that great mathematical problem. I think he said he had met you he and Dr. Angell are good friends and I am sure if you and he were met you would have much in common.

Do you subscribe for and read regularly the Womans Journal? Lucy Stones paper the last two or three issues have contained severe denunciations of Miss Shaw and other prominent suffragists by the antis.

Do you know Dr. Warther of Michigan University? His mother in law Mrs. Julia C. Angell is an old friend of wife and Dr. Warther is a fine male and doing a great work with young men teaching them what they should know about themselves. I wish our state universities were more richly endowed. We have just had a visit from one of our old pastor's daughters Miss Harriet Cougoon. She is Dean of Women at Hillsdale College-Mich- This is a very long letter. I should like to say more but think it best to end and begin again in the near future.

With kindest regard

I am very sincerely

Susan Look Avery



Kentucky Equal Rights Association

HEADQUARTERS: 726 McCLELLAND BUILDING
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

MRS. DESHA BRECKINRIDGE, PRESIDENT

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, MRS. EDWARD L. HUTCHINSON, LEXINGTON
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, MRS. CHARLES FIRTH, COVINGTON
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT, MRS. JACOB B. JUDAH, LOUISVILLE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, MISS LAURA CLAY, LEXINGTON
RECORDING SECRETARY, MRS. ROBINSON A. MCDOWELL, LOUISVILLE
TREASURER, MRS. WILFRED BENNETT, RICHMOND

AUDITOR, MRS. CHARLES L. NIELD, LOUISVILLE

STATE MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MRS. THOMAS J. SMITH, FRANKFORT

LEXINGTON KY., Richmond, Ky.

Febr. 26th, 1915.

My dear Miss Laura,

I am exceedingly glad to get your letter of the 19th, which went first to Lexington, and was then forwarded here, where I have been for some months and shall be for some time still.

As soon as I read of the big Peace demonstration I thought of you and wanted to know what your attitude toward the Peace Party would be. I think they made the best selection for chairman in Ky. they could have done in selecting you. I wished to join, but I did not know what the plan was; and now that I have heard from you, I shall send my dues promptly to Dr. Sephenisba Breckinridge.

Now in answer to your request that I should serve as chairman of the Seventh District. If nothing but my wish was to be consulted I should accept without hesitation. But last year I was obliged to resign as Sup't of Franchise Department in the State W.C.T.U. because I could not fulfill the duties. I consider that Suffrage work is the greatest philanthropy, even in view of the great distress in Europe. I believe the ballot in the hands of women would be the greatest preventative of war, as well as of many other evils; and so my first endeavors must always be for that. It seems to me that your chairman ought to be able to do a good deal of correspondence, and that I cannot do. I think I may be able to answer letters which come to me, but I cannot initiate work. This might make it seem that I ought to decline outright; but my experience is that it is sometimes so difficult to start such work as you have in hand that it is better to get persons to stand for awhile till you have time to select more active ones rather than to wait indefinitely. Therefore, if you think I can serve any useful purpose with this understanding, you can use my name, either for the Seventh District or the Eighth, if Belle Bennett does not serve. I think her name would do you much good; and as she has a stenographer when she is at home, she may be able to do a good deal. If you find some one else for either district, I would be better pleased not to be chairman, and I would at once give your chairman my name as one of a local group. In the meanwhile, I want to help you in your work, and as I know there will be need of much postage and literature, I am enclosing my check for ten dollars, to be used as you think best. If there are any state dues, which I do not see in the circular, please pay mine out of this. If not, use the whole as you think best.

I thoroughly approve of Miss Addams' idea that it is best to work through existing organizations rather than to build up separate ma-
(over)

chinery. In Kentucky, the F. Rights Assn., the Woman's Clubs, the W.C.T.U., and other associations are thoroughly in sympathy, and will be glad to give a helping hand. Money is much more easily obtained by asking donations than by the laborious process of getting promises of dues and collecting them. In every way, it seems to me better not to have any more machinery to reach the people.

Now about chairmen. I think Belle Bennett is the best for the Eighth. If she will not serve, Mrs. Frost might be a good choice. I do not think you could get any work from Mrs. Roark. How would it do to ask Miss Lucia Burnam, of Richmond, to serve, if Belle declines?

daughter of Hon. Curtis F. Burnam (deceased)
I think Mrs. Murray Hubbard an excellent one from her district.

Mrs. Obenchain would be a fine name, and might give some good newspaper articles.

I do not find that Mrs. Geo. Rudy answers letters at all promptly. I think I would rather try Mrs. Fannie Hayes, of Owensboro, the vice-president of the Ky. F. R. A.

If Miss Jessie Yancey is the County School Superintendent, she might be excellent, if she has time. How would it do to ask Miss Alice Lloyd, who is also from Mason County?

Have you thought of Miss Rebecca Averill, of Frankfort? She is in the Seventh, but she might be able to do much more work for you than I can.

If you could get Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, could not she do a good deal incidentally, as she travels around the country? You see I am mentioning names almost at hap-hazard, and you need not feel that they are more than suggestions.

Have you thought of Mrs. John V. Langley, the Congressman's wife? I do not know her at all, but he is a staunch suffragist, and she might be useful in Washington.

Have you any one from the district in which Paducah is situated? Mrs. Josephine F. Post, 619 Ky. Avenue, Paducah, is the pres. of the local suffrage league, and an intelligent, attractive woman, young enough to be able to give some energy to your work, or to be able to incorporate it with the suffrage work. with superintendent

I do not know if the Ky. W. C. T. U. has a Peace Department now or not. If it has, I suggest that you put yourself in touch with her. If not, I suggest that you write to Mrs. Beauchamp, and ask that her Board appoint one, in view of the great issues now on us.

I am enclosing a Call to the Miss. Valley Suffrage Conference. I wish that you could go. The Sunday Mass Meeting is to be a Peace meeting, and Madame Schwimmer is to be the chief speaker. Wish you could go.

Very cordially yours,

Laura Clay.

Richmond, Kentucky

February 26th, 1915

My dear Miss Laura,

I am exceedingly glad to get your letter of the 19th, which went first to Lexington, and was then forwarded here, where I have been for some months and shall be for some time still.

As soon as I read of the big Peace demonstration I thought of you and wanted to know what your attitude toward the Peace Party would be. I think they made the best selection for chairman in Kentucky, they could have done in selecting you. I wished to join, but I did not know what the plan was; and now that I have heard from you, I shall send my dues promptly to Dr. Sopehnisba Breckinridge.

Now in answer to your request that I should serve as chairman of the Seventh District. If nothing but my wish was to be consulted I should accept without hesitation. But last year I was obliged to resign as Sup't of Franchise Department in the State W.C.T.U because I could not fulfill the duties. I consider that Suffrage work is the greatest philanthropy, even in view of the great distress in Europe. I believe the ballot in the hands of the women would be the greatest preventative of war, as well as of many other evils; and so, my first endeavors must always be for that. It seems to me that your chairmen ought to be able to do a good deal of correspondence, and that I cannot do. I think I may be able to answer letters which come to me, but I cannot initiate work. This might make it seem that I ought to decline outright; but my experience is that it is sometimes so difficult to start such works as you have in hand that it is better to get persons to stand for awhile till you have time to select more active ones rather than to wait indefinitely. Therefore, if you think I can serve any useful purpose with this understanding, you can use my name, either for the Seventh District or the Eighth, if Belle Bennet does not serve. I think her name would do you much good; and as she has a stenographer when she is at home, she may be able to do a good deal. If you find some one else for either district, I would be better pleased not to be a chairman, and I would at once give your chairman my name as one of a local group. .



In the meanwhile, I want to help you in your work, and as I know there will be need of much postage and literature, I am enclosing my check for ten dollars, to be used as you think best. If there are any state dues, which I do not see in the circular, please pay mine out of this. If not, use the whole as you think best.

I thoroughly approve of Miss Adams' idea that it is best to work through existing organizations rather than to build up separate machinery. In Kentucky, the E. Rights Asso., the Women's Clubs, the W.C.T.U, and other associates are thoroughly in sympathy, and will be glad to give a helping hand. Money is much more easily obtained by asking donations than by the laborious process of getting promises of dues and collecting them. In every way, it seems to me better not to have any more machinery to reach the people.

Now about chairmen. I think Belle Bennett is the best for the Eighth. If she will not serve, Mrs. Frost might be a good choice. I do not think you could get any work from Mrs. Roark. How would it do to ask Miss Lucia Burnam, of Richmond, to serve, if Belle declines?

I think Mrs. Murray Hubbard an excellent one from her district.

Mrs. Obenchain would be a fine name and might give some good newspaper articles.

I do not find that Mrs. Geo. Rudy answers letters at all promptly. I think I would rather try Mrs. Fannie Hayes, of Owensboro, the vice-president of the Ky. E.R.A.

If Miss Jessie Yancey is the County School Superintendent, she might be excellent, if she has time. How would it do to ask Miss Alice Lloyd, whos is also from Mason County?

Have you thought of Miss Rebecca Averill, of Frankfort? She is in the Seventh, but she might be able to do much more work for you than I can



if you could get Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, could not she do a good deal incidentally, as she travels around the country? You see I am mentioning names almost at hap-hazard, and you need not feel that they are more than suggestions.

Have you thought of Mrs. John W. Langley, the Congressman's wife? I do not know her at all, but he is a staunch suffragist, and she might be useful in Washington.

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