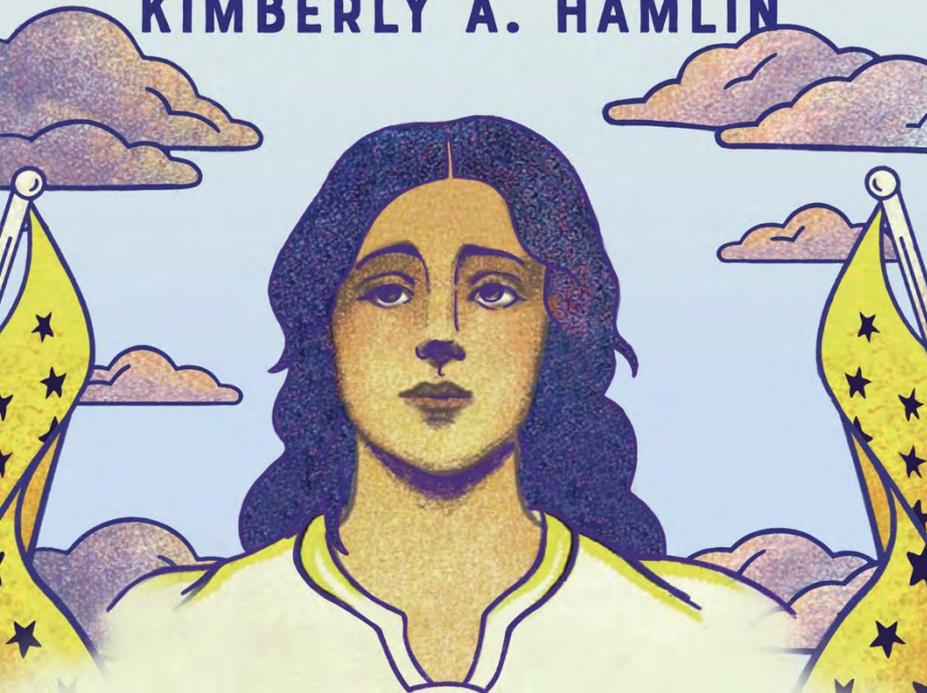


FREE THINKER

SEX, SUFFRAGE, AND THE
EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF
HELEN HAMILTON GARDENER

KIMBERLY A. HAMLIN



Society of Ohio
Archivists 2020 Plenary

“Finding Sex, Race &
Suffrage in the
Archives”

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Who was Helen Hamilton Gardener?

The “fallen woman” who changed her name (born Alice Chenoweth), reinvented herself, and became one of the best-known speakers and writers of the 19th Century. In the early 1900s, she reinvented once more – married a Civil War hero, moved to Washington, DC and became the suffragists’ lead negotiator, credited with getting the 19th Amendment through Congress.



Today's Talk...

- 1) where I went and what I looked for
- 2) Library of Congress Manuscript Division
- 3) Collections of:
Woodrow Wilson, Edith Wilson, Joseph Tumulty, Adelaide Johnson, Sen. John Sharp Williams (D-MS)

Themes (which are not often in finding aids):

- 1) Sex/sexism
- 2) Race/racism
- 3) Memory/forgetting

Focusing on 4 documents from LOC

1) “Little One” to “Little Phil,” August 11, 1901, Adelaide Johnson papers

2) HHG to Tumulty, July 5, 1916, Woodrow Wilson papers

3) John Sharp Williams to HHG, Jan. 21, 1918, JSW papers

4) WW handwritten note, January 8, 1918, Tumulty papers

The Correspondence of Others...HHG in the Adelaide Johnson Collection

BOX 65-66

Correspondence of others

BOX 67-71

Speeches and Articles File

Speeches and articles.

Speeches are arranged chronologically and articles alphabetically by title. A re

Speeches, 1914-1938

BOX 67

Articles

BOX 67

BOX 67

"Aberdeen"- "Susan B. Anthony"

BOX 68

"Art Activity of American Women"- "Political Emancipation as Related to the

BOX 69

Articles "The Portrait Idea and Object"- "Emma Thursby"

BOX 70

"Emma Thursby"- "Women in Music" Untitled

BOX 71

Record of sitting, Susan B. Anthony-Ellen Wheeler Wilcox

- ..

It is far the better than with
I can't get out - don't send

or we go

As soon

now,

Best dealing
the letter

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER
SAN JUAN

Aug. 11 1901.

My dear Little Phil;

I think some of your letters must go astray. You speak of things as if I knew about them and I don't. You say "I think better of Mr Bailey since I saw him". I did not know that you had seen him. So anything you have told me relative to that I have missed. For several steamers (four weeks I think) I had no letter from you. This last mail brought me a letter. Yes, it is simply incredible that Col. S. could do many of the things he did and keep it from me and from others. For twentyfive years he was with me almost day and night and how any others could have failed to know the fact I cannot comprehend. He was

HHG in Wilson Papers Index

WRITER OR RECIPIENT	DATE	S.	NO.	P.	ADDENDA	WRITER OR RECIPIENT	DATE
GARDEN P C TO WW	1913 JE 24	4	84A12	1		GARDENER H H FR WW	1922 JL 11
GARDEN R D TO J SLOAN	1913 JL 25	4	100D	1		GARDENER H H TO*WW	1922 NO 11
GARDEN R D TO JPT	1913 JL 30	4	100D	2		GARDENER H H TO*E B G WILSON	1922 NO 11
GARDEN R D FR W J FLYNN	1913 JL 31	4	100D	1		GARDENER H H FR WW	1922 NO 15
GARDENER H H	SEE ALSO		CIVIL SERVICE COMM			GARDENER H H TO*E B G WILSON	1922 DE 21
GARDENER H H TO *JPT	1916 JL 5	4	89	5	WITH NOTE & PHOTO	GARDENER H H TO WW	1922 DE 21
GARDENER H H TO WW	1917 JA 26	4	89	1		GARDENER H H FR WW	1922 DE 27
GARDENER H H TO*JPT	1917 JA 26	4	89	1		*GARDENER H H FR*E B G WILSON	1923 JA 22
GARDENER H H TO JPT	1917 MY 9	4	89	2		GARDENER H H TO*E B G WILSON	1923 JA 25
GARDENER H H TO WW	1917 MY 10	4	89	2		GARDENER H H FR*E B G WILSON	1923 JA 27
GARDENER H H FR WW	1917 MY 14	3		1	V41-P12	GARDENER H H FR WW	1923 FE 13
GARDENER H H FR*WW	1917 MY 14	4	89	1		GARDENER H H TO WW	1923 AP 13
GARDENER H H TO WW	1917 MY 25	4	89	1		GARDENER H H FR WW	1923 AP 14
GARDENER H H TO JPT	1917 JE 10	4	89	1		GARDENER H H TO*E B G WILSON	1924 FE 1
GARDENER H H TO WW	1917 JE 10	4	89	2		GARDENER H H FR M E PIDGEON	ND
GARDENER H H TO*WW	1917 JL 19	4	89	4	WITH NOTES	GARDENER H H TO*JPT	ND
GARDENER H H TO T W BRAHANY	1917 JL 21	4	89	1		GARDENER H H FR A CLARK	ND
GARDENER H H TO T W BRAHANY	1917 JL 26	4	89	1		GARDENER H H FR E J HOUSER	ND
GARDENER H H TO JPT	1917 SE 20	4	4293	2		GARDENER H H FR H T UPTON	ND
GARDENER H H TO*E POU	1917 NO 3	4	89	6	GARDENER NO 14	GARDENER H H FR M W PARK	ND
GARDENER H H TO JPT	1917 NO 14	4	89	3		GARDENER H H-ADVICE	1918 JE 25
GARDENER H H FR M W PARK	1917 NO 24	2		7	WITH POLL RESULTS	GARDENER H H-REQUEST	1917 NO 6
GARDENER H H TO WW	1917 DE 8	4	89	2		GARDENER H H-REQUEST	1918 JA 5
GARDENER H H TO*J H CLARKE	1918 JA 1	4	89	5	GARDENER JA 3	GARDENER H H-REQUEST	1918 JE 10
GARDENER H H TO JPT	1918 JA 3	4	89	2		GARDENER H H-REQUEST	1918 OC 1
GARDENER H H TO JPT	1918 JA 10	4	89	1		*GARDENER H H-SUFFRAGE POLL	1917 DE 15
GARDENER H H TO J S WILLIAMS	1918 JA 20	4	89	4		GARDENER H H-WOMAN SUFFRAGE	ND
GARDENER H H TO JPT	1918 JA 20	4	89	3		*GARDENER H H-WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE	1917 DE 12
GARDENER H H TO*JPT	1918 AP 18	4	89	1		GARDENER O FR REDPATH VAWTER SYSTEM	1917 JA 23

Personal

1838 LAMONT STREET
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 5, 1916

My dear Mr Tumulty:-

I have just returned to my home here from California where I had several consultations with Mrs McCan and Miss Mary Foy the latter of whom is a friend of mine of more than usual warmth.

If the enclosed will meet with your approval use it in any way you or the President may deem best.

In private life I am the wife of an Army officer. As an author and public worker I retain my own name.

Yours truly,

Helen H. Gardner

If there is a day when Mrs Wilson most receives calls it will give me pleasure (as the wife of an Army Officer) to call. I have been away since she entered the White House.

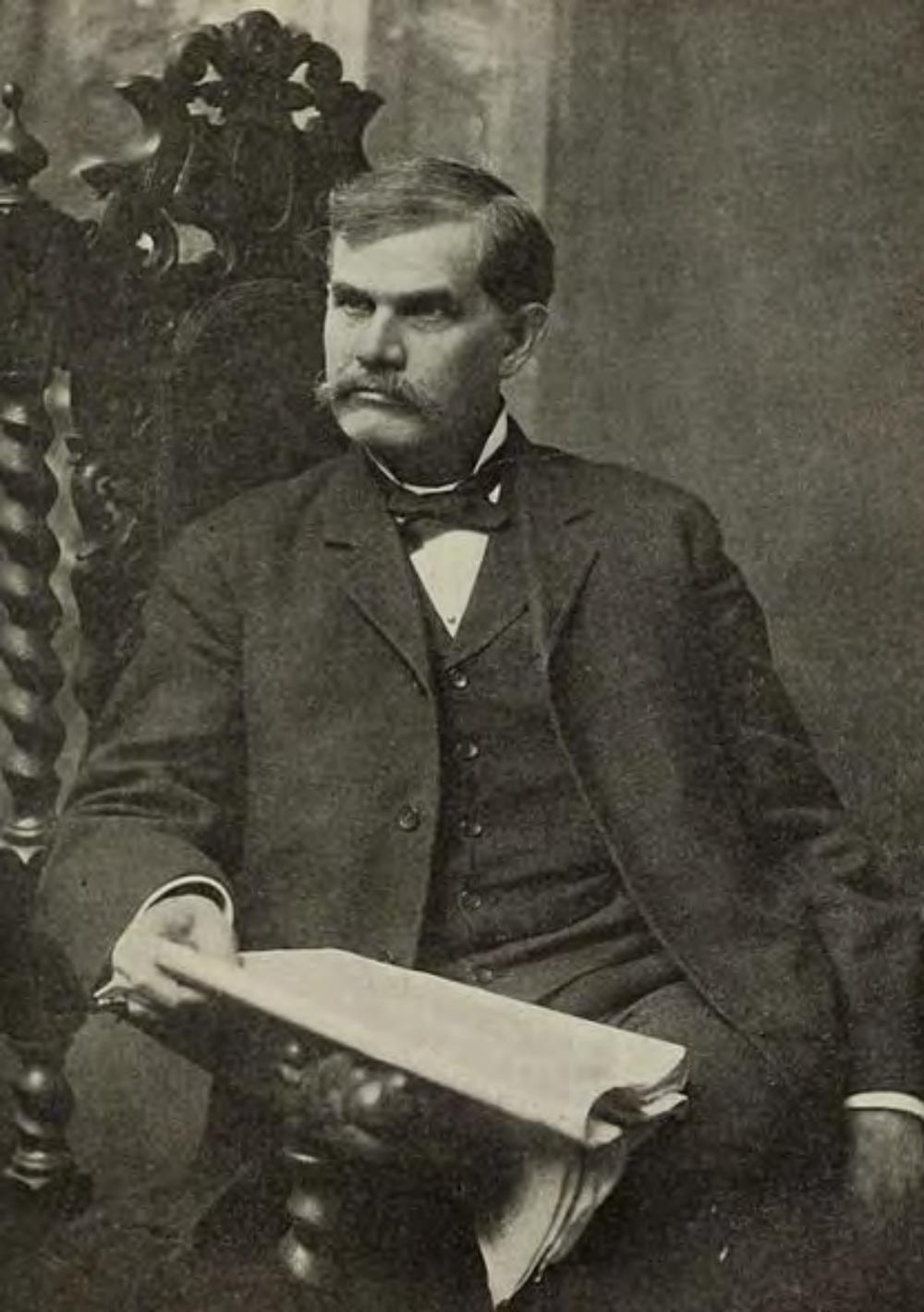
Several days after HHG sent her first note to Tumulty, NAWSA leaders requested a meeting with the President

Are these ladies of the "Congressional Union" variety?

N. W. ^{Wrote} Mrs. Poole 7/31/16

Oked Tuesday at 2 Pm. - Office N. W.

58599



Senator John Sharp Williams (D-MS). The “most erudite man in the Senate” whom HHG tried unsuccessfully to turn into a “yes” vote. He explicitly opposed black women voting and introduced an amendment limiting the franchise to white women.

John Sharp Williams Papers

BOX 43

(7 folders)

1 Jan.-7 Feb. 1919

(8 folders)

3-8 Feb. 1919, suffrage amendment

BOX 44

8 Feb.-31 Mar. 1919

(6 folders)

BOX 33

18 Dec. 1917-31 Jan. 1918

(9 folders)

HHG to JSW, Jan. 20, 1918

Did you analyze the the vote on Suffrage in the House?

Did you observe that 23 State delegations voted solidly for the Amendment and that only 6 State delegations voted solidly against it--and that one of those six was, alas, Mississippi?

I want you to redeem that State.

You are by far its leading citizen. Your place in its affections and in history ^{is} ~~are~~ assured. Your grand-children will start life --have started life--with the distinction that your name and fame assures them. I want you to give to that name and distinction the one thing that will outlive all the rest--the distinction of showing to Miss. and to the world that her leading citizen indeed and in truth, leads his State toward the "liberty and

Sen. John Sharp Williams to HHG, Jan. 21, 1918

Amendment has been example enough of how injurious ^{the same} ~~that~~ may be. The second is to arm the negro women of the State of Mississippi with suffrage. They could ^{not} be controlled as the men can be, and they would almost all, without exception, go to the polls, while a great many white women ^{would} ~~would~~ not. Even if both races went, the negro women constitute a large majority. As far as the abstract question

why negro men do not vote in the State of Mississippi, is not because of their legal ^{disqualifications} ~~privileges~~, but because they are afraid that if they do vote some of them might get hurt.

ga

7

THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON.

January 9, 1918

Dear Governor:

Yesterday I sent in a memorandum asking if you could arrange to see Representative Taylor and a group of the members of the House. ^X Mr. Taylor wished to bring these members so that they might be assured by you that you were not opposing the suffrage amendment. The vote on this amendment is to be had tomorrow, so that this appointment, if made at all, ought to be made for not later than noon tomorrow.

J. P. T.

5:00 today the 9th
OK - C. L. S. ^{not} _{2/13}

~~W. H. Hunt~~

The Committee found that the President had not felt at liberty to ~~advise~~ volunteer his ^{to members of Congress} advice in this important matter, but when we sought his ~~advice~~ advice he very frankly and earnestly advised us to vote for the Amendment as a act of right and justice to the women of the Country and of the ~~any~~ world.