Society of Ohio Archivists 2020 Plenary

“Finding Sex, Race & Suffrage in the Archives”

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LET OHIO

WOMEN

VOTE

MRS. HELEN GARDENER
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 record of sitting, Susan B. Anthony - Ellen Wheeler Wilcox

**BOX 67**
- Speeches, 1914-1938

**BOX 67**
- Articles
  - “Aberdeen” - “Susan B. Anthony”
  - “Art Activity of American Women” - “Political Emancipation as Related to the Woman’s Profession”
  - Articles “The Portrait Idea and Object” - “Emma Thursby”
  - “Emma Thursby” - “Women in Music” Untitled

**BOX 70**
- Record of sitting, Susan B. Anthony - Ellen Wheeler Wilcox
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 dont. 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 twenty-five 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
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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
Several days after HHG sent her first note to Tumulty, NAWSA leaders requested a meeting with the President.
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**
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)
Did you analyze 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 is and in history 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
Amendment has been example enough of how injurious that may be. The second is to arm the negro women of the State of Mississippi with suffrage. They could 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 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 privileges, but because they are afraid that if they do vote some of them might get hurt.
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. 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. F. S. 12/30/13
The committee found that the President
had not felt at liberty to add
voices to members of Congress
volunteer his advice in this impor
tant matter; but when we sought his
advice, he very frankly and
candidly advised us to vote for the
Amendment as a act of right and
justice to the women of the coun-
try and of the world.