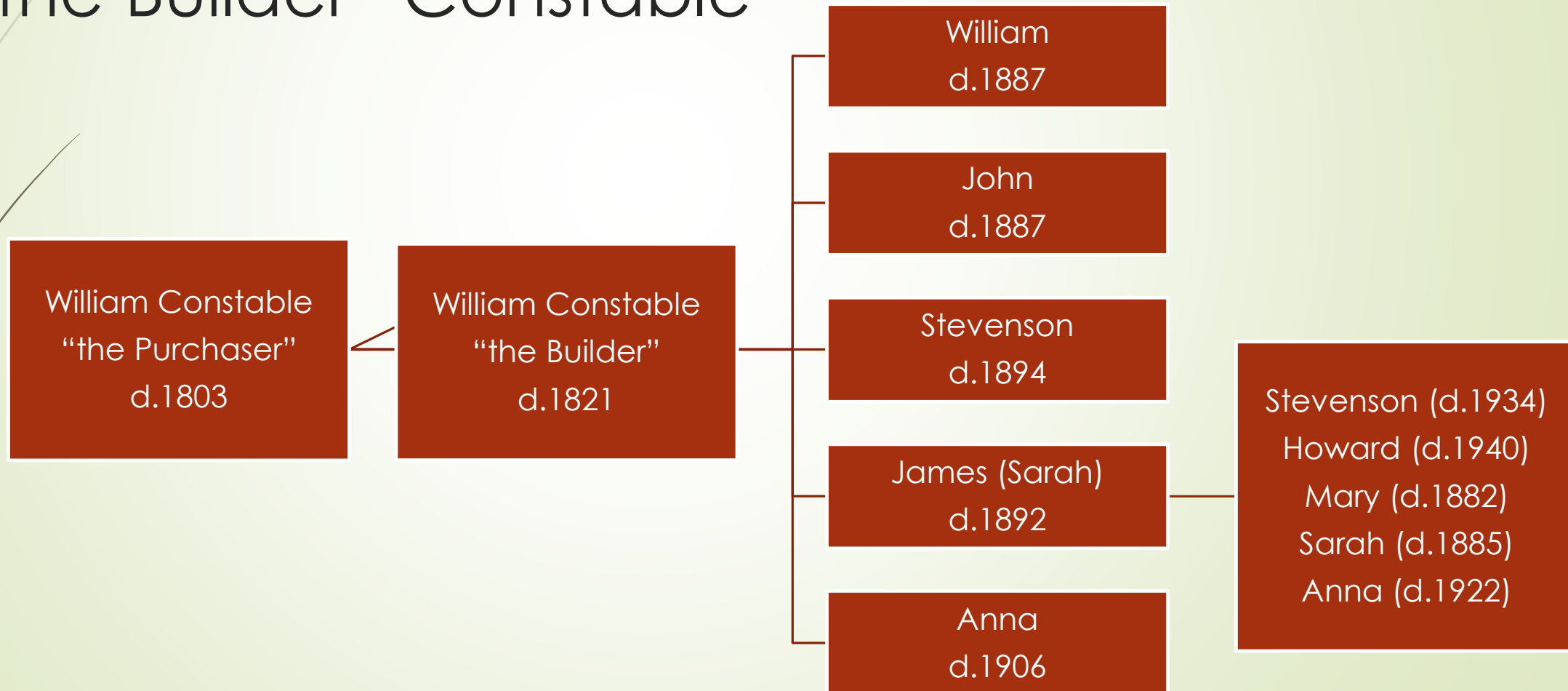




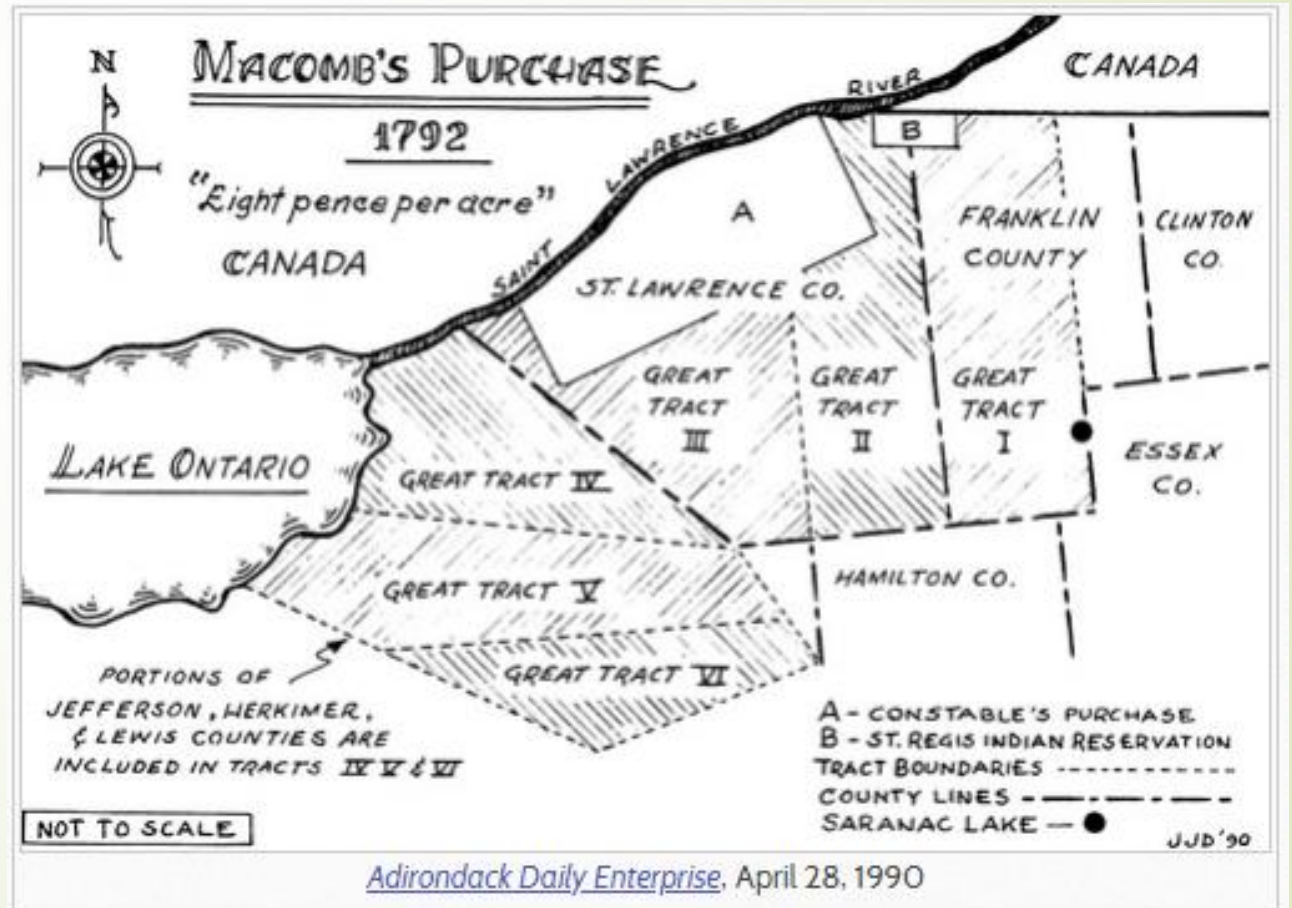
Anna Constable

SOCIALITE TURNED SUFFRAGIST

Anna Constable was the great-granddaughter of William “the Purchaser” Constable and granddaughter of William “the Builder” Constable



After the American Revolution, William Constable helped negotiate the acquisition of the massive Macomb's Purchase, which includes about a tenth of New York State (3,607,175 acres).



[Adirondack Daily Enterprise](#), April 28, 1990

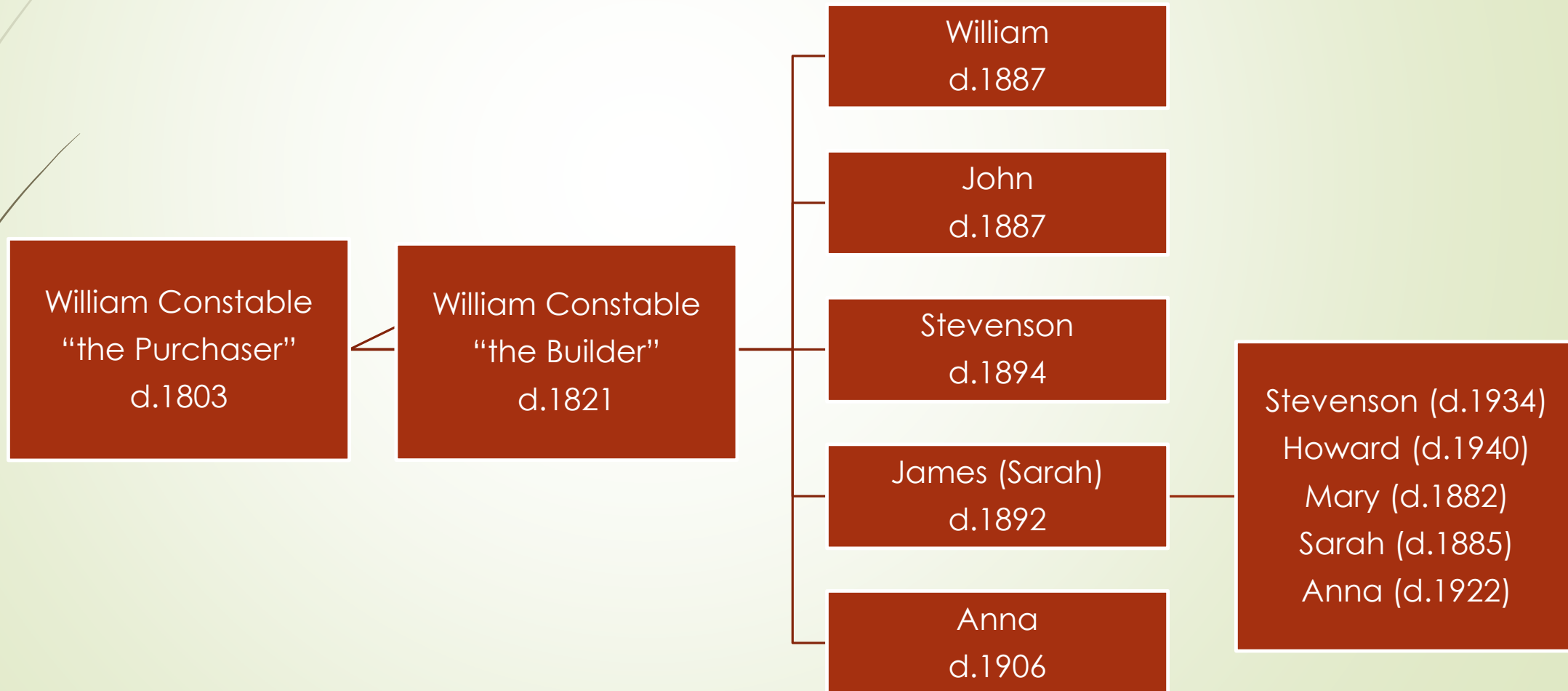
William “the Purchaser” died before he was able to visit his North Country lands and it was left to his eldest son, William Constable Jr., “the Builder,” who constructed Constable Hall from 1810-1819.



William “the Builder” tragically died 2 years after the Hall was completed from injuries sustained setting the 10-ton stone which floors the front portico. His second son, John, later took over the estate.



Anna Constable was the youngest of 5 children,
born in Philadelphia on May 17, 1867, to Sarah
Lippincott Richards and James Constable, the
son of William “the Builder” Constable

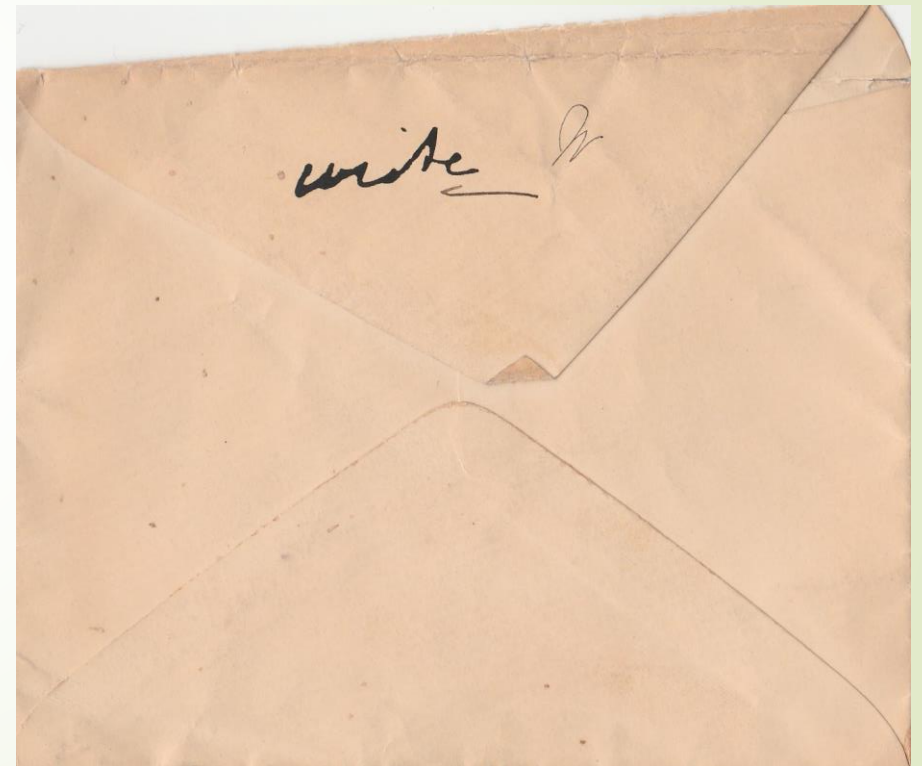
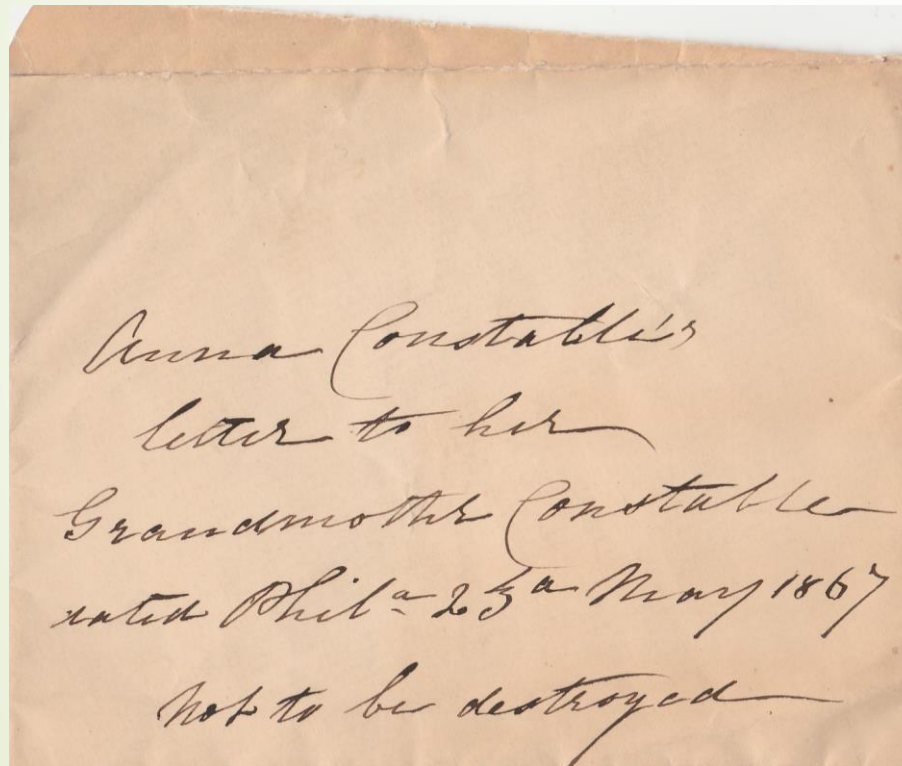




When was Anna born?

- post-Seneca Falls Convention (1848)
- post-Civil War during the era of “Reconstruction” (1860s)

Early Life: in Philadelphia but visited Lewis County and the North Country



For
Dear Grandmamma
from her smallest
Grandchild.

Dear Mother.
You must
never know how
little this report
little girl understands
an print, at least as
I fancied

Phil^a 23 May 67
127 So. 18th St

My dear Grandmamma
My first letter
on arrival in this New-
World shall be to you.

As you may imagine
even I am about me, except
looks & feels strange.

The English language
sounds harsh to me altho
it is of very simple struc-
ture, but not at all musical
or angelical. Their way
of giving food to strangers
is somewhat peculiar, &
the mappings & bathys
are exceedingly cumbersome

1820 Delancey (originally “De Lancey”) Place, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania





It appears that Anna's older cousin, Casimir Constable, was living with the family in 1875, using the address as his own:

COLMAN, ISAAC D.	19 Park Place, New York.	Feb. 27, 1869
CONDUCT, NATHAN W., Jr.	Titian Iron Works, Jersey City, N. J.	Feb. 3, 1869
CONSTABLE, CASIMIR	1820 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, Pa.	Aug. 5, 1868

Famous Constable hunting trips

- In 1850, when Anna's father, James, was 36, he took part in the first documented expedition into the Adirondacks that included ladies, one of whom was Sarah Lippincott Richards, who would wed James three years later. James was likely also present for a well-documented expedition in 1855, possibly with his new bride. Casimir also travelled back to Philadelphia to visit James after that, and a letter from John Constable III to his son in the summer of 1883 indicates that "uncle James" was soon expected to arrive at Constable Hall. Thus Anna likely visited with family there on many occasions and apparently grew close enough with Casimir and his wife, Jennie (also a cousin of Anna and Casimir), that Anna was left the sum of \$2000 and a specific piece of jewelry in Jennie's will.



Summer Visits to the North Country

Will Celebrate the Glorious Fourth—A Serious Runaway Accident.

—Miss Wells, of New York, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Constable.

—Rogers' circus and menagerie exhibited in town last Monday to a large assemblage of people.

—Miss Anna Constable, of Philadelphia, who is summering at Lyons Falls, has been calling on friends in this village.

—It has been decided to celebrate the glorious fourth in this village. Supervisor Doyle will act as president of the day, Rev. T. L. Banister will read the declaration of independence, and Hon. Walter Ballou, of Boonville, will deliver the address. In the afternoon the usual

- Anna not only had friends in the village of Lyons Falls, which was only 6 miles from Constable Hall, but she had relatives living there as well, including her aunt and possible namesake, Anna McVickar, who had been born and raised at the Hall and who now lived with her husband, Archibald, on a farm in the village. This, coupled with the fact that Anna's cousin, Casimir, who had previously been living with her family in Philadelphia, had inherited Constable Hall after his father's death in 1887, makes it even more likely that Anna was a visitor to the Hall in the summer of 1890.



The 1880s was a difficult decade for Anna and her family: In 1882, her older sister, Mary, age 23, died at Saranac Lake, NY, from tuberculosis shortly after Thanksgiving on 26 November. Two years later, Mary Elizabeth Longstreth Constable, the young wife of Anna's oldest brother, Stevenson, died on 26 November 1884, aged 29, one month after the birth of their third child and first daughter, Mary Longstreth. The following year, her eldest sister, Sarah, passed away shortly after Independence Day in 1885 at the age of 24, also from tuberculosis.

The death of Anna's parents followed in the 1890s

- James died on 8 November 1892, aged 78
- The following year, Anna and her mother went on a European tour, her mother likely seeking to put the grief of the past few years behind them and spend time with her youngest child and sole surviving daughter.
- Their time together was cut short – while in Italy her mother died unexpectedly on 5 April 1894 while “residing temporarily abroad” and was buried in Cimitero Evangelico degli Allori, a small Protestant cemetery located on an old farm in Florence, Italy,



The Quaker Influence?

- The Constables had a long history of attending Episcopalian churches, as did many families of high standing in Colonial America, which for the Constables no doubt went all the way back to the Anglican Church in Ireland.
- Yet it appears that, after the death of her father, her mother had returned to her Philadelphia Quaker roots. Shortly before her death, Sarah Constable and her remaining household family members (Howard and Anna) are listed among the “Names and Residences of the Present Free Quakers, 1894,” nestled in between Sarah’s father, Benjamin W. Richards, and other relatives from the Richards family. This contact may have exposed Anna to progressive movements spurred on by religious sentiment as the Quakers - especially many of the wealthier women - had a long history of involvement in social activism.



SOCIALITE ERA

circa 1897-1912



Relocation to New York City

- ▶ The three surviving Constable siblings joined one another in New York City. Stevenson, recently widowed, moved his family and business to New York City in 1886 where he supervised the erection of about eighty buildings that year alone from his home and office at 22 East Sixteenth Street in Manhattan. At some point his brother joined him, forming the architectural firm “Constable Brothers,”
- 



Stevenson ran afoul of the corrupt political machine in NYS while serving as Superintendent of Buildings in the New York City Buildings Department

REBUKED BY THE MAYOR

The Superintendent of Buildings Accused of Having Insulted the City's Chief Executive.

MAYOR WOULDN'T TALK TO HIM

Said He Did Not Wish to See the Superintendent in His Office Again

—Mr. Constable's Allusion to the Mayor in a Public Speech Supposed to Have Aroused His Anger.

SUPT. CONSTABLE SCORED

Tammany Accuses the Head of the Building Department of Committing Various Offenses.

RESOLUTIONS FROM SHEEHAN.

The Mayor Also Involved in the Condemnation—A Charge of Partiality and "Squandering Public Money on Uniformed Spies."

1897: First mention of Anna in NYC

- Anna's first (of many) mention in the "Society" page of *The New York Times*:
- "Miss Anna Constable, who presides over the studio of her bachelor and widower brothers, Messrs. Howard and Stevenson Constable, in East Sixteenth Street, has issued invitations for a fancy dress party at the studio on Thursday evening. This coming entertainment has aroused much anticipatory interest among the members of the younger set in society, most of whom are going in original costumes...."
- It is notable that this first mention of Anna in the high society pages of the New York newspapers occurred during Lent. As *The New York Times* noted at that time, the second half of the Lenten season "is, as a rule, more devoid of social entertaining and entertainment than the first half," and it appears that the Constable siblings - especially Anna - took advantage of this hole in the social calendar to insert themselves into it. As high society families or groups often laid claim to a particular annual time to host a major event, the young Constables followed suit.

1898: The start of the Mi-Carême Balls

- The specific day Anna staked out to hold their high society event each year was known as “Laetare Sunday,” the Sunday in the middle of Lent. This day is celebrated by many Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, so the Episcopalian Constables were no doubt familiar with it. This fourth Sunday in the season of Lent in the Western Christian liturgical calendar is traditionally a day of celebration within the otherwise solemn season when the normal Lenten strictures are relaxed (for example, weddings, which are otherwise banned during Lent, are permitted on this day). In France this day is known as “Mi-Carême,” and it had developed by Anna’s day into a nationwide carnival. It appears likely that Anna had witnessed this event - with its emphasis on fancy disguises and celebration - on her trip travelling through Europe in 1894, before her mother’s sudden death in Italy that April. The Constables did not introduce Mi-Carême to New York City but seem to have taken what was perhaps intended as a one-off theme for a party and, finding it to be popular, adapted it into a yearly event.

The New York Times

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1898

MI-CAREME CELEBRATED

The One Hundred Club Holds Festivities in the Studio of the Constables.

NEW "INTELLIGENCE" AGENCY

Society People Appear in Novel Costumes and Amuse Each Other by a Vaudeville Entertainment—Some Well-Known Characters Impersonated.

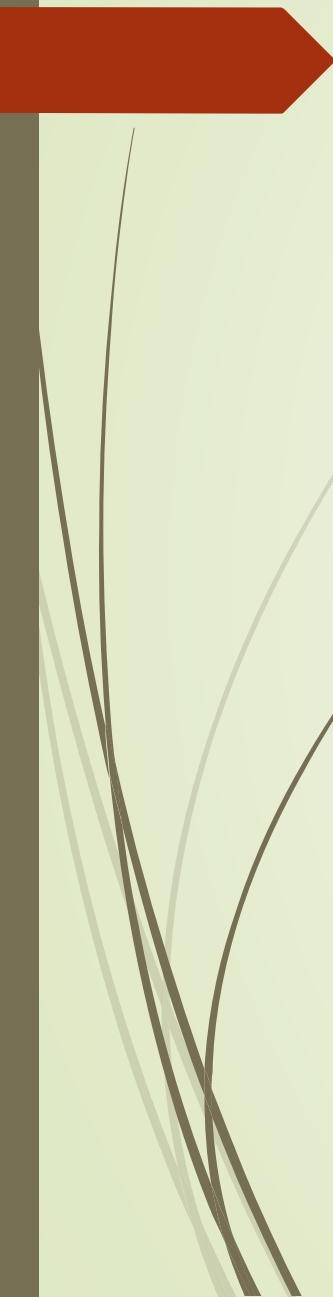
One of the oddest entertainments in which metropolitan society has indulged for many months took place last night in the studio of Howard and Stevenson Constable, 22 East Sixteenth Street, in honor of Mi-Carême, the half-way house in the penitential journey of Lent, when sackcloth and ashes are laid aside and the weary traveler has the right to a brief taste of gayety. It was the "Mi-Carême frolic of the One Hundred Club," and the selection of the date was quite without reference to St. Patrick's Day, though he was remembered in the costume of some of the guests.

Incidentally, the occasion may be called the first anniversary of the One Hundred Club. Last year Howard and Stevenson Constable and their sister, Miss Anna Constable, who makes her home with them, at 22 East Sixteenth Street, celebrated Mi-Carême (the observation of which is much more general abroad than in this country) with an entertainment at which most of those now comprising the club were present. The idea then occurred to some twenty young women, who had experienced the joys of Mi-Carême celebrations, to form a social club for its annual commemoration in appropriate manner. Although the club was not started just a year ago, the plan for its formation had its first impetus then.



1899: “Annexation Ball”

- This celebration capitalized on the nation’s reinvigorated patriotism and sudden embrace of imperialism that followed the victory over Spain in the Spanish-American War, with the guests being asked “to come costumed as natives of Cuba, Hawaii, the Philippines, Alaska, or Puerto Rico”



1900: “Ghost Party”
the invitation
required guests to
attend “attired in
ghostly costumes.”

The New York Times

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1900

The amusing invitations for the Ghost Stag to be given by the “One Hundred” Club on Mi-Careme, March 22, at the studio of Mr. Howard Constable, 22 East Sixteenth Street, read as follows:

GHOSTS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.
To All Political, Literary, Dramatic, Artistic, and Historic Ghosts, and to the Spirit of Events, Ideas, Customs, and Things Belonging to this Century:

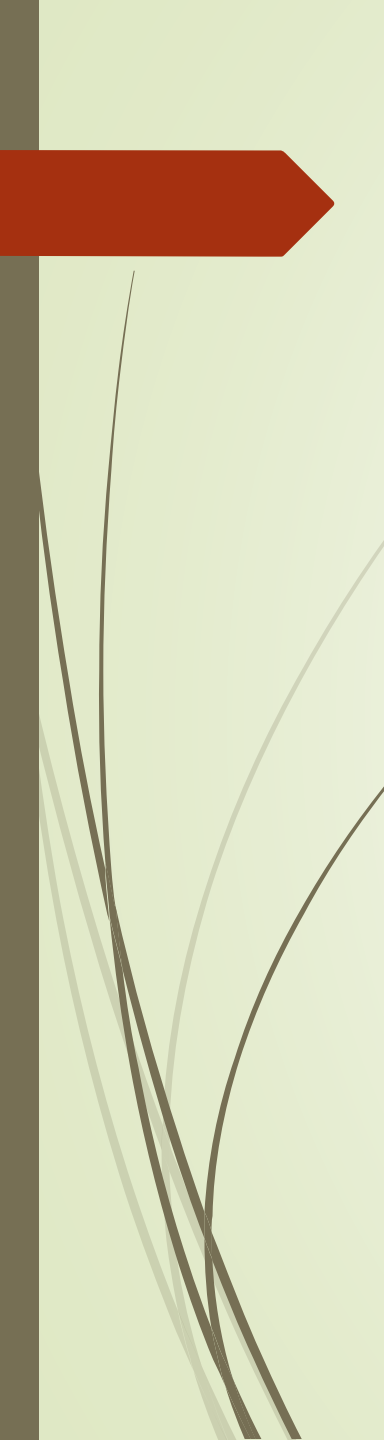
Fellow-Ghosts: You are summoned to haunt the Constable mansion, 22 East Sixteenth Street, on the evening of Mi-Careme, Thursday, March 22, at three hours before midnight. Appear in costume appropriate to your earthly being, as grave clothes are not permitted. The spirits of the occasion:

Miss Constable, Mrs. Arthur Terry,
Mrs. Leo Everett, Miss Morgan,
Miss Rhett.

Assemble in the cellar, and then rise. Spirits will please check their wraps. Ghosts of ideas must be well labeled or they will be carried out. All banshees, ghouls, will o' the wisps, genii, and other old-time apparitions are politely requested to absent themselves.

Astral bodies must be wrapt in more than thought.

Ayes and noes sent in at once, as the Styx Ferry accommodations are limited.



The 1900
“Ghost
Party”
attracted
the highest
echelons of
**New York
City’s elite
society**

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

Feb. 15, 1900.

Dear Miss Constable:

Thanks for your very attractive materialized invitation to be one of the Ghosts of the 19th Century at your studio March 22nd.

My recollection of these charming entertainments is so vivid and so pleasant that I will make a special exertion to get released from the duties of statesmanship for the associations of art and genius.

Very sincerely yours

Francis M. Deffen

Miss Constable,

22 East 16th Street, New York City.

The 1900 "Ghost Party" attracted international attention

1 Miss Constable
Club des Cent
N.Y. York

Voilà toute, en en partie, ce dont de vous je sais. Miss Constable sur une feuille de journal, et faisant le sujet d'un article des plus élogieux, qui me pousse ainsi à vous écrire, je ne sais quelle intuition, l'espoir d'une réponse, car je veux bien espérer que non seulement vous prendrez connaissance entière de ce giffonnage, mais encore que vous voudrez bien me favoriser d'une réponse. À part votre nom, j'ignore complètement qui vous êtes, mais je conjecture quelle âme tendre est cachée sous ce doux nom de Miss, qui renferme en lui même toute une gamme de poésie tendre et variée. C'est peut-être la douceur du nom et du sexe qui me donne cet aplomb

Je vous écris.
Écrire à une femme, s'adresser à Elle, l'on est toujours sûr d'obtenir le pardon, car l'angèle dont son cœur est peiné, est toute de douceur et de bonté. Ces deux qualités indispensables, jointes à votre charité d'âme, font de vous autres femmes, les êtres les plus chers, et obliés des saintes doctrines de l'antant, nous nous mettons à vous adorer, faisant de votre vous, nos chères idoles...

Mais, je bavarde et vous ne savez pas seulement qui je suis. Il doit vous paraître étrange, qu'un esprit inconnu, n'ayant pas été évoqué, se permette de murmurer à votre fine oreille, des mots et puis des mots. Mon nom, vous ne le savez pas, et vous êtes actuellement aux prises avec l'inconnu.
Pardonnez

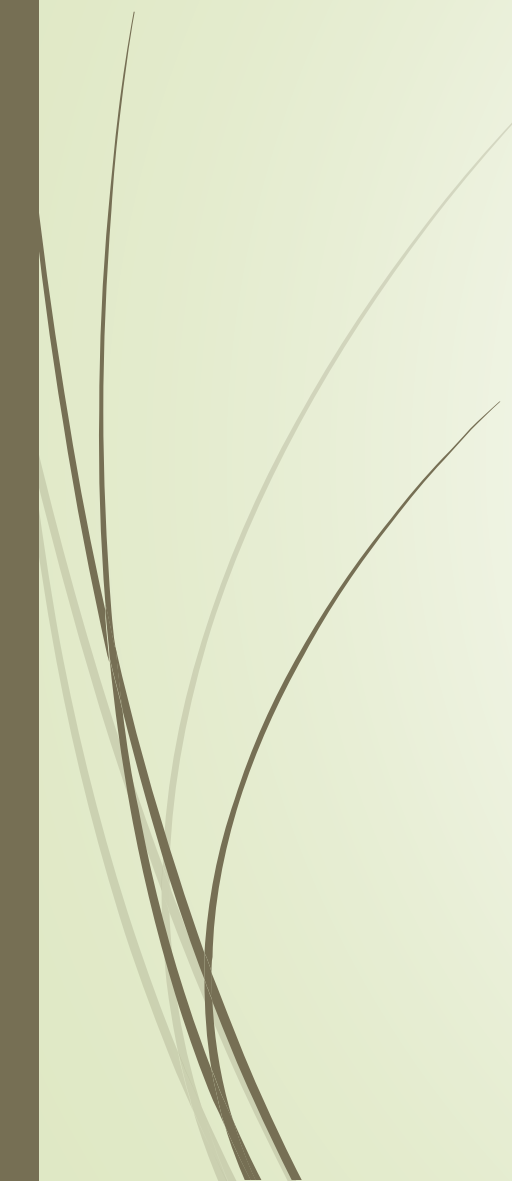
I have written this was only a
idea.
Hoping you shall receive
this in good order.
Yours Respectfully,
J. H. Bakhuys Roozboom
97 Tophthuisstraat Amsterdam
Holland.

Miss Anna Constable
New York
N. Y. C.
Dear Miss,
Although
knowing you at all yet I venture to trouble
with my letter. I even did not know you
existed, until I read the description of the
hall of ghosts, on which you insist. The
members of the Club of the one hundred of
New York. This fact, especially, the denial
of my original idea, struck me and I
became full of admiration for you.
I then thought, how pleasant must it be
to be able to arrange such things, and
possess such a lot of money, which made
possible to do so.
When I thought that for one dollar
I procure for you, while you do
not know how many you have
become sad.
I am now a pupil of a Communist,
and shall probably find order, into



The exposure from the 1900 Mi-Carême event seems to have opened the doors to the top tier of society for Anna and Howard

- ▶ That spring, as the wedding season began, they were named among the list of prominent guests at the wedding of **J. Rutherford Morris** and the daughter of U.S. **Senator William Clark**, to which 4,000 guests had been invited from around the world, including **President McKinley**. That autumn, Anna and Howard were listed among the guests at the wedding of **J. Pierpont Morgan**'s oldest daughter, a list which contained "almost every one at all prominent in fashionable New York society," including names such as **Vanderbilt**, **Rockefeller**, and **Senator Depew**.



1901: a “Roman Festival” - guests were expected to arrive in “togas and classic costumes,” with burlesque appearances of “Caesars and Neros and Cornelias and Ciceros and Virgils” taking part in “a programme of Roman games, dancing and a jolly good time generally”

1902: a “Stock Exchange party”



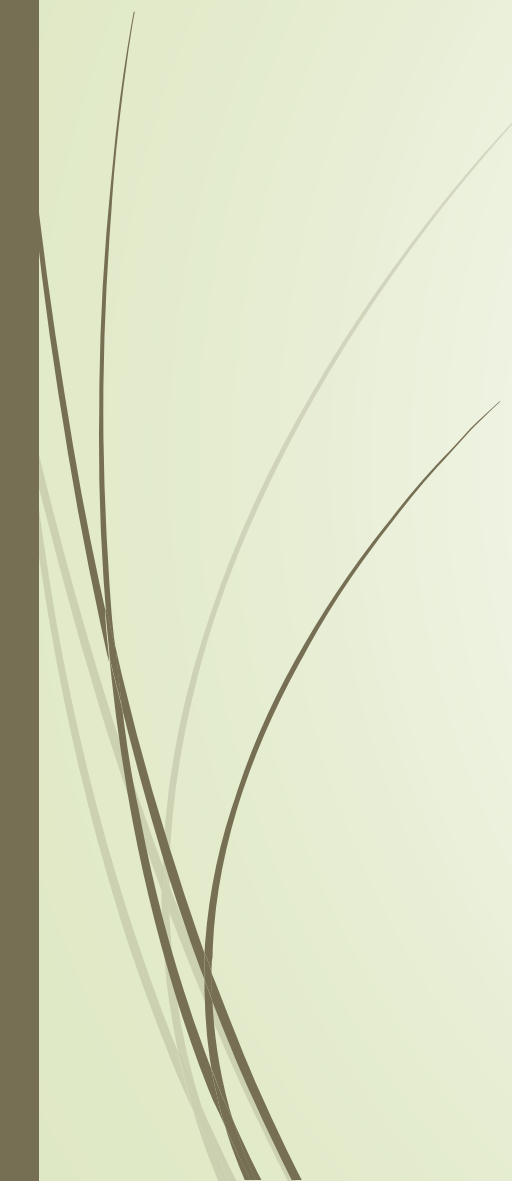
1903: “Monroe Doctrine entertainment”

- Once again, by most accounts, the anticipation of the Constable siblings' annual Mi-Carême event was well-rewarded and the crowd overflowed. But this event also demonstrated **Anna's continued awareness of world affairs and political sentiments.**
- **The representation of “Woman Suffragists,”** with the first entrance into the event consisting of “a delegation from women's clubs, which, according to the heralds, are the “forefront of America”....The clubs represented ranged from the Woman's Suffrage League to the Amalgamated Order of Rainy Daisies.” While the general mood of these events was one of jest, they often appeared to be tackling quite serious and controversial issues, albeit in humorous skits full of irony.
- However, with this event, the infamous “One Hundred Club” came to a conclusion, with Howard announcing that this was **the final Mi-Carême celebration**



Anna and Howard gave up their residence on East Sixteenth Street, with Anna passing the summer with “a series of visits to various friends.”

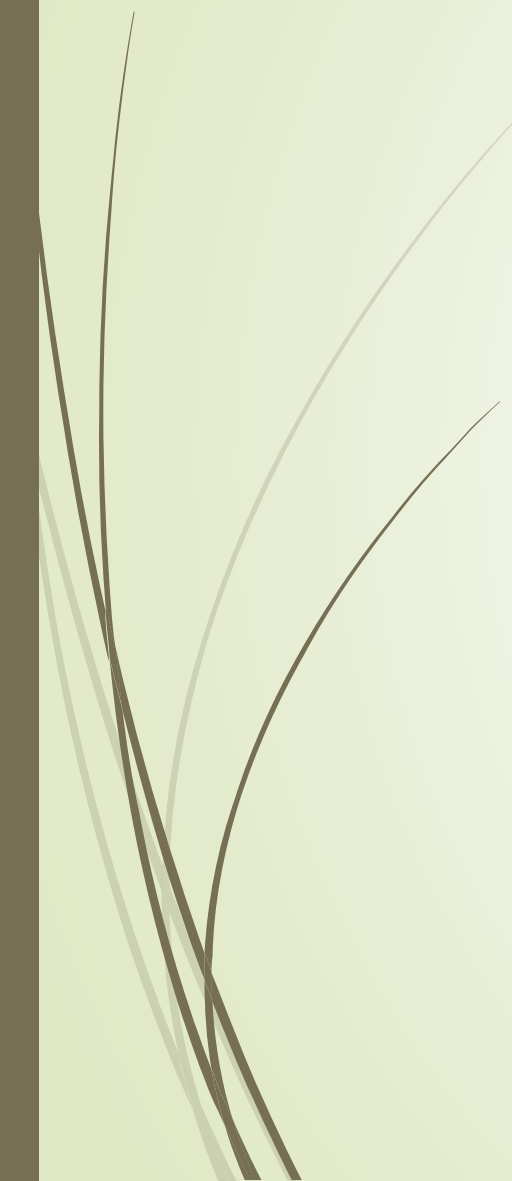
Anna eventually resettled in a new apartment in New York City and continued to make the rounds in high society showing up at weddings and other events, but whether due to a lack of energy or money, or simply maturation, she no longer hosted trendy, extravagant parties. Instead, now in her mid-thirties, **she shifted her attention and abilities to helping host benefit events**

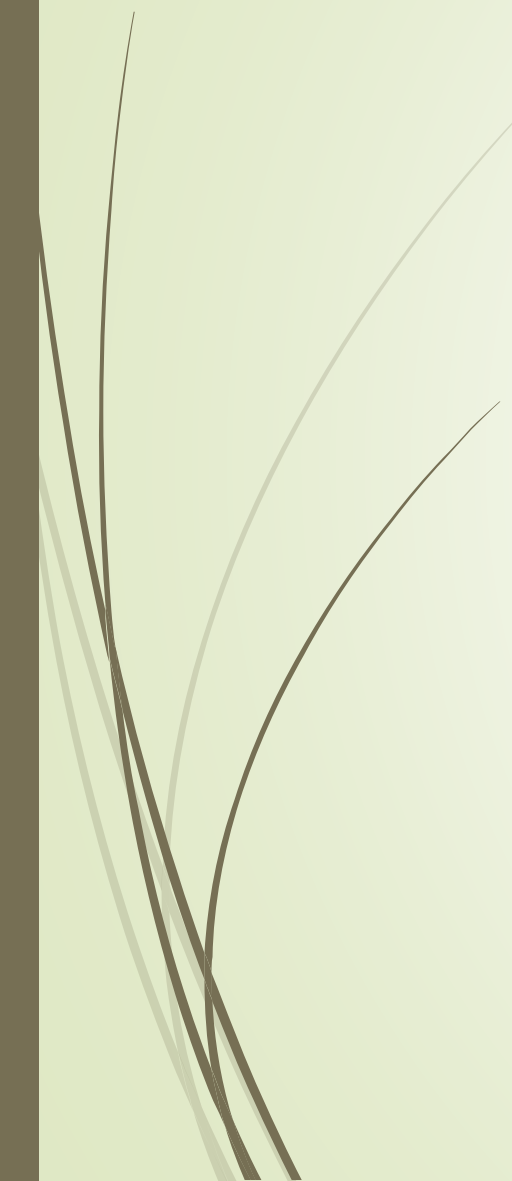




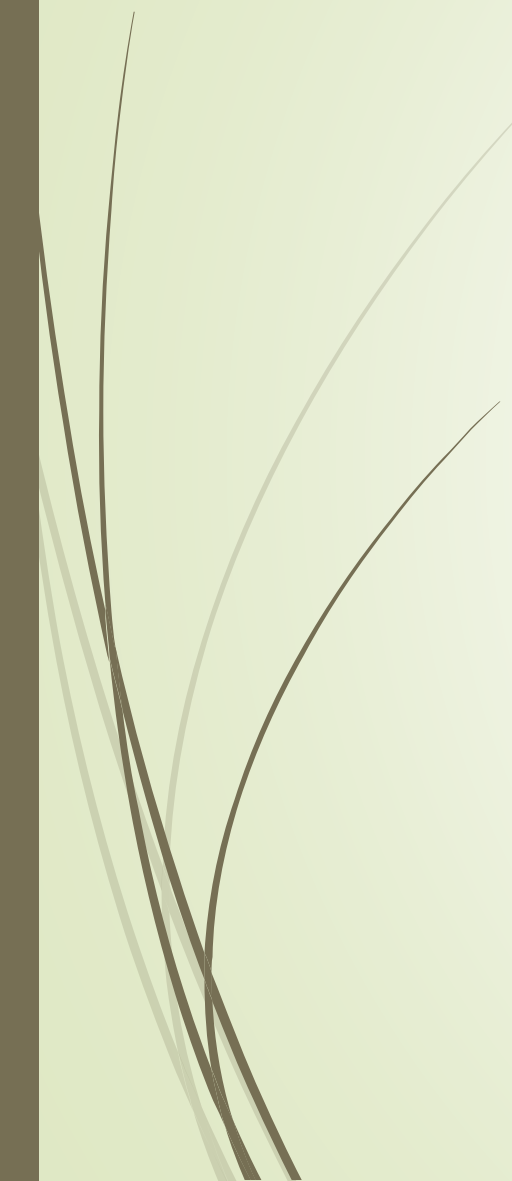
THE SUFFRAGIST

circa 1910-1918





Anna's transition from socialite to suffragists does not appear to be a sudden one. There does not seem to be an incident that causes her to become suddenly convinced of the justness of and devoted to the cause, but rather she seems to be drawn in over a period of time, no doubt as she read and heard the arguments in her social circles and in the press, although **there is an incident that thrust her into a position of notoriety** and then prominence within the movement.



Anna was likely exposed to the international suffrage movement on a trip to Europe in 1911. While there is no record of where she visited, her return voyage left from Southampton, indicating that she spent some or all of her time in England. Prior to her return in late October, she may have been present to witness the march of thousands of women from 28 suffrage societies on the eve of King George V's coronation.



1912 began with Anna seemingly reviving her involvement in Mi-Carême, albeit now in its more mature form as a benefit event for charity

- ▶ Anna was now not only heading up the advisory board planning the event, but it was also announced that she was to be a featured act, giving a theatrical “special tableau.” Demand for tickets to the event became so great that, three days before the party, the committee “decided to hold the entertainment in the large ballroom instead of in the belvedere.” Not surprisingly, **the event was another huge success**, with even the large ballroom “taxed to its capacity with a jolly throng,” with “more than 100” groups seated at tables for the performances.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1912.

PILS STRIKE FOR TEACHER.

Providence Children Parade in Rain and Circulate Petitions.

PROVIDENCE, March 13.—The Bristol election to-day offered the unique spectacle of forty boys and girls working the polls. Headed by Miss Louise H. Wolf, the eleven-year-old granddaughter of John B. Herreshoff, the boat designer, the children paraded through the streets and distributed literature at the polls in behalf of Col. John H. Bailey, who is candidate for reelection to the town Council on the Democratic ticket. Col. Bailey, who up to a few days ago was principal of the Byfield Grammar School of Bristol, was dismissed by a Republican school board because of his activity in politics. Yesterday the forty children in his classes went out on strike.

SOCIETY'S CABARET A LIVELY SUCCESS

Grand Ballroom of the Astor Becomes an Excellent Carnival Cafe.

ABOUT \$1,500 SECURED

Which Goes to St. Mark's Hospital—
Details of a Many Sided
Entertainment.

Dr. E

The
the S
avenue
clergy
last e
Death
he un
had b

Dr.
fifty-
from
N. J.
was
situat
ago t
in Su
Meur
rying
knots

SOCIETY AMATEURS APPEAR IN CABARET

Carnival Spirit Rampant at
Vaudeville at the Astor for
St. Mary's Hospital.

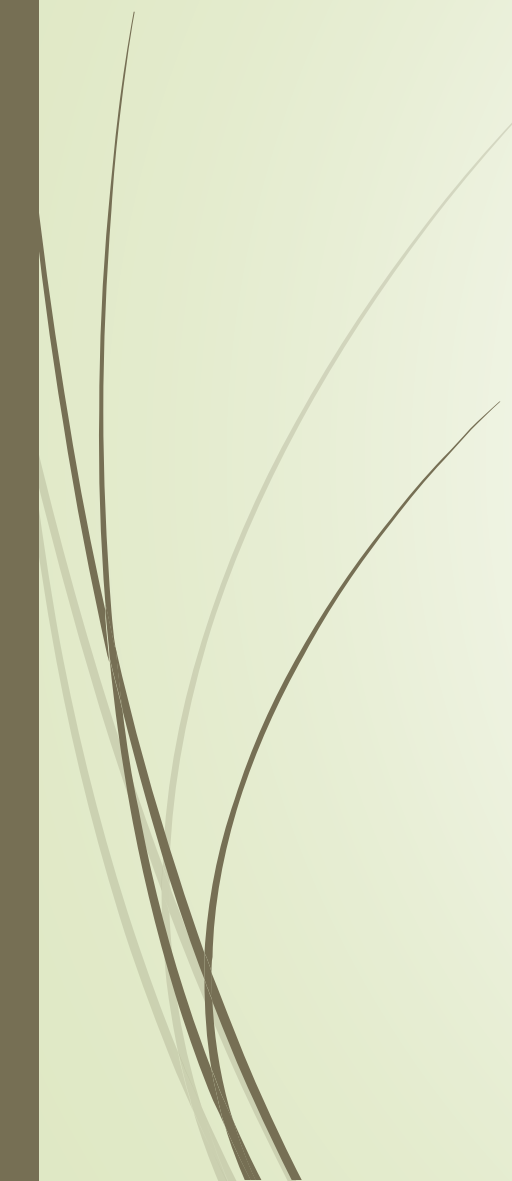
GIRLS ATTIRED AS FLOWERS

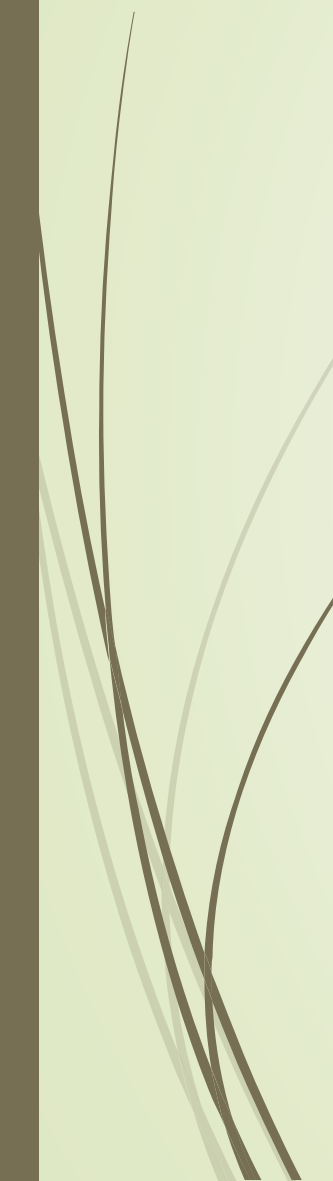
Musicians and Singers in Costume
Circle Among Jolly Throng—Miss
Manville as a Russian Dancer.



By 1912, Anna Constable was an active member of the Woman's Political Union

and her experience - if not her influence - in using amateur small-stage performances to attract attention for beneficial causes brought her into the spotlight, albeit controversial and apparently somewhat unintentionally.





It was announced in December 1912 that Miss Anna Constable and other members of The Woman's Political Union would be performing **“voiceless speeches”** consisting “of a series of thirty-four large placards, each bearing one sentence of what made a fine little speech... displayed one at a time on an easel), its location at “the milliner’s window at the corner of Thirty-eighth Street” and Fifth Avenue. The women also announced that they would be advertising a “Suffrage Ball” (“the Votes for Women Ball”) with tickets to be purchased at the location.

1912: Three days after Christmas, as a crowd was again gathered at a shop window on Fifth Avenue to watch the Women's Political Union activist perform their "silent speech," the Fifth Avenue Association "hunted up two uniformed policemen and notified them that the 'traffic laws were being violated.'"





from *The Sun* (NY newspaper)

"What have I done," asked the surprised Miss Constable. "Surely I have broken no laws."

"You're blocking traffic, which is against a city ordinance," replied the policeman.

"The Fifth Avenue Association is the complainant," volunteered the "special"²⁹⁵.

"I know Mr. Robert Grier Cooke, the president of the association very well," said Miss Constable with a smile. "I really wonder if he meant to have me arrested."

The policemen and the "special" hurried away as Miss Constable's friends started to bombard them with questions as to the whys and wherefores of the summons.²⁹⁶



from *The Sun* and *New York Times*

When she was interviewed that night, Anna “could not see how traffic was being obstructed” - “The police did not make the slightest effort to keep the way clear,” she said.”²⁹⁷ “It seems to me to have been a ridiculous proceeding,” said Miss Constable.... “I surely didn’t know I was doing anything wrong.”²⁹⁸ Her performance companions who had been “assisting in the delivery of the voiceless speech” but apparently were not charged “were indignant” over Anna’s “arrest.”²⁹⁹



➤ **Nevertheless**, Anna, backed by members of the Women's Suffrage Party (and with a reporter from seemingly every major newspaper in town) appeared in court on December 29th, "dragged... out of their beds in the cold, dark dawn... and made to go through the pouring rain to Jefferson Market Court at 8 o'clock" only to be kept waiting by Magistrate Butts "in their wet clothes until 9:45 o'clock, because he was late." As the proceedings regarding the "complaint of having caused a crowd to collect" began, Policeman Thomas Gilligan testified that:



➡ “he had warned Miss Constable, but, although his warning was headed for a short while, the placards reappeared an hour later, and a crowd gathered. **He then got a summons for Miss Constable and served it upon her.**

Notwithstanding this, he added, the placards kept reappearing and the crowd was held until four o'clock in the afternoon. He tried to get into the building, but found the door had been locked and those inside refused to open it.”

A contemporary report states that, although **the charge against Anna was dismissed** by the magistrate she was nevertheless warned by the Court not to repeat such attempts at holding a mass meeting:

SUFFRAGISTS TO TEST LAW
WANT RULING ON THEIR RIGHT TO
DISPLAY PLACARDS.
Dismissal of Charge Against Miss
Anna Constable in Silent Speech
Campaign Is Unsatisfactory—Will
Show Signs in Windows, Obstruct
Sidewalks, and Cause Arrests.

BLAME 'DARN FOOL MEN'
FOR TRIP TO COURT
Suffragists Angry at Being
Dragged Out of Bed on
"Cop's" Charge.
JUDGE SCOLDS THEM, TOO
Women, It Appears, Kept on
Displaying Their Placards in
Fifth Avenue Window,
Despite Summons.

A few days later, *The New York Times* published a letter to the editor from Anna herself, a clipping of which was again sent to and preserved by her family:

and before Nova Scotia. Wholly to the cash of her own people in State bonds, which under normal conditions would be paid for by London, Paris, New York, and other great centres.

If the farmers and business men of North Carolina were fully aware that their officials by their actions were decreasing the floating supply of capital within the State they might vote to settle the old debt. Such a settlement distributed over a period of years would mean an infinitesimal amount per dollar of assessed valuation and in addition would maintain the State's credit in the markets of the world.

DANIEL B. ELLI.

New York, Jan. 2, 1913.

WOMEN'S "VOICELESS SPEECH."

Story of Police Interference with It from the Woman's Side.

To the Editor of *The New York Times*:

The "voiceless speech" was conducted by members of the Women's Political Union twice without interference. It was given in a quiet and dignified manner, but on Saturday last two policemen came into 249 Fifth Avenue, where we were giving the speech, and summoned me to court on Monday morning for breaking a corporation ordinance. They refused to tell me who had complained or to give me the number of the ordinance. I went to Jefferson Market Court on Monday with my lawyer and nephew, and Judge Butts contented so far my case first, as I was due at a family wedding. Officer Gilligan, who resembled by Judge Butts, and I had been obstructing traffic by placing cards on an easel in a shop window. He did not know what ordinance I had broken. The Judge said Gilligan had given insufficient evidence, and there was no case, and he dismissed the charge.

He then turned to me, who had not broken the law, and warned me against repeating my action and disorderly conduct. Gilligan had his say, Judge Butts had his, and I, having accepted his courtesy in hearing me first, could say nothing. There was a good deal of indignation felt at the Judge's speech. I was within my rights and working in the cause of common justice. The gathering of crowds by window demonstration is of every-day occurrence, and it is the business of the police to keep the people moving. The complaint against the crowd at the World's baseball service buildings was dismissed last fall. At no time in our case was there real obstruction of traffic. The crowd was always orderly and deeply interested in the speech, which in a very telling way of getting facts to the public.

The bill for the referendum comes up at Albany this month. Then the year after again, and to the voters of New York in 1915. We want the voters to know what we can do with the vote and how many women want it. Why didn't the police interfere before? We had just as big crowds the other times. I do not know who made the complaint, but there seems to have been an intention to intimidate us, and to threaten free speech is a serious thing.

We are doing this seriously and continuously, and if our "voiceless speech" were not educational we should not have been interfered with. We are up against the type of mind that fears change and resents the present disposition to investigate conditions. Votes for Women is a big movement, and men and women of position should be in the fore. The example of our forefathers in the Revolution should be an inspiration.

ANNA CUNYFADE,

New York, Jan. 4, 1913.

In her **well-spoken but indignant** letter to the editor, Anna finally had her say, having been denied being able to do so in court, making several notable points regarding the **violation of her civil rights**.





First, she noted that “voiceless speech” events had been performed “in a quiet and dignified manner” twice “without interference” before the incident at which she was summoned, asking later “Why didn’t the police interfere before? We had just as big crowds the other times” before proclaiming “I do not know who made the complaint, but there seems to have been an intention to intimidate us, and **to threaten free speech is a serious thing,**” a clear reference to the fact that the activity she had engaged in was protected under the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment prohibition of government action which abridges “the freedom of speech... or the right of the people peaceably to assemble.”



Second, Anna wrote that the officers who summoned her “**refused to tell me who had complained or to give me the number of the ordinance**” that she had allegedly broken, a clear reference to the Sixth Amendment’s dictate that “In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right... to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him.”



Yet her greatest indignation was reserved for Judge Butts for his actions after dismissing the charges: “He... turned to me, who had not broken the law, and warned me against repeating my action and disorderly conduct. [Officer] Gilligan had his say, Judge Butts had his, and I... could say nothing.” Anna also turned the case on its heels, pointing the blame for any “obstruction of traffic” on the very officers who issued her summons: **“I was within my rights and working in the cause of common justice.”** The gathering of crowds by window demonstration is of every-day occurrence, and it is the business of the police to keep the people moving” before noting that, in fact, “[a]t no time... was there real obstruction of traffic” as the crowd “was always orderly and deeply interested in the speech, which is a very telling way of getting facts to the public.”

Anna closed her letter succinctly yet powerfully, packing in references to the opposition to social change in general, **calling on her male peers in high society to support the women's suffrage movement, and appealing to the American ideals the nation claims to be founded upon**, much as had been done at the Seneca Falls Convention with its *Declaration of Sentiments* in 1848.

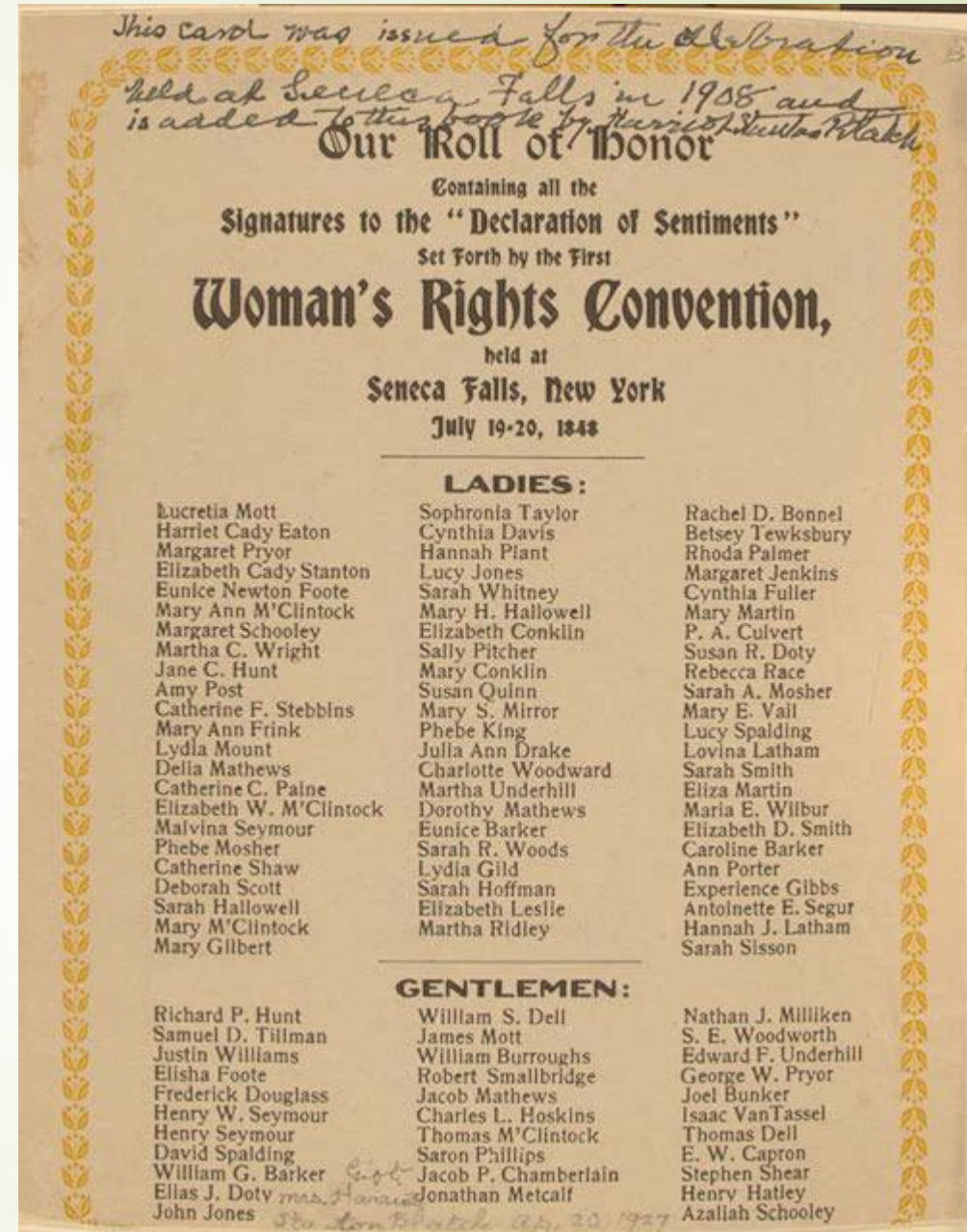




image taken from *The New York Times*
of the conclusion of Anna's letter

We are doing this seriously and continuously, and if our voiceless speech were not educational we should not have been interfered with. We are up against the type of mind that fears change and resents the present disposition to investigate conditions. Votes for Women is a big movement, and men and women of position should be to the fore. The example of our forebears in the Revolution should be an inspiration.

ANNA CONSTABLE.

New York, Jan. 4, 1913.

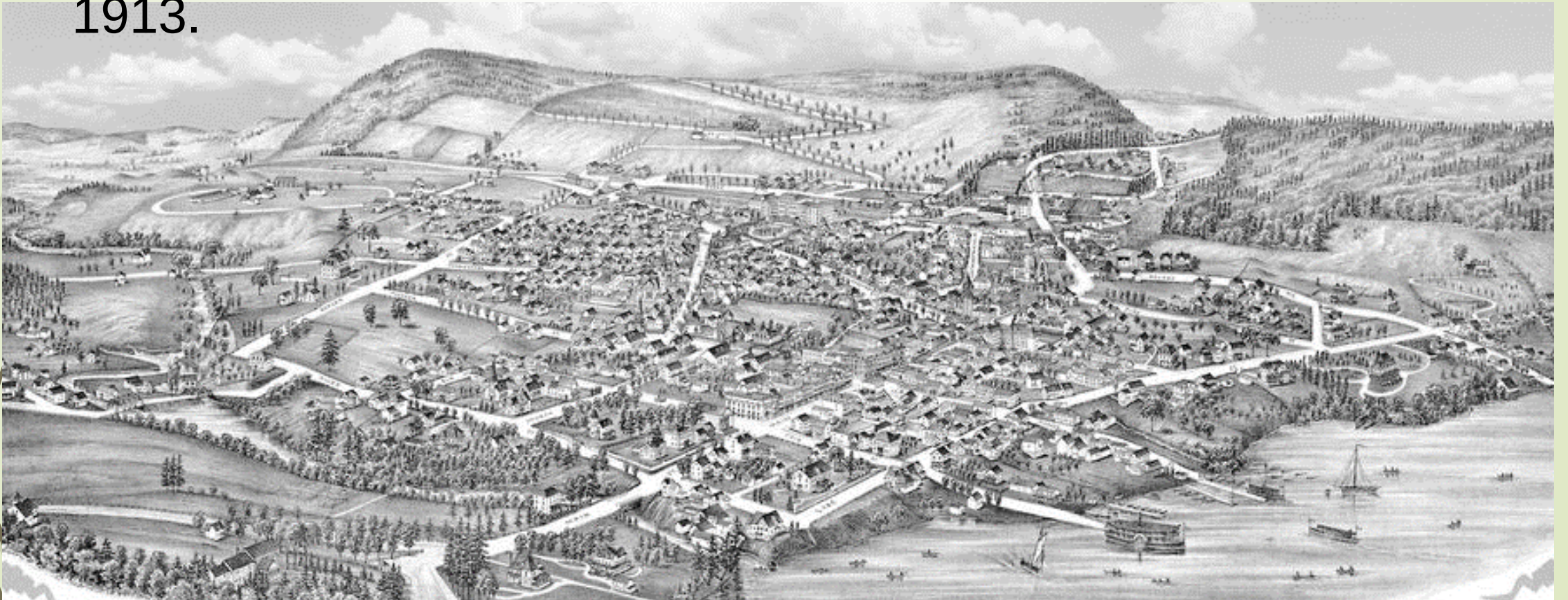


In spite of - or perhaps due to - all of the attention given to the “silent speech” advertising of **the Suffrage Ball**, it **was a huge success**, and the fact that **more men reportedly attended than women** indicates that the approach of Anna and other suffragists to appeal to the men for support instead of stereotyping them all as Galligans and Butts was equally successful. It also appears than **Anna’s reputation was also not tarnished in any way, but was in fact elevated**, as seen in the final advertising the morning of the ball - much of which had already “been done by the voiceless speeches which led Miss Anna Constable to the Jefferson Market Police Court” - which was via automobile (still a novelty as Henry Ford’s Model T had made its debut less than five years prior to this event).

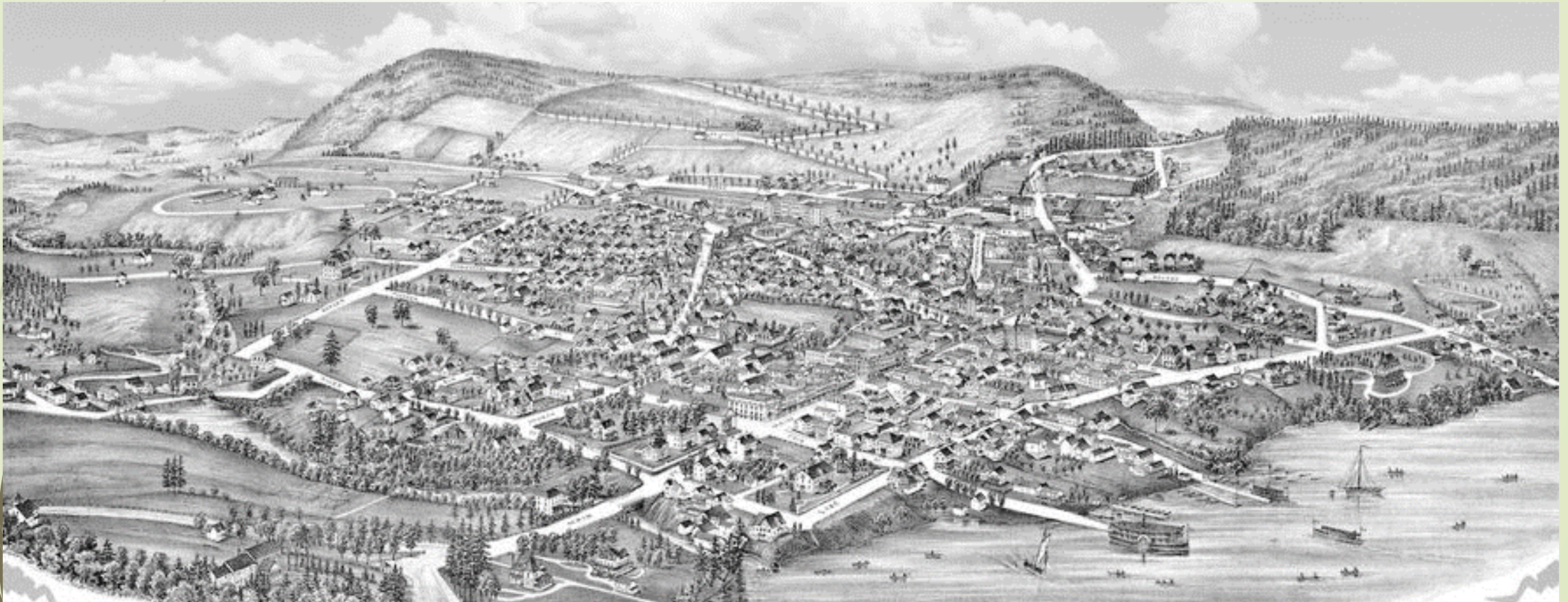


During another recruiting drive, while several of the Woman's Political Union took the "voiceless speech" performance "of suffrage sentiments on cards displayed on an easel, and changed every three minutes by the women" to City Hall Park (thus avoiding any accusations of blocking the street), and were positively received, Anna and others went to Herald Square where they "were not so fortunate... accosted by an **anti-suffragist, who told Miss Anna Constable she 'ought to be ashamed of herself'**" and called her a "hussy."

Anna continued her rise in the woman suffrage movement, now finding herself becoming **prominent statewide** and in demand as a speaker beyond New York City. For example, members of the Cooperstown Suffrage Club “invited the “ardent suffragist” Anna Constable “to address a public meeting” in late August of 1913.



Anna became well-known in the Cooperstown area, spending parts of her summers there with various hosts, including her niece, Mary (the daughter of Anna's brother, Stevenson) and her husband, Walter W. Stokes, in 1913.



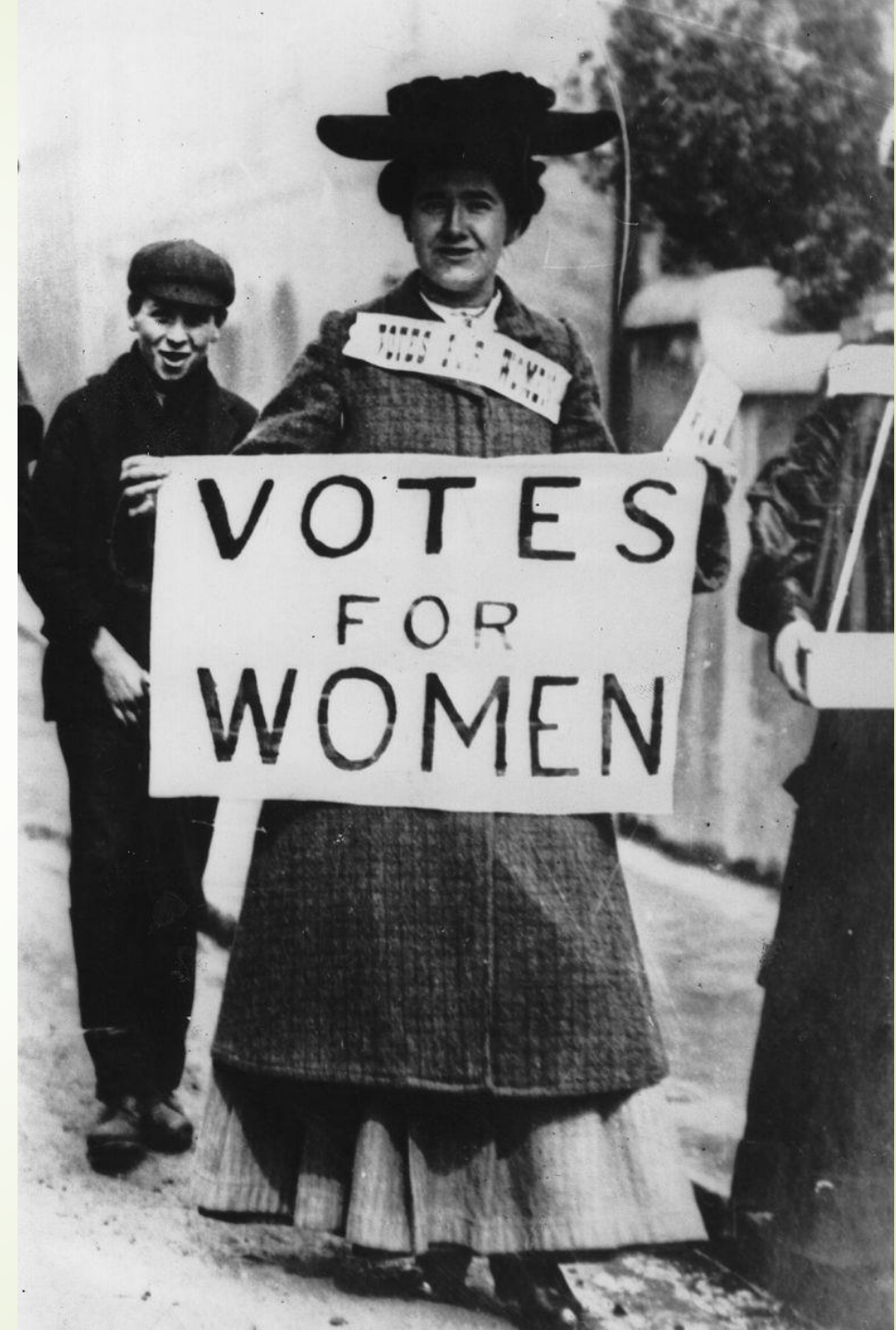
The Constables had built a Queen Anne style **mansion** in 1885 at **Glimmer Glen**, the lakeside estate owned by Anna's cousin and his wife, William and Fannie Constable, a mile and a half north of Cooperstown, NY

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Bowers are at their country seat, Lakelands, near Cooperstown, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. George Hyde Clarke have had a party of young people at Hyde Hall for their daughter, Miss Anne Clarke, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Stokes at Woodside Hall, and Mr. and Mrs. William Constable at Glimmer Glen, have house parties.

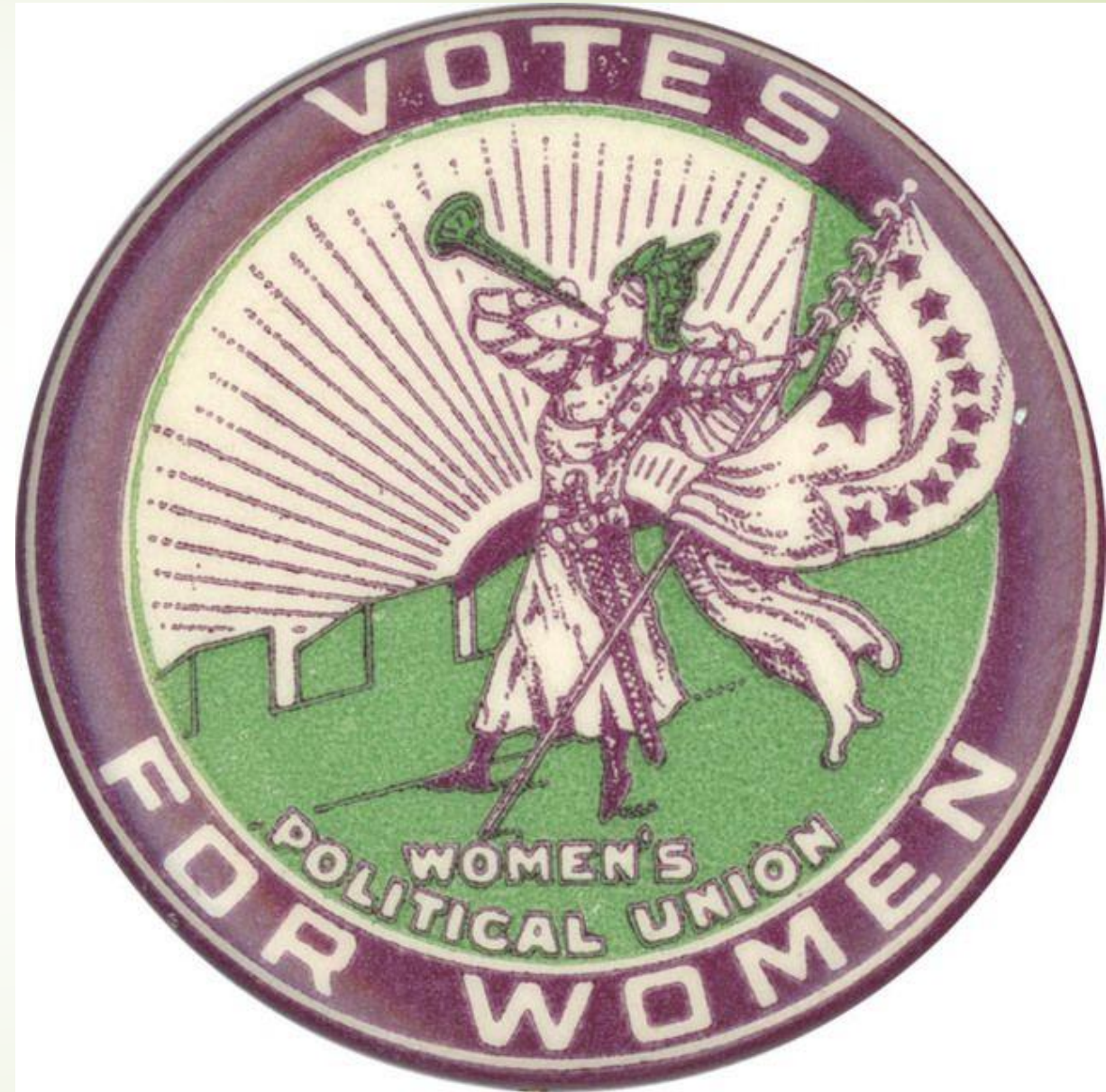


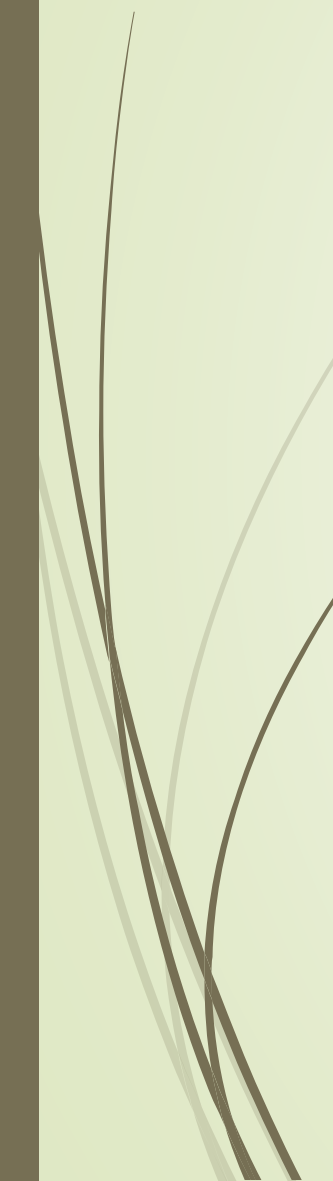
Set in the midst of a seven-acre lawn is the Mansion at Glimmerglen, the country estate of W. T. Hyde at Cooperstown, N. Y., on the shore of Lake Otsego.

Anna returned to New York City on September 2nd and resumed her work with the suffrage movement there, preparing for the third visit of Emmeline Pankhurst, the influential and controversial English suffragist who it was speculated might be detained by immigration officials at Ellis Island upon her arrival in October as she would have to answer in the affirmative the mandatory entry question “Have you been in a prison?”



The following month it was announced that **Anna was** one of the suffragists **chosen to be one of the four delegates** representing the **Women's Political Union** at the **Forty-fifth Suffrage Convention in Washington, D.C.**, travelling with other representatives from suffrage organizations in New York by train in two cars dubbed "Suffrage specials."





After returning from the national convention, **Anna continued to be involved in the daily work of the Women's Political Union**, making and selling gift items during the Christmas season at the organization's headquarters on West Forty-second Street, baking cakes - "the same kind of cake that their good-housekeeping suffrage ancestors used to make" - for a weekly cake sale started in the new year, and **organizing its annual Suffrage Ball** which saw the mayor of New York attend as a guest of honor.



Anna also began investing more than just her time in the suffrage movement. Multiple records provide evidence of her financial contributions to the cause, including a letter of receipt (below) for the purchase of shares (following page) in the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company which were preserved and passed down as part of the Constable family collection of her letters and newspaper clippings:

NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

PUBLISHERS FOR THE

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT, Mrs. CYRUS W. FIELD
VICE-PRESIDENT, Mrs. RAYMOND BROWN
SECRETARY, Miss HELEN POTTER
TREASURER, Miss ESTHER OGDEN
SECRETARY LITERATURE COMMITTEE, Mrs. H. EDWARD DREIER
Miss. MARY WARE DENNETT
Miss. STANLEY MCCORMICK

EDITOR, Miss ELINOR BYRNS
BUSINESS MANAGER, Miss MARIE VIRGINIA SMITH

TELEPHONE, MURRAY HILL 4818



OFFICERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT, Dr. ANNA HOWARD SHAW
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Miss JANE ADDAMS
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Mrs. DESSA BRECKINRIDGE
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT, Miss CAROLINE RUUTZ-REES
RECORDING SECRETARY, Mrs. SUSAN W. FITZGERALD
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Mrs. MARY WARE DENNETT
TREASURER, Mrs. STANLEY MCCORMICK
FIRST AUDITOR, Mrs. JAMES LEES LAIDLAW
SECOND AUDITOR, Mrs. JOSEPH TILTON BOWEN

HEADQUARTERS:
505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

9 February 1914

Miss Anna Constable,

799 Park Avenue,

New York City.

Dear Miss Constable:-

We wish to acknowledge with our thanks the receipt of the \$50.00 in payment of 5 shares of stock in the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company. We appreciate both the subscription and the timeliness of its payment.

We enclose a receipt for the amount of your stock, for which a certificate will be sent as soon as issued.

Faithfully yours,

NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE PUB. CO.

Edith M. J. Field
President.

CERTIFICATE

FOR
Five
SHARES

OF THE
Capital Stock

OF
National Woman Suffrage
Publishing Company, Inc.

ISSUED TO

Anna Constable
DATED

March 7-1914

*For future transfer, hereby acknowledged by the within named
share of the Capital Stock reported by the within named
Certificate, and do hereby irrevocably and fully and lawfully
be transfer the said stock on the books of the within named
corporation with full power of endorsement on the premises.
Witness my hand and seal this 7th day of March 1914.*

NOTICE: THE SIGNATURE OF THIS ASSOCIATION MUST CORRESPOND
WITH THE NAME AS WRITTEN UPON THE FACE OF THE CERTIFICATE IN EVERY
PARTICULAR. ANY DISCREPANCY WILL BE A CAUTION TO THE ASSOCIATION AND MAY CAUSE THE CERTIFICATE TO BE
REJECTED.



Another example of a unique type of presentation - “a new sensation” - was **Anna’s use of “doll actresses,”** similar in form to marionette puppets, to perform plays. This free “woman’s theatre” consisted of “nine inch water color painted dolls, mounted on tin standards and drawn by tapes.... **manipulated by members of the Woman’s Political Union in the window of the new headquarters.**” The dolls, which were “the work of Miss Anna Constable,” would each represent a state (“Nevada is a cowgirl.... California is a white clad summer girl.... New York is a lady of fashion carrying a suffrage banner.... Alaska is wrapped in furs”), would perform a repertoire of three suffrage plays.

Given Anna's role in creating this unique performance, coupled with her recent legal dispute over making "silent speeches," **the fact that this public display in the window of the WPU headquarters would no doubt attract and hold the attention of a crowd and block traffic also makes it a political reassertion of the right for women to make equal use of their storefront to advertise, as well as make equal use of their civil rights of free speech, assembly, and protest.**



In 1914 Anna travelled to Washington, D.C., as part of a **delegation** of Women's Political Union members who joined with delegations from other suffragist organization from across New York to take part in a suffrage parade which planned to "march up Pennsylvania Avenue and hold a suffrage meeting on the east steps of the Capitol where the President takes his oath of office" and then "**present a petition to Congress.**"





The following week, **a lengthy editorial appeared in *The New York Times* titled “Women To Be Equal Must Give Up Much,”** listing the “special privileges” women enjoyed in the United States and would ostensibly have to give up should they gain complete equality with men (the original article appears on the left column of the image of the newspaper page at left). The article and the points it made were not unusually convincing or original, but **Anna took the time to respond to it point by point**, either because a clipping of the article was sent to her or because she found it a concise summary of common objections and clipped it out herself. In any event, it was passed down with her papers, pasted on the left side of heavy stock 83cm long, with typed notes at the top and Anna’s handwritten notes on the right (continuing briefly on the back).

Anna's response to the editorial is powerful in many ways.

First, she opens on the offensive, turning around the question of women having to potentially give up alleged advantages if they are given equal rights and asking what, if anything, men have had to give up in order to gain suffrage. Almost anticipating a response that might be made about sacrificing in battle to form and preserve the nation, Anna then echoes the concept found in the Declaration of Independence that "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," by stating that "**Just government rests on the consent of the governed.**"



After showing that the specific privileges women are presumed to enjoy don't actually exist, she then proclaims that **women “are not asking for courtesy or privileges - we are asking for the same... weapon you men have - the ballot.”** And after reminding the reader that the greater equality women in the West enjoy has not caused social or political disorder, Anna shows how terrible some of the laws back East are, concluding with acidic appreciation of the fact that **“Men are much better than their laws.”** Her final remarks leave the reader to consider the common and universal humanity of men and women - **“Life comes the same way to all of us... and death is just as Inevitable to both - why complicate matters by denying her Equality.”**

On 31 March 1915, representatives from twenty-four states met at the Peg Woffington Coffee House and officially nationalized the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage (CU) - “a new national organization which will take from the old national organization much of its young blood and enthusiastic, radical workers” - with **Anna as one of the speakers at what was later called “one of the most important suffrage meetings held in New York in a long time.”**



Anna began appearing with others trained to give public sidewalk “**stump speeches**” in March, and then on her own in April at a “Street Meeting” on a Saturday afternoon outside Bloomingdale’s at Fifty-ninth Street and Third Avenue. Having demonstrated numerous times her ability to speak and hold her own in the argument for suffrage, Anna was also chosen to be one of the select “prominent women” who would visit with Senator James O’Gorman to ask him to support the Susan B. Anthony amendment to the Constitution.



The following day, Anna gave a speech at 1 p.m. at Broad Street and Exchange Place, alongside another WPU speaker, Mrs. Francis Cabot. The specific topic, the size of the audience, and the overall reception of Anna's speech are all unknown, but it did have an impact on one individual - enough of an impact for the unnamed woman, a self-described "howling Anti" (Anti-Suffragist), to return to her office after hearing Anna's speech and immediately write a letter (see following page) to the WPU expressing pleasure in listening to Anna Constable.

Principal Office:
Continental Commercial
Bank Building
CHICAGO, ILL.

H. M. Byllesby & Company, Inc.
Trinity Building, 311 Broadway
NEW YORK CITY

Western Office:
Tacoma Gas Company Building
TACOMA, WASH.

May 19, 1915.

Women's Political Union,
New York City.

Meedames:

For some time past, I have tried vainly to become interested in your stump speakers at various "meets" and have always found, until today, that your speakers were very anxious to impress upon their audiences just what they in particular did to further the cause. What I was most anxious to learn was, just what good is the cause. I even attended the Suffrage Lunch Room one day, and had the ill-fate to hear one of your delegates talk about her work in Chinatown, and the Red Light district of Chicago, and then as an after-thought say "Suffrage is bound to come. The Antis say 'woman's place is in the home, but they go to matinees, why aren't they home?' Those are her exact words, for I took them down in short-hand. Can you imagine the impression(?) such an argument could make on a person who occasionally thinks?

Today, Glory be to a real woman, I had the pleasure of hearing Miss Anna Constable, if I have the name correctly, and she told us twelve principal objections men have to woman's voting, and cited her arguments so well, so impersonal, so from the viewpoint of a "CAUSE", that I would be very grateful to you, as one of many who would like to really be convinced, if we could have a few more such speakers.

I must say, that in spite of hearing at least fifty good (?) advertised speakers for the cause, Miss Constable is the only one who sent me back to my office thinking, and many men in the audience thought, too, that her arguments though short, and to the point, carried a great deal of convincing weight.

So here's to Miss Constable's credit if I am seriously convinced of the good, despite the fact that I have been a howling Anti.

Yours very truly,
(Miss) *Edw. J. [unclear]*

Principal Office:
Continental and Commercial
Bank Building
CHICAGO, ILL.

H. M. Byllesby & Company, Inc.

Trinity Building, 111 Broadway
NEW YORK CITY

570111
Chief
FILE
Western Office:
Tacoma Gas Company Building
TACOMA, WASH.

May 19, 1915.

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New York City.

Mesdames:

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So here's to Miss Constable's credit if I am seriously convinced of the good, despite the fact that I have been a howling Anti.

Yours very truly,

(Miss) *A. E. Meyer*



Anna continued to be active in live demonstrations, “in command” of a festive **4th of July march** of the WPU dressed as “**Captain Anna Constable,**” giving a speech ten days later, and then heading to Albany with other members of the WPU leadership to ensure that the wording of the November 2nd ballot measure regarding female suffrage would be simple enough for the common man to understand



Nonetheless, the 1915 proposition to permit women to vote was overwhelmingly defeated in New York State, going down in flames along with the effort to adopt a new state constitution. Thus **the suffragists turned their attention to the federal level, with Anna joining another political delegation, this time from the newly-formed Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage**, to visit the nation's capital to meet with the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, William F. McCombs. Despite being the campaign manager for President Wilson, a staunch anti-suffragist, McCombs communicated to the delegation that there was “no question more important than woman suffrage.”



Back in New York, the WPU underwent “[a] complete reorganization,” with Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch handing the reins over to her daughter, Mrs. Nora Blatch De Forest, and many other of the older members, including Anna, handing their places over to younger members. The WPU also shifted its focus in order to bring the “business, industrial, and professional women of lower New York... into the suffrage fold,” intending to “soon take a shop downtown in the financial district to carry on its work.” Furthermore, the reorganized WPU declared its intention to introduce on the opening day of the State Legislature “a Presidential Suffrage bill and a resolution urging Congress, on behalf of the New York Legislature, to submit a suffrage constitutional amendment to the Legislatures of the various States of the Union.”

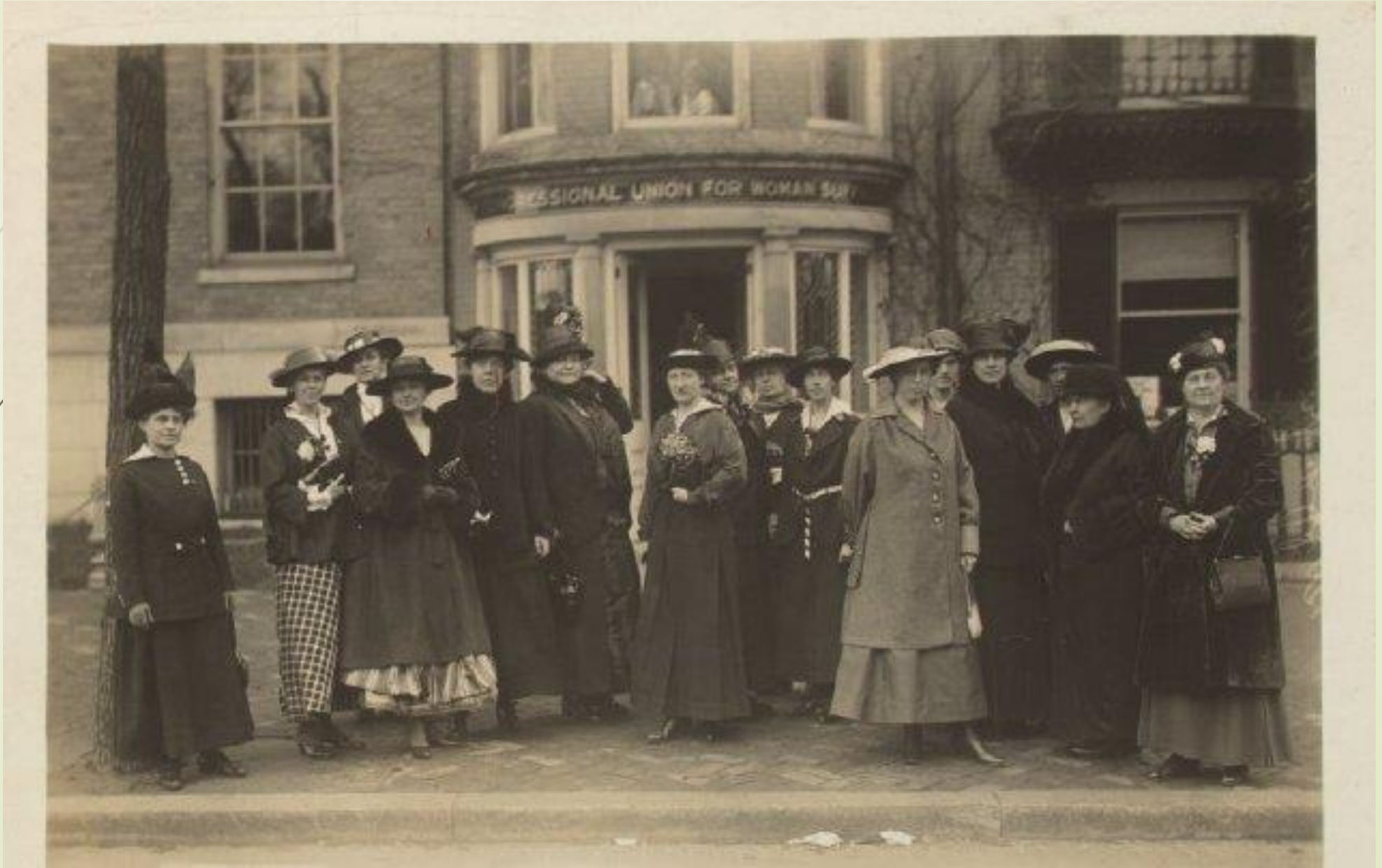


But in the opening month of a new year - a Presidential election year in a nation struggling to stay out of the world war that was grinding European empires to pieces - **Anna was once again called upon to help represent the suffrage movement**, this time as part of a small delegation of women from the Congressional Union, **to meet with President Wilson during his visit to New York**. As it turned out, once word of the meeting got out, two hundred women showed up, only to hear Wilson tell them that “he was **still opposed to granting suffrage to women** through an amendment to the Federal Constitution.”



After being rebuffed by Wilson and the Democratic Party which controlled Congress at the time, the members of the Congressional Union began discussing the formation of a national suffrage party among women voters, with the Advisory Council of the Union conferencing with the state and national officers (see photographs on following page) in April to plan a **Woman's Party**. The object of the new party would be to "organize the women voters of the twelve enfranchised States into a group whose power will be an effective weapon in securing the passage of the national suffrage amendment" by casting votes in the 1916 elections "where they will most help the suffrage cause, in order to secure favorable action from Congress."

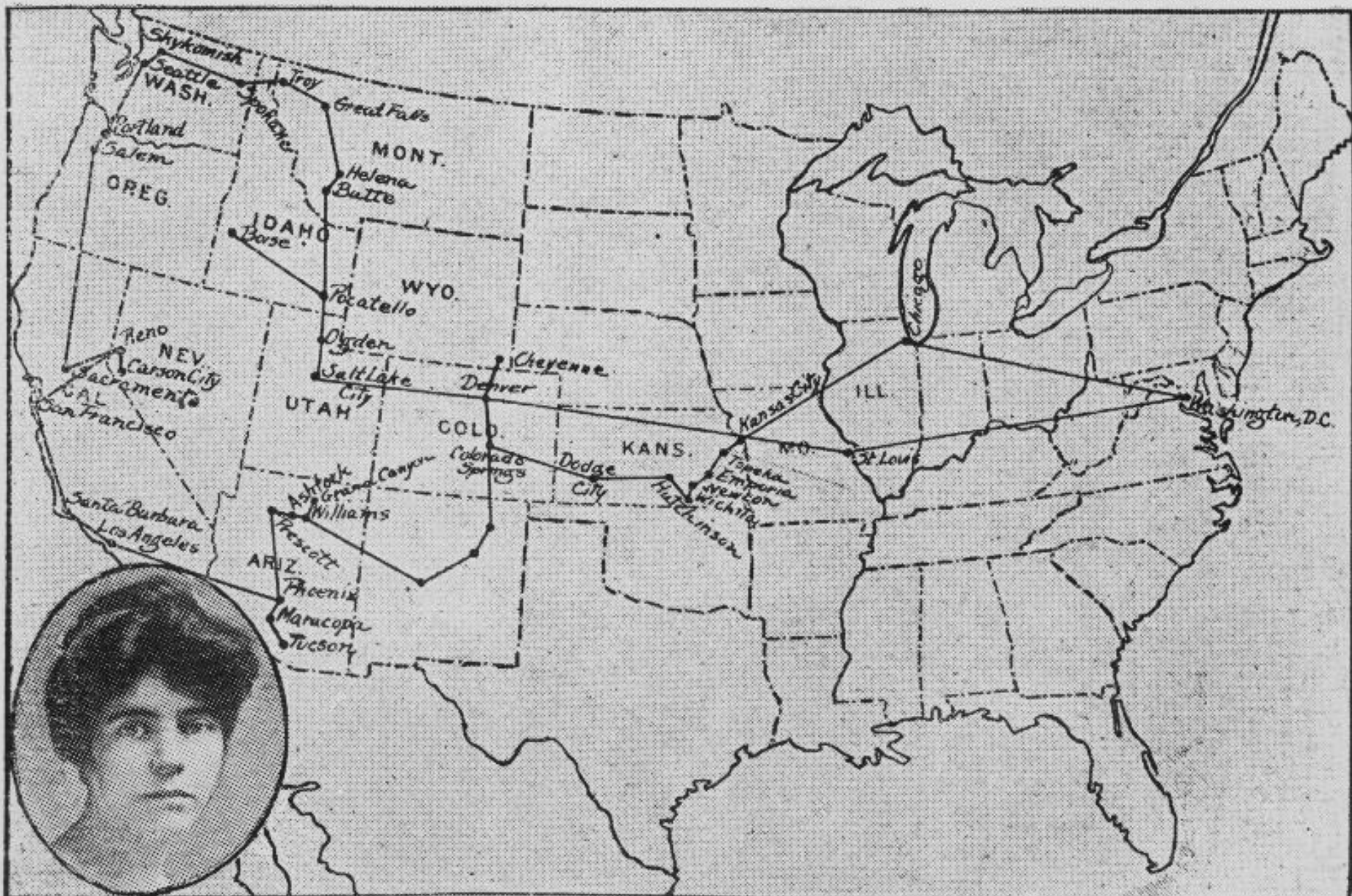
“Luncheon of the Advisory Council state and national officers” **(Anna is the sixth from the left)**





In order to organize the new political party, the Congressional Union created “a special delegation of thirty-six women, one from each non-suffrage State” to travel to the twelve enfranchised states “to line up the women voters into a voting body.” These “**envoys into the West**” were elected at the conference and left immediately to embark on a six week tour that included “all the principal cities of the enfranchised States,” with **Anna Constable chosen to represent New York**, leaving Penn Station with several other national officers “[t]o the music of a brass band playing ‘Onward, Christian Soldiers’” for the rendezvous point in Washington D.C. where they would meet with the rest of the delegation

ROUTE OF ENVOYS SENT FROM EAST BY THE CONGRESSIONAL UNION FOR WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE, TO APPEAL TO THE VOTING WOMEN OF THE WEST

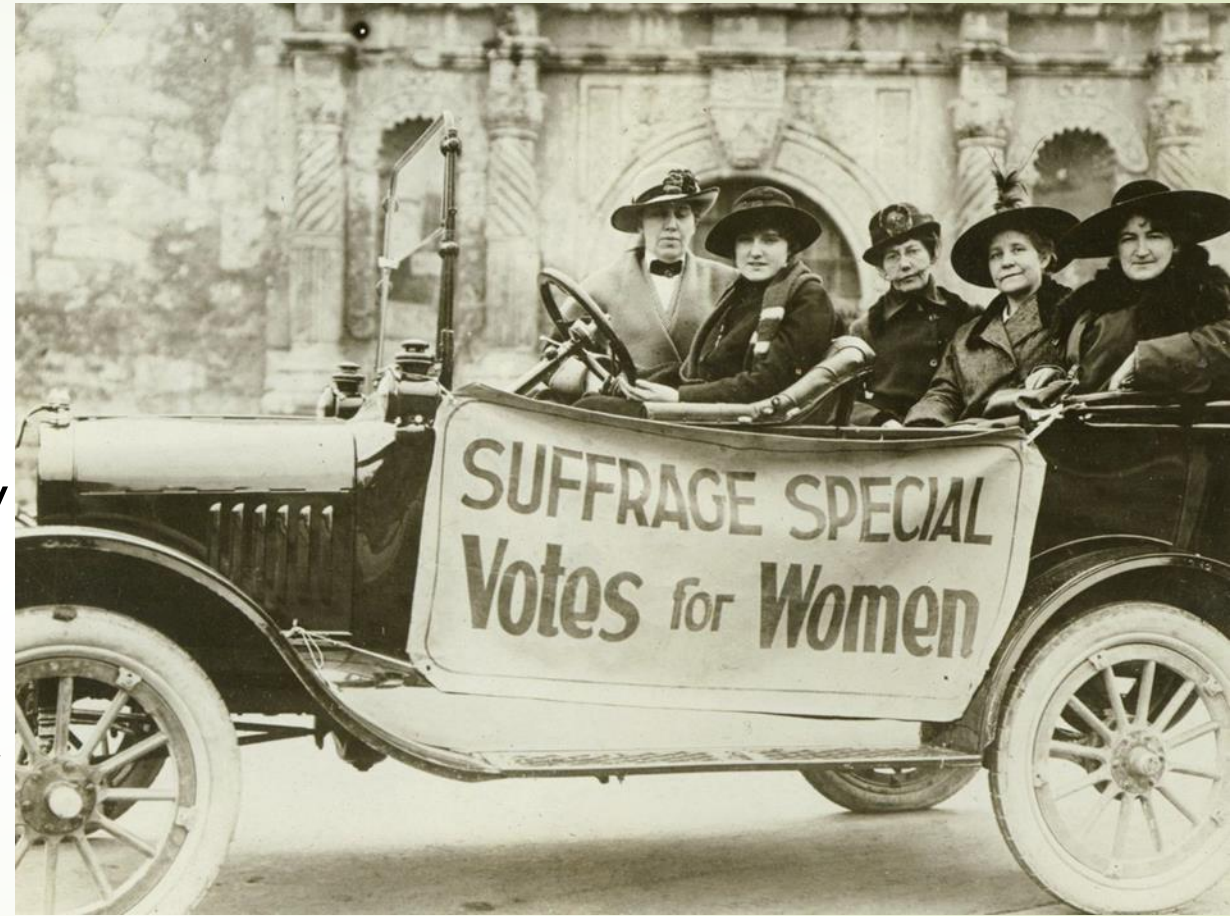


MISS ALICE PAUL, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL UNION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The “Suffrage Special” ended at Salt Lake City on May 11th where a convention was held and resolutions were passed, one “demanding from Congress favorable action on the Suffrage Amendment in the present session” and another electing three women voters to accompany the envoy and carry the resolutions to Congress. The group arrived back in Washington, D.C., on May 16th where they welcomed at Union Station with a "White Luncheon" attended by 300 women and then drove through the streets lined with supporters in “brilliantly decorated” automobiles.



The following day, Anna and the other two members of the New York delegation, accompanied by Alice Paul, head of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, returned to Penn Station where they were “met by other women with a band, a decorated bus, and motor cars, and... a big suffrage demonstration outside the station.”



No doubt exhausted from the whirlwind tour of the country, **Anna**, having just turned 49 years old, **returned to the Cooperstown area for the summer**, again staying with her niece, Mary Stokes at “Crooked Cottage” on Lake Street overlooking Blackbird Bay on Otsego Lake.





A memorial service was held on **Christmas Day, 1916**, for **Inez Milholland Boissevain** at the U.S. Capitol in Statuary Hall, the first ever held there for a woman. Boissevain had collapse on stage during an October speech against President Wilson and the Democratic Party “for their perceived failure to support women’s suffrage,” passing away in November, aged 30, of “pernicious anemia” and becoming widely regarded as **the first martyr of the American women’s suffrage campaign**. At the memorial, the suffragists drafted resolutions to be presented to President Wilson, but, with his reelection secure, **Wilson saw little need to pay attention to the suffragists** he had politely tolerated during the campaign.

After two weeks of persistence, and perhaps hoping to avoid another public demonstration at his upcoming inauguration in March, **Wilson finally agreed to meet with a delegation of suffragists on January 9th, 1917.** The women presented him with the resolutions they had drafted during Inez Milholland's memorial gathering and asked him to use influence to promote a federal woman suffrage amendment. **Wilson angrily refused and walked out on the delegation.**



Equally infuriated, **the suffragists began silently picketing the White House the following day** calling for support to do so. On January 10th, the first twelve “Silent Sentinels,” as they became known, marched to the White House carrying their trademark purple, white, and gold tricolor banners. The picketing continued well past Wilson’s inauguration, **regardless of weather conditions, with special days scheduled to highlight different groups of women.**



On January 26th, **Anna joined twenty-three other New York suffragists in the picket line at the White House**, standing silently on a raw, wet, windy day that had the women “so well fortified against the cold that they resembled animated bundles of clothing.” But the cold northwest breezes did not stop them from **waving banners “on which were inscribed quotations from the President’s own book, ‘The New Freedom,’”** including one that read “Liberty is the fundamental demand of the human spirit” alongside one that read “How long must women wait for liberty?”



At **Wilson's second inauguration**, over a thousand **suffragists turned out in icy, driving rain to conduct a "Grand Picket,"** marching around the White House - or "Marching seven times around the walls of Jericho" as they portrayed it - for several hours, following behind a brass band, waiting to present a series of resolutions from their recent convention to President Wilson. **Wilson, who had all the gates to the grounds of the White House locked, drove through the picket line with his wife beside him, ignoring the marchers,** leaving them fuming.





Suffragists continued to agitate and raise support - including still-popular Mi-Carême Suffrage balls and bazaars - but **the entrance of the United States into World War I** on April 6th presented many challenges. First, it further **divided the suffrage movement**, with Anna, Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party continuing to picket and protest, while "the mainstream suffrage movement," the National American Woman Suffrage Association led by Carrie Chapman Catt, "threw its support behind the war effort."



Second, as the nation prepared for war, “[m]any **government officials and citizens interpreted wartime protests as public acts of disloyalty**” and “both authorities and crowds directed their anger toward any dissidents.... White House **policemen continuously arrested the suffragists on charges of unlawful assembly, disorderly conduct, and disrupting traffic**” while hostile crowds at times “incited violence by accosting the women and destroying their banners.”



Nevertheless, the NWP persisted, and their **picketing** “**proved to be an embarrassment for the nation at a time when America was fighting abroad to defend freedom and democracy but could not promise the same principles at home.**” During a protest in June, the suffragists unfurled a sign “accusing Wilson of deceiving Russian envoys with claims that America is a democracy - a falsehood, the picketers said, since 20 million American women could not vote.” **Wilson, not amused, was likely behind the further arrest of picketers the following day for obstructing traffic.**

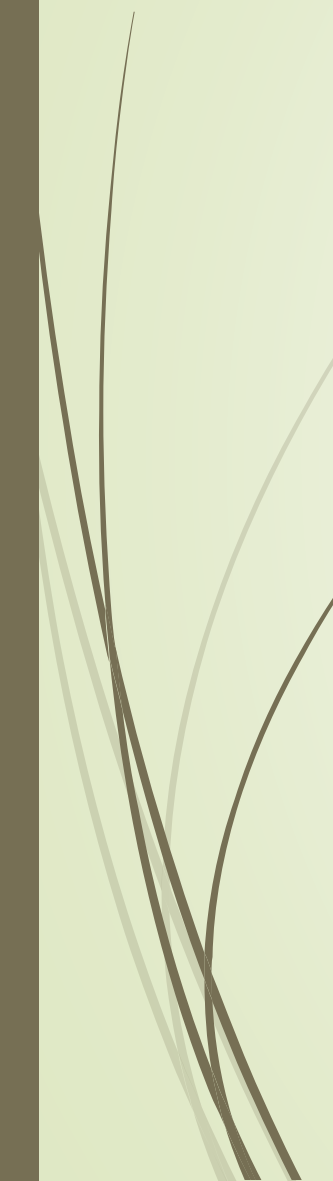


Anna, who could perhaps sympathize with the arrested women more than anyone else, helped start “a telegraphic campaign of protest” against the sentences which had been carried out, with 16 suffragist women imprisoned in the District of Columbia Workhouse in Occoquan, Virginia. Anna, one of prominent leaders of the party, serving as treasurer of the New York branch, sent a telegram directly to the President, and helped the NWP members enlist hundreds of other New York women to do the same, with thousands more across the country joining in.



Anna, when interviewed by *The New York Times*, stated:

“The National Woman’s Party is not going to be imprisoned out of existence. It is seventy-five years since the women began fighting for enfranchisement, and if there were not so many of them in the early days, why, it was a question of ethics, not numbers. This country has a precedent different from any other country of starting in with a declaration of ethics. If the men wish anything they fight for it and get it.

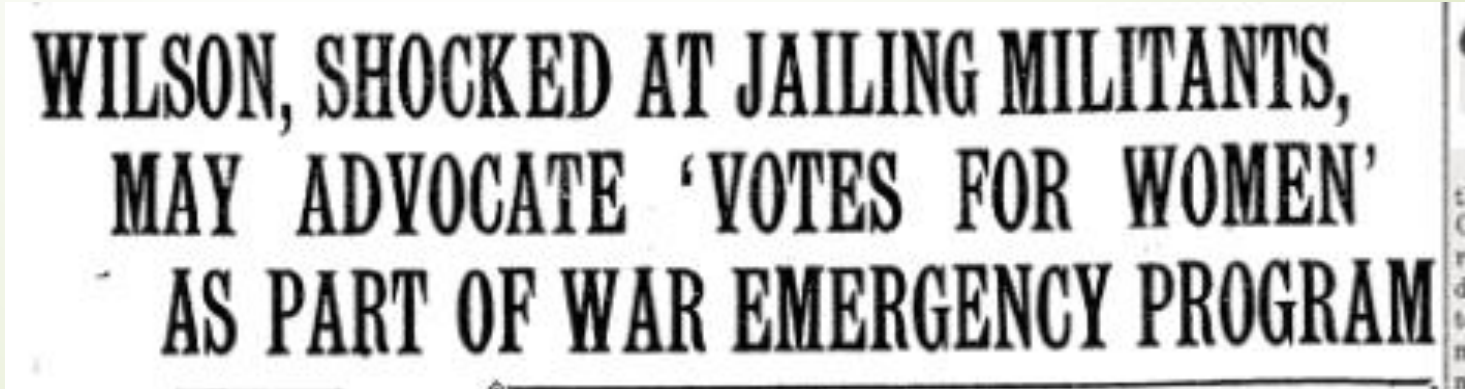




“Why is President Wilson refusing to pass the Susan B. Anthony Amendment? Is it because he disapproves of it as a war measure? If he raises a finger the bill will come out of committee. It will take forty-five minutes for a roll call, and the amendment cannot go into effect until the Legislature of thirty-six States have ratified it. This may take three years. In the meantime Congress will have to put out of the way this question, which will never be allowed to die down.”



Wilson, sensing that the terrible optics of imprisoning women for peacefully protesting for the right to participate equally in the democratic process while claiming that “[t]he world must be made safe for democracy,” **appeared to suddenly soften his stance** against supporting a federal amendment. Reportedly “shocked at the whole affair,” Wilson considered “a pardon for the women from the workhouse” - which he did three days later - and “discussed the advisability of treating the suffrage amendment as a war emergency measure.”

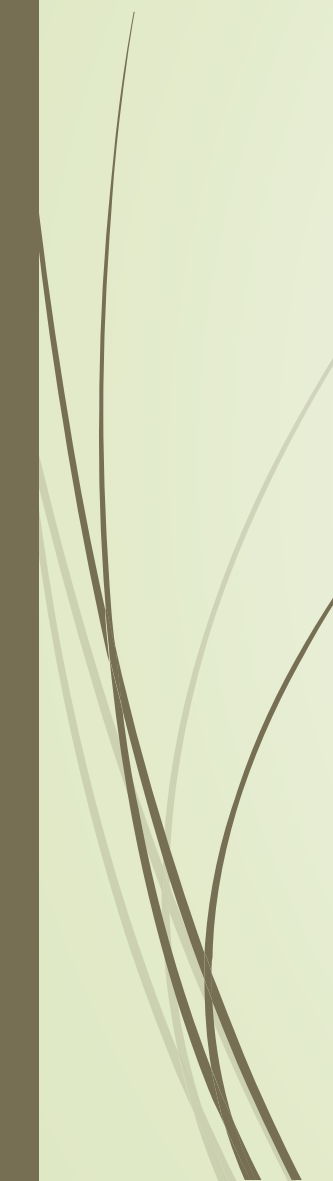


WILSON, SHOCKED AT JAILING MILITANTS,
MAY ADVOCATE 'VOTES FOR WOMEN'
AS PART OF WAR EMERGENCY PROGRAM

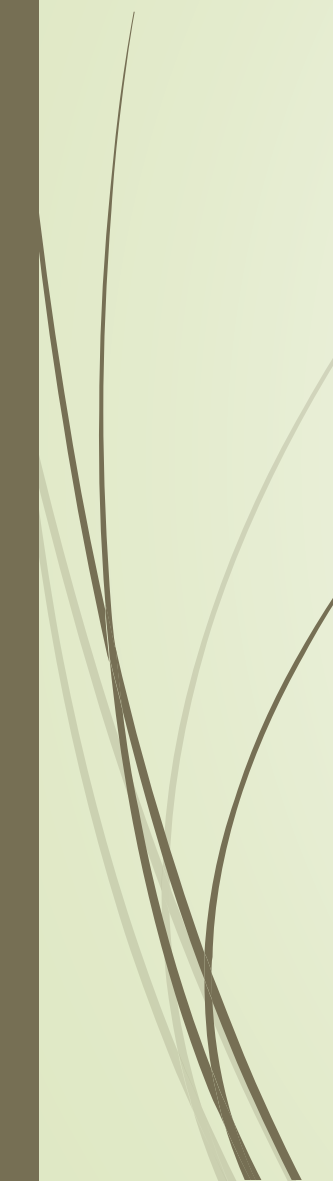
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Due in part, perhaps, to Wilson's support, the following month saw **women in New York State finally gain the right to vote**. As he had reasoned in his public speech, World War I did indeed have "a massive impact on suffrage as **women held jobs at home vacated by men fighting in the war, working in munitions factories and farming land, among other occupations**" while others "served overseas as nurses and in military support roles" and by taking on such a large and public role in the war effort, a majority of them male voters in New York obviously shared the sentiment that "**it was difficult to justify not allowing women to participate in society as full citizens.**"





As the year drew to a close, **a full-page summary of the seventy years of work by the suffragists appeared in the New York press.** Not only did the summary mention Anna by name when it highlighted the women “who did much fine work with the Women’s Political Union,” but **the list** of notable events that propelled the cause forward **could also serve as a timeline of Anna’s involvement,** mentioning the very first street meetings and women speaking on soapboxes in the street, “talking away with red noses and blown hair in the bleak wind,” as well as protesting during Wilson’s campaign, **women who “didn’t know much except to dance and dress and see her friends... [now] seen talking freedom for women to huge swirling crowds...”**



“...women **toiling in suffrage party headquarters behind the scenes**, merger meetings such as the one held at Carnegie Hall, **a Fourth of July suffrage parade** “with buglers in red, white and blue tooting in front,” **lobbying trips** “to Albany and Washington,” **picketing at the White House**, and the many other “**colorful things** that the old W.P.U. put through besides the solid work it did in the Legislature and with the voters....Nothing that the W.P.U. did was free from that element of the bizarre, the colorful. They did their bit, and a big bit it was.”



With suffrage for women secure in New York State, and with President Wilson no longer opposed to the idea, **Anna and her colleagues renewed their efforts to see equality established in a federal amendment.** When two of her compatriots met with Republican Congressman Norman J. Gould in the final week of 1917, they were informed that he intended to vote against such a suffrage amendment and that women “‘should wait until after the war.’” Anna reportedly paid him a follow-up visit and had “a conversation of some length with the congressman.” Although he claimed that he was unaware of any interest in the federal amendment in his district, Anna undoubtedly informed him otherwise, leaving the meeting by declaring that she was placing him in the “hopeful though opposed” column on her lobby report.

As news of the end of the war filtered back to the United States, **many women helped prepare the nation to receive the wounded and recovering soldiers**, as well as support relief efforts in the ravaged European theatre. Thus, as the year closed, **Anna was working to raise funds** for this expected need, **organizing a benefit to support several charities aimed at helping the blind.**





As **1919** began, with the war over, the suffragists renewed their drive to see women across the nation gain the right to vote through a Constitutional amendment. **President Wilson had urged passage of a federal woman suffrage amendment** in his annual address to Congress in December, but members of **the NWP were unimpressed**, and demanded more than just words, ending their national conference in Washington, D.C., by **burning copies of President Wilson's speeches in Lafayette Park**. On New Year's Day the suffragists continued this new form of demonstration, lighting a fire in an urn placed in front of White House by NWP members, again fueled by copies of President Wilson's speeches.





When two members of the party then unfurled a banner reading “President Wilson is Deceiving the World When He Appears as the Prophet of Democracy,” a group of soldiers and sailors attacked the women and overturned the urn. The women rekindled the fire and “kept it burning continuously for several days to exert pressure on Wilson” to secure the remaining two votes that had caused Senate passage of the suffrage amendment to fall short in October. Instead, **multiple arrests and imprisonments occurred**, and the “watch fire” protests continued into February, with a “[m]assive watch fire demonstration held” on February 9th, an event which “sparked controversy” when the women burned President Wilson’s portrait in effigy. **39 women were arrested as a result, with 26 sentenced to prison and immediately beginning a hunger strike.**

The following day, **the suffrage amendment bill failed** in the Senate **by a single vote**.





Undeterred, **the NWP shifted tactics** the following week, capitalizing on the imprisonment of their members, and **revived the idea of the “Suffrage Special,”** again utilizing trains “in possibly the most powerful use of travel to further the woman suffrage cause: **The Prison Special Tour of 1919.**” The 1919 tour, which, like the original “Suffrage Special” left from Union Station in Washington, D.C., featured 26 of the suffragists who had served prison sentences. Over the next three weeks, the women, often dressed in prison costumes, barnstormed across the nation, telling the country about their experiences in prison and demanding immediate passage of the national suffrage amendment:

“Often wearing their prison uniforms, the women addressed crowds of people across the country and met with fellow suffragists who had been jailed in other cities” with Lucy Burns and others recounting their experience of being force-fed during their hunger strikes.



Anna, still an active member of the NWP's National Advisory Council, remained busy helping the returning soldiers, "more or less shattered in the desperate fighting that preceded Germany's collapse." She **joined with other "society women" to host "daily motor tours of New York City for military hospital convalescents...** giving soldiers from all parts of the country views of the country's greatest city."



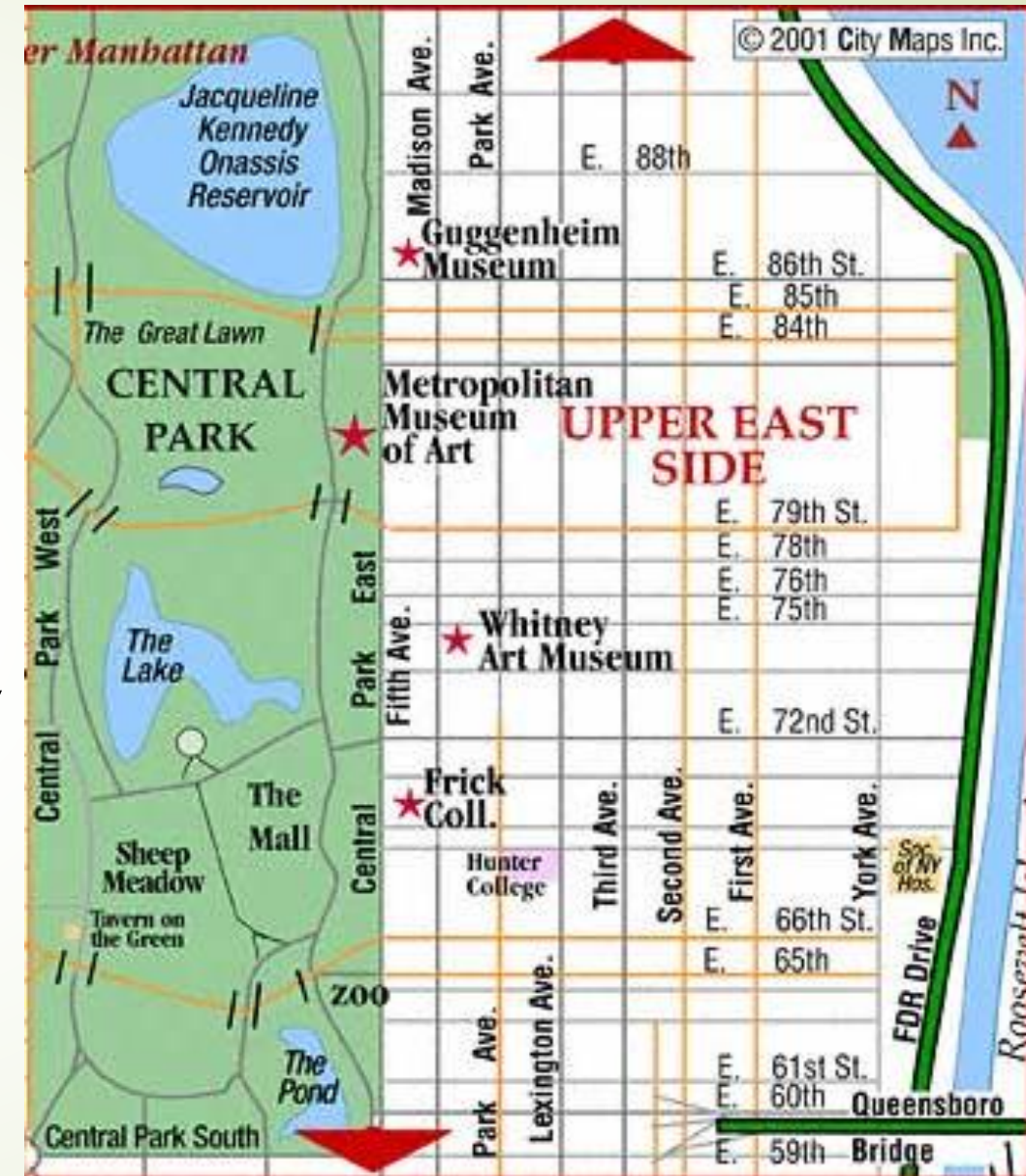


Whether or not Anna approved of the increasing militancy of her NWP sisters is unknown, as any lack of mention of her engaging in such activity **could be due just as much to her age and health** as it could be attributed to her disapproval of these tactics. The fact that she was nearing her 52nd birthday and was soon to pass away from heart disease, coupled with the fact that **she remained active in the NWP and attended the national convention the year before she died**, the latter seems more likely.

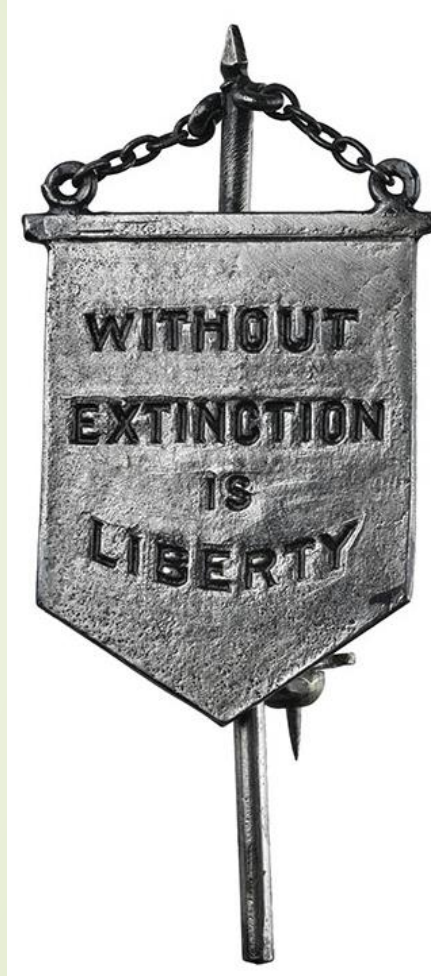
What cannot be argued is the fact that, after decades of struggle, **Anna, the NWP, and pro-suffrage women across the nation, finally achieved their goal when Congress passed the 19th Amendment on June 4th, 1919,** guaranteeing that the right to vote would no longer be to citizens of the United States account of sex, and seeing it ratified on August 18th, 1920, in time for the national election that November.



In **1920**, Anna was still living in Manhattan, renting an apartment at 121 East 76th Street on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, three blocks away from Central Park. Howard, still working as an architectural engineer, was living nearby, having recently returned to live in Manhattan with his wife, Fanny, and their two young daughters, Mary and Julia, on the other side of the park on West 119th Street.



Anna continued to be a leader in the National Woman's Party at both the state and national levels, serving as a member of the **National Advisory Council** as well as the **Congressional District Chairman** for New York State Districts 22 and 23. In 1921, Anna **attended the NWP's national convention in Washington, D.C.**, which met to decide "the future program of the party and whether the women of the country will organize as a political group." On the final night of the proceedings, Anna, along with the other women who had picketed at the White House, were honored and presented with "picket pins" during the "celebration of the victorious suffrage campaign."



After her return to New York, **Anna resumed her role in high society as a patroness of social and charitable causes** such as supporting the effort to establish **an American ballet school** and continuing to raise funds and host **outings for injured soldiers** as a member of the "Lest We Forget Committee." However, by the end of the year, she became ill with heart trouble. Several months later, **on February 24th, 1922**, one month before Mi-Carême, **Anna Constable passed away in New York and was buried in the Constable plot in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.**

MISS ANNA CONSTABLE.

Miss Anna Constable of 121 East Seventy-sixth street, whose family has been well known in the social and business life of New York and Philadelphia for generations, died yesterday in the Booth Memorial Hospital in this city after several months' illness from heart trouble. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Constable of Philadelphia. Her mother before her marriage was Miss Sarah Richards of Philadelphia, whose father was a former Mayor of that city and a founder and former president of the Girard Trust Company. She was a great-granddaughter of William Kerin Constable of Constableville, N. Y., who was an honorary aid to Lafayette.

Miss Constable was a pioneer worker for woman's suffrage and traveled from coast to coast in the interest of the movement in its early days. She took a keen interest in all public questions affecting women and wrote and spoke frequently in public, coming to be widely known for her activities. She was deeply interested in charities and gave freely to many causes. She entertained frequently years ago and the Constable parties were noted for their originality.

Funeral services will be held this morning in St. George's Chapel, Stuyvesant Square, at half past 10 and the interment will be in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, this afternoon at half past 3 o'clock.



Taken together, **the different versions of her obituary, when taken together, paint an accurate picture of Anna Constable's life and times.** Many noted her family's prestigious background: "**great-granddaughter of William Kerin Constable**, honorary aid to Lafayette" "whose family has been well known in the social and business life of New York and Philadelphia for generations.... the daughter of... Miss Sarah Richards, of Philadelphia, whose father was a former mayor of that city."

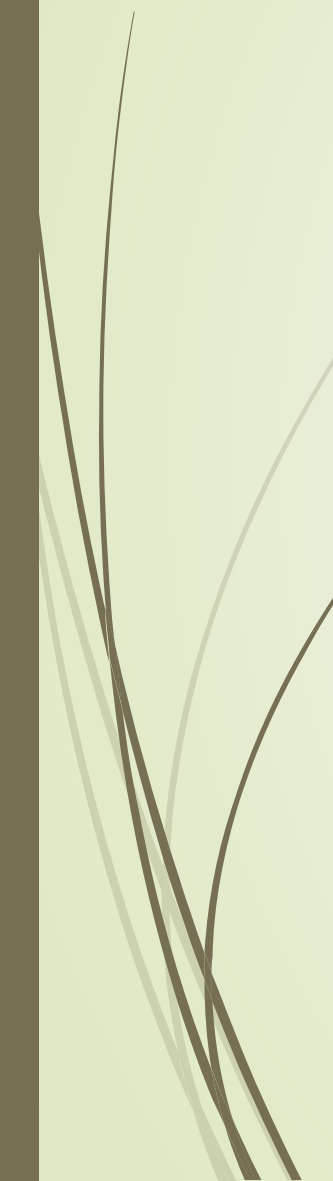
Died.

BRETT—On Feb. 24, 1922, at Buffalo, N. Y., in his 80th year, the Rev. Cornellus Brett, D. D., son of the late Rev. Philip Milledaler Brett and Cornelia Bogert of New York, husband of Helen B. Runyon and father of Mrs. William H. Boocock of Buffalo, N. Y., and Philip Milledaler Brett of New York City. Funeral services at the Bergen Reformed Church, Jersey City Heights, Monday morning, Feb. 27, 1922, at 11 o'clock. Kindly omit flowers. Interment private.

CONSTABLE—Early Friday morning, Feb. 24, 1922, Anna, daughter of the late James and Sarah Richards Constable, in her 54th year. Funeral services at St. George's Chapel, Stuyvesant Square and 16th St., east of 3d Av., at 11 A. M. Saturday, Feb. 25, 1922.



And many noted her active social life: “She was **deeply interested in charities and gave freely to many causes.** She **entertained frequently** years ago and the Constable parties were noted for their originality.” But most importantly, she was remembered as “**a pioneer worker for woman’s suffrage and traveled from coast to coast in the interest of the movement in its early days**” and “took a keen interest in all public questions affecting women and wrote and spoke frequently in public, coming to be widely known for her activities.” **And yet, after her death, Anna was not widely remembered for her part in the suffrage movement.**



Despite envisioning, organizing, and participating in many protests, and working with other women leaders to unite women who had a passionate interest in the suffrage movement, and despite creating and developing the concept of the passive, non-violent "Voiceless Speech" technique and being one of the first suffragists to be arrested for engaging in silent protest, **Anna became barely a footnote in the history of the push by women to gain equal voting rights.**



Doubtless this is due to the fact that **Anna kept the focus and attention on the cause** - unlike others in the movement who did not care to move the spotlight off themselves, but were instead, as the self-described “howling Anti” who heard one of Anna’s street speeches put it, “very anxious to impress upon their audiences just what they in particular did to further the cause.” That anonymous woman perhaps captured the essence of Anna best when she stated “Glory be to a real woman, I had the pleasure of hearing Miss Anna Constable.”

Hopefully hearing of Anna Constable 100 years after women in the United States were enfranchised will give the same pleasure and bring Anna some long overdue glory.