

Votes for Women: An Island Perspective

Online Exhibit

Artifact List
Credit and Donor Information

January 2021





On the Road to Gay Head

c. 1888

Watercolor on paper

Amelia Watson

Museum purchase

Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1942.059.023



Tupelo, Hornbeam, Beetlebung

1888

Watercolor on paper

Amelia Watson

Museum purchase

Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1942.059.024



Vineyard Haven

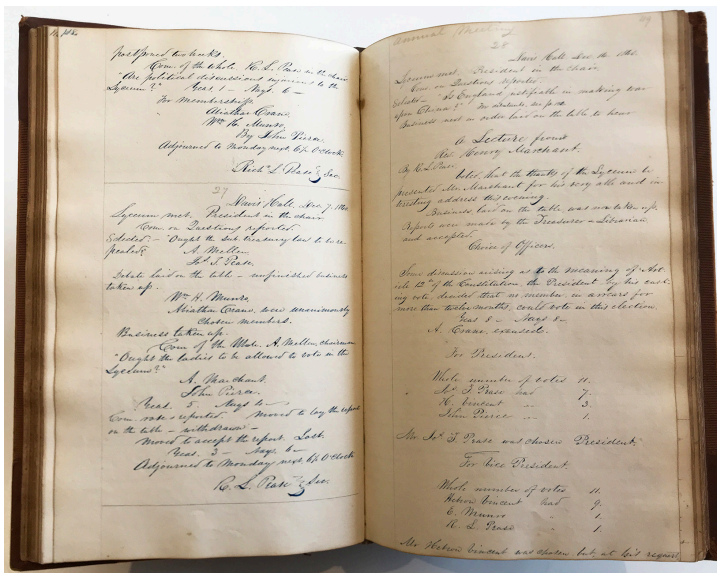
1889

Watercolor on paper

Amelia Watson

Museum purchase

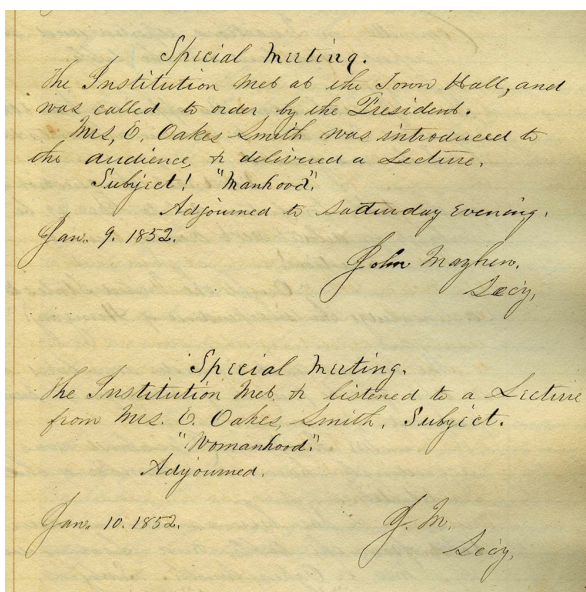
Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1942.059.011



Edgartown Lyceum record book

1837-1853

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 394, Literary & Debating Societies of Martha's Vineyard Collection



Edgartown Lyceum meeting minutes

January 9-10, 1852

Scanned from:

Edgartown Lyceum record book

1837-1853

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 394, Literary & Debating Societies of Martha's Vineyard Collection



Elizabeth Oakes Prince Smith (Mrs. Seba Smith)

1845

Oil on canvas

John Wesley Paradise

Courtesy of the National Gallery of Art,
1963.10.188

The Vineyard Gazette.
EDGARTOWN:
 Friday, February 6, 1852.
 PRICE OF THE GAZETTE:
Only One Dollar per year!
 E. MARCHANT—EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
 V. B. Palmer, *Society's Building, Boston, is our*
only authorized general agent.

EDUCATIONAL LECTURES AND INSTITUTE.—It will be recollected by our readers, that Mrs. E. Oakes Smith recently delivered several lectures before the above named institution. At the close of the series, the following resolutions, after debate, were adopted:—

Whereas, The members of the Edgartown Lyceum and Institute have listened with unusual pleasure and interest, to the course of lectures by Mrs. E. O. Smith, upon the subjects—'Manhood,' 'Womanhood,' and 'Humanity,' delivered before this institution, therefore,

Resolved, That in the judgment of this institution, Mrs. Smith is entitled to great consideration and praise, for the high toned, logical method, eloquence, and rhetorical beauty which permeate her lectures, as well as the earnest and gratitude of this institution, for the highly dignified and truly lady-like bearing, which it has been our pleasure and delight to witness during our acquaintance with her.

3d. Resolved, That the great fundamental and moral basis of her lectures, "That the human mind is highly susceptible of, and possesses great natural and moral elements, the tendencies of which are progression and improvement," are truths which should be impressed upon the mind of all.

4th. Resolved, That the particular forms or modes, in which she would have these great principles practically exemplified, would, to our minds, tend vastly to the physical amelioration of, and to the moral and mental cultivation of our race; as they are entirely free from that extravagance which is sometimes urged by writers.

5th. Resolved, That the great question, particularly contained in the lecture on 'Womanhood,' in regard to the right and necessity of the moral influence of women in the legislative, judicial, and civil codes of nations, is one which the crying wrong of mankind, and the enlightened judgment of all Christians and philanthropists alike demand.

6th. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to Mrs. E. Oakes Smith.

“Edgartown Lyceum and Institute”

Vineyard Gazette, February 6, 1952

Courtesy of the Vineyard Gazette

Image edited for display purposes,
original article spanned multiple columns

Mrs. E. OAKES SMITH IN BOSTON.—It will be seen by the following, which we clip from the Boston Daily Mail, that Mrs. Smith did not come quite up to the editor's standard of perfect "Manhood."

This is an age of wonders, and one of the wonders is—that the women are becoming men. On Sunday afternoon, according to announcement, Mrs. E. Oakes Smith made her debut as a Boston preacher, in the Melodeon.

At the hour of church service, the Melodeon was nearly full, and still men and women, in about an equal proportion, came, until the house was crowded, and yet no preacher appeared. All was silence; there was no strain from the organ, and every eye was turned to the side entrance. Presently, there entered a person in female attire uncovered, attended by a man.—That must be the preacher. Yes; she ascended the platform, and takes the chair in the rear of the desk. She is expensively dressed in black silk, with a green velvet sack above, her black hair skillfully dressed, shone, together with a supply of pins and rings, making her "a sight to be seen." The organist plays a light air, and a trio of one female and two males, sing an anthem. There was no prayer, or signs of prayer, or devotion. The preacher, or preacheress, now read an account of the temptation of Eve by the serpent; and then a few verses from the Gospel of John, where Christ speaks of the new commandment he gave to the disciples, namely, to "love one another." She now proceeded to deliver her discourse. She said that she "should not undertake to say whether the Bible was from God, or not, whether the account of Eve's temptation was a truth, a fable, or a parable—but would leave that to ministers, who were paid for their opinions on the subject; and who ought to be competent to give their opinion." Children and men think there may be a God, and therefore there is evidence that God exists. Readers were conversant with the proofs without and within us of the kind, it is not important to trace the origin of the Bible.

She seemed to teach that the introduction of sin into the world was not so much to be deplored, since men and women thereby have become good, knowing good and evil. As to a hereafter, she thought there might be one, because we long for one.

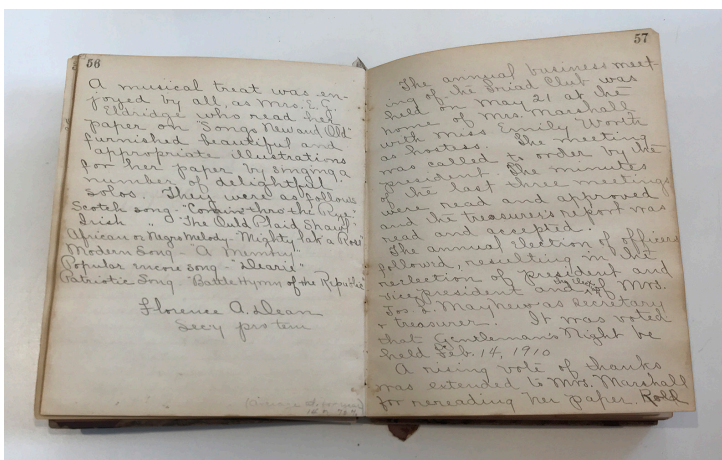
This woman uttered various common place remarks about women's rights, an unknown against four years in college, because, the boys must take the next four years to mature and habits, (not so bad) direct calculations to love and sympathize with all the world, and the rest of mankind, because Jesus Christ did not come to the world to save the body, but the soul; the importance of universal progress; the practice of anti flagging in the family, because the flagger is as bad as the flagged, and because the wickedness all around is the result of war, organization and development, and such like.

Moral: If this is a specimen of woman's right preaching, we would say to women, give to the counting room, practice medicine and law, do anything, but for your own sake, for humanity's sake, for Heaven's sake—Don't Preach.

“Mrs. E. Oakes Smith in Boston”

Vineyard Gazette, February 6, 1952

Courtesy of the Vineyard Gazette

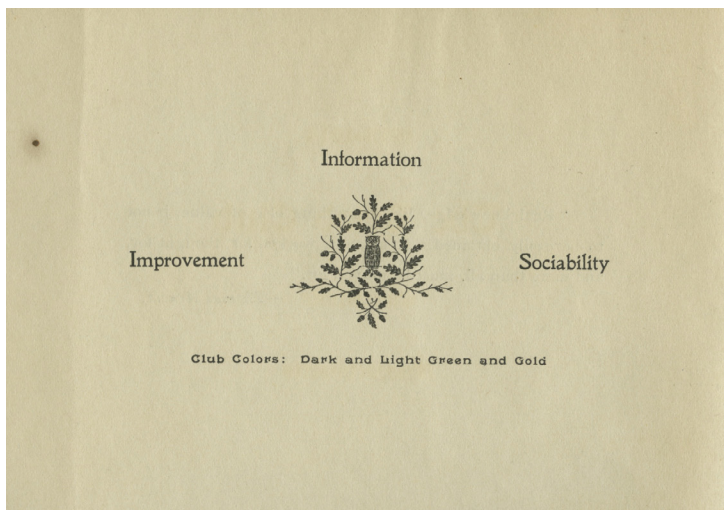


Secretary's Minutes (Bound) Vol. I

February 28, 1908-May 22, 1914

Gift of Anne Cummings and Barbara Murphy

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 491, Triad Club Collection

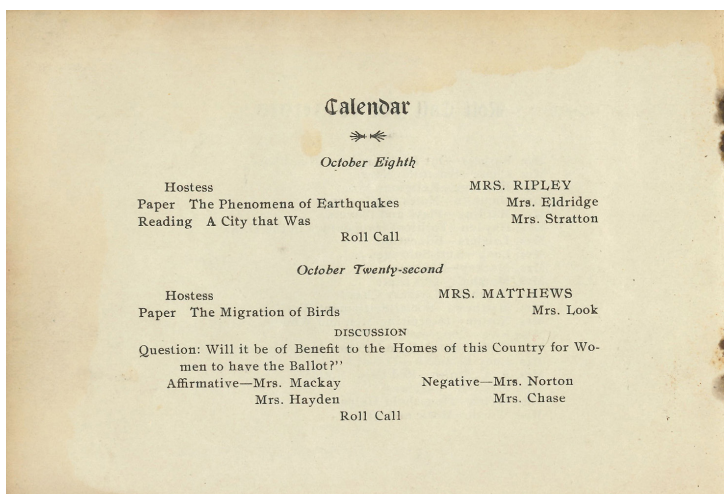


Triad Club Yearbook

1913-1914

Gift of Anne Cummings and Barbara Murphy

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 491, Triad Club Collection

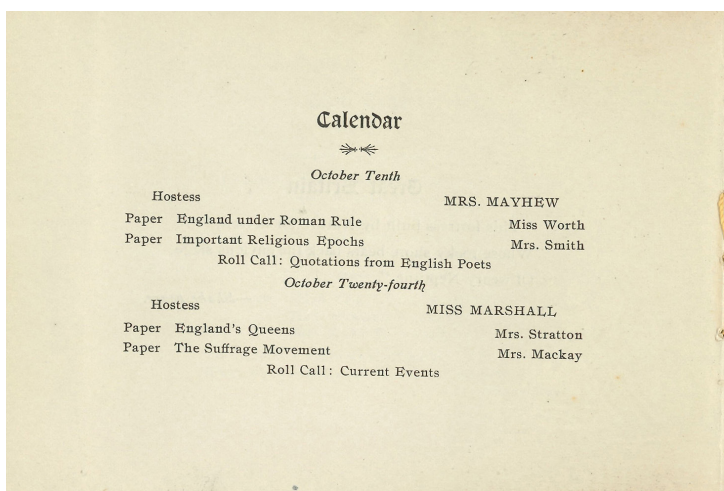


Triad Club Yearbook

1913-1914

Gift of Anne Cummings and Barbara Murphy

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 491, Triad Club Collection

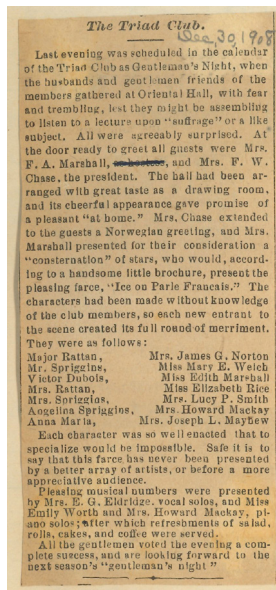


Triad Club Yearbook

1915-1916

Gift of Anne Cummings and Barbara Murphy

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 491, Triad Club Collection



“The Triad Club” newspaper clipping

December 30, 1908

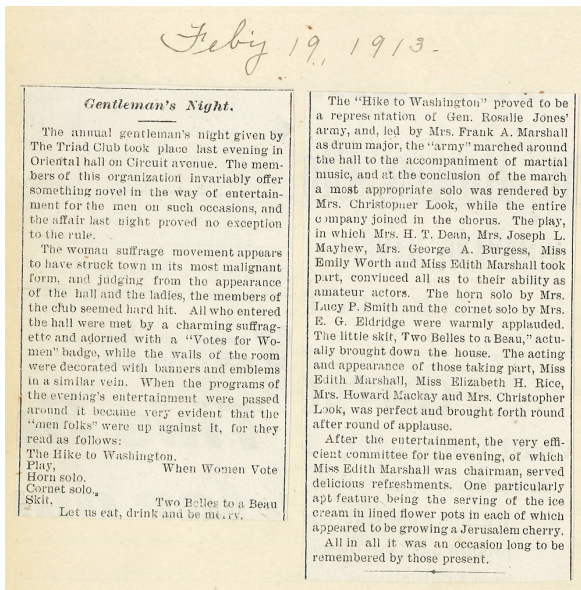
Scanned from:

Secretary's Minutes (Bound) Vol. I

February 28, 1908-May 22, 1914

Gift of Anne Cummings and Barbara Murphy

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 491, Triad Club Collection



“Gentleman's Night” newspaper clipping

February 19, 1913

Scanned from:

Secretary's Minutes (Bound) Vol. I

February 28, 1908-May 22, 1914

Gift of Anne Cummings and Barbara Murphy

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 491, Triad Club Collection



Mary Wesley Worth

c. 1898

Scanned from:

Edgartown Women's Club scrapbook

c. 2000

Gift of Carolyn O'Daly

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 390, Edgartown Women's Club Collection



Sara Joy Mayhew

c. 1898

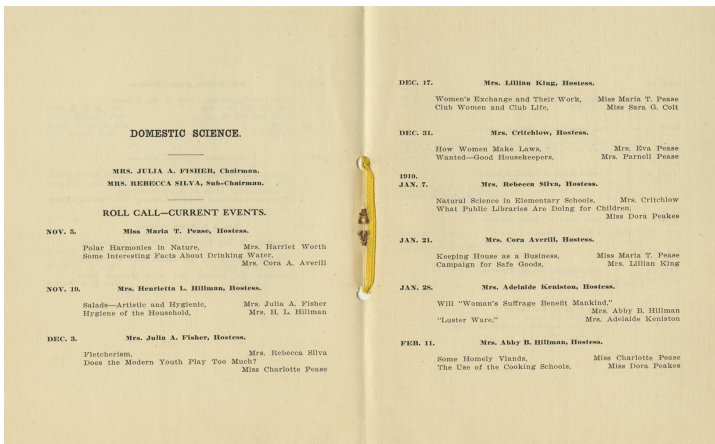
Scanned from:

Edgartown Women's Club scrapbook

c. 2000

Gift of Carolyn O'Daly

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 390, Edgartown Women's Club Collection



Annual Report of the Edgartown Women's Club

1909-1910

Gift of Eileen Robinson

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
RU 390, Edgartown Women's Club Collection



Squibnocket and Noman's Land

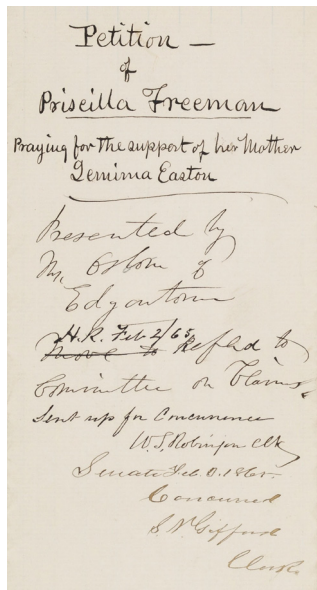
c. 1888

Watercolor on paper

Amelia Watson

Museum purchase

Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1942.059.012

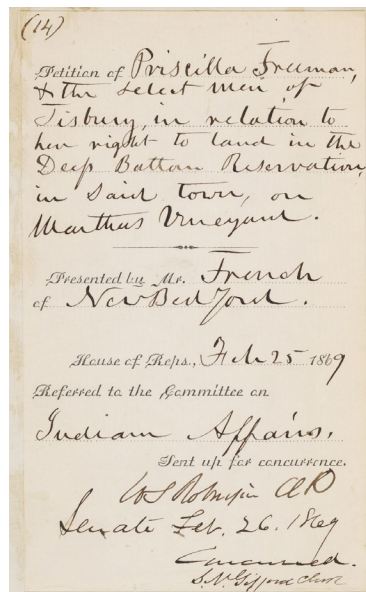


Petition of Priscilla Freeman for support of her mother, Jemima Easton

January 1865

Courtesy of the Massachusetts Archives

Passed Resolves, 1777-2016 Petition of Priscilla Freeman in Resolves of 1865, chapter 10, passed March 16, 1865. SC1/series 228. Massachusetts Archives. Boston, Massachusetts.



Petition of Priscilla Freeman for land rights in Deep Bottom Reservation

February 25, 1869

Courtesy of the Massachusetts Archives

Passed Acts, 1775-2016, Petition of Priscilla Freeman in Acts of 1869, chapter 413, passed June 17, 1869. SC1/series 229. Massachusetts Archives. Boston, Massachusetts.



Squibnocket

1888

Watercolor on paper

Amelia Watson

Museum purchase

Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1942.059.009



Group portrait, outdoors, of members of the Blackwell and Spofford families

c. 1875-1880

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20022786

Image ID: 20022786_1

<http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20022786/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:252781/catalog>



View of Quitsa and Menemsha Ponds from Lookout Hill

c. 1928

Matha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 1514

Oral History link

"Click here to listen to Ethel Whidden talk about her suffragist family"

<https://mvmuseum.org/audio/ethel-whidden-clip1/>

Clip from oral history interview with Ethel Whidden, re suffragist family

Date: April 4, 1982

Interviewee: Ethel (Pat) Whidden

Interviewer: Linsey Lee

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Oral History Collection, 1994.174.002



Road past Quitsa Pond in Chilmark

1905

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 520



***Blackwell family at Fulling Mill Brook
Cove of Chilmark Pond***

c. 1888

Alice Stone Blackwell

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 1702e



***Sugarloaf Rock, overlooking Squibnocket
Village***

c. 1887

Baldwin Coolidge

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 1505



Members of the Blackwell family on a sailboat

1901

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvgroup1002597

Image ID: 20022793_1

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvgroup1002597/
urn-3:RAD.SCHL:311192/catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvgroup1002597/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:311192/catalog)



Members of the Blackwell family sailing

1901

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvgroup1002597

Image ID: 20022792_1

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvgroup1002597/
urn-3:RAD.SCHL:311189/catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvgroup1002597/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:311189/catalog)



Portrait of Lucy Stone (Blackwell) seated

ca. 1875-1885

Warren

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20022831

Image ID: 20022831_1

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/
olvwork20022831/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:253587/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20022831/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:253587/catalog)

Oral History link

“Click here to listen to Ethel Whidden share a story about Lucy Stone”

<https://mvmuseum.org/audio/ethel-whidden-lucy-stone/>

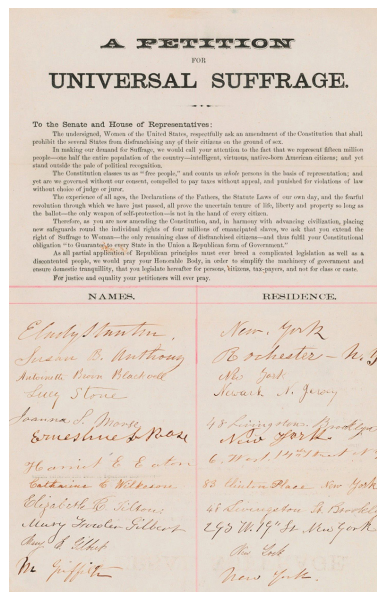
Clip from oral history interview with Ethel Whidden, re Lucy Stone

Date: April 4, 1982

Interviewee: Ethel (Pat) Whidden

Interviewer: Linsey Lee

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Oral History Collection, 1994.174.002



Petition for Universal Suffrage

1866

Courtesy of the National Archives

Petition Asking for an Amendment of the Constitution that Shall Prohibit the Several States from Disfranchising Any of Their Citizens on the Ground of Sex; 1/29/1866; (HR 39A-H14.9); Petitions and Memorials, 1813 - 1968; Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Record Group 233; National Archives Building, Washington, DC. [Online Version, <https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/petition-prohibit-disfranchisement>, December 29, 2020]



Mail stage at Cliff Cottage

c. 1900

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 1702e



***Exterior view of Cliff Cottage, the
Squibnocket home of Captain Samuel
Blackwell***

c. 1920

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20023029

Image ID: 20023029_1

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olvwork20023029/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:252820/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20023029/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:252820/catalog)



***Head and shoulders portrait of Henry
Browne Blackwell***

c. 1870-1885

Fredricks, Charles D. & Co.

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20022828

Image ID: 20022828_1

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/
olvwork20022828/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:316200/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20022828/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:316200/catalog)



Portrait of Alice Stone Blackwell

ca. 1885-1895

Notman, American [photographer]

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20023028

Image ID: 20023028_1

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olvwork20023028/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:252817/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20023028/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:252817/catalog)



Alice Stone Blackwell (standing, dressed in black) speaking at the meeting

August 13, 1918

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvgroup1001838

Image ID: 20023026_1

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvgroup1001838/
urn-3:RAD.SCHL:311297/catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvgroup1001838/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:311297/catalog)



Antoinette Louisa Brown Blackwell and Alice Stone Blackwell seated in a horse-drawn carriage for a parade

c. 1913-1917

Edwin Levick

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20016365

Image ID: 20016365_1

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/
olvwork20016365/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:134762/catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20016365/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:134762/catalog)

Oral History link

“Click here to listen to Horace Robinson remembering the celebrations”

<https://mvmuseum.org/audio/horace-robinson/>

Clip from oral history interview with Horace Robinson, re Blackwell suffragists

Date: September 9, 1995

Interviewee: Horace Robinson

Interviewer: Linsey Lee

Martha's Vineyard Museum, Oral History
Collection, 1995.099.001



Group portrait, outside, of Samuel Charles Blackwell and Antoinette Louisa Brown Blackwell with four of their daughters

c. 1884-1894

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20016406

Image ID: 20016406_1

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catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20016406/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:134876/catalog)



E. Elliot Mayhew and Florence Blackwell Mayhew

1895

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 1713g, 2018.001.124



Huntington family in cart pulled by Bob

1909

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 1708i



***Exterior view of a Blackwell family home
from a field on the west side***

1907

*Image courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork20016843

Image ID: 20016843_1

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/
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catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork20016843/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:306516/catalog)



Pohogonot

1889

Watercolor on paper

Amelia Watson

Museum purchase

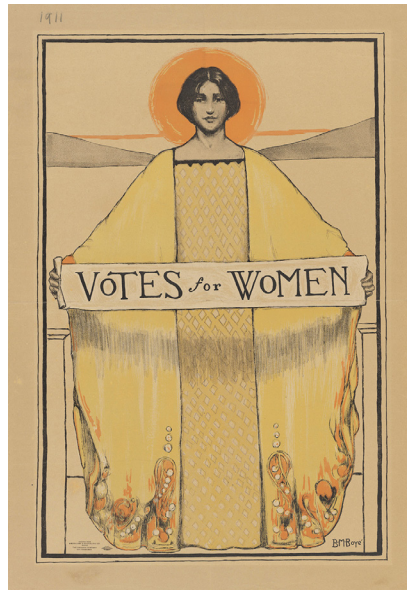
Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1942.059.021



Bluebird pin

c. 1915

Loaned by Jackie Baer



"Votes for Women" poster

c. 1913

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

HOLLIS number: olvwork391769

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork391769/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork391769/catalog)



"Dispossessed"

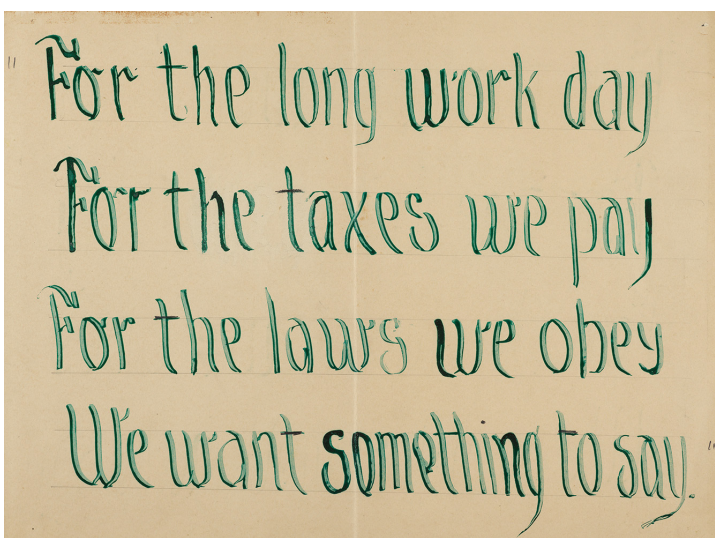
c. 1911

Lou Rogers

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.*

HOLLIS number: olvwork602332

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork602332/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork602332/catalog)



"For the long work day, for the taxes we pay, for the laws we obey we want something to say"

c. 1911

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.*

HOLLIS number: olvwork602328

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork602328/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork602328/catalog)



Suffrage poster depicting Inez Milholland Boissevain dressed in white, riding a white horse, as she did for the March 3, 1913 suffrage parade in Washington, D.C.

c. 1913-1916

*Courtesy of Schlesinger Library,
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.*

HOLLIS number: olvwork365799

[http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork365799/
catalog](http://id.lib.harvard.edu/images/olvwork365799/catalog)



Dress

c. 1900

Gift of Louise Mieklehorn

Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1955.014.001



Reproduction "Votes for Women" sash

Exhibit prop, not collections piece



LWVMV 100th anniversary sash and pins

2020

Gift of the League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard

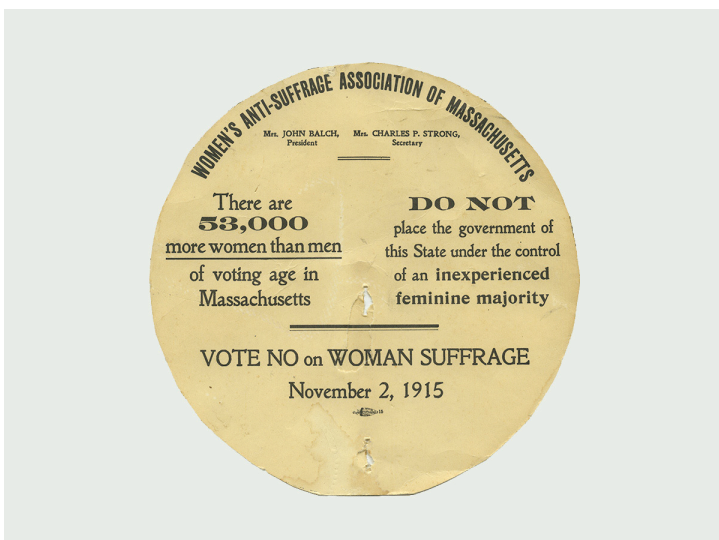


League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard rally

2020

Brooke Bartletta

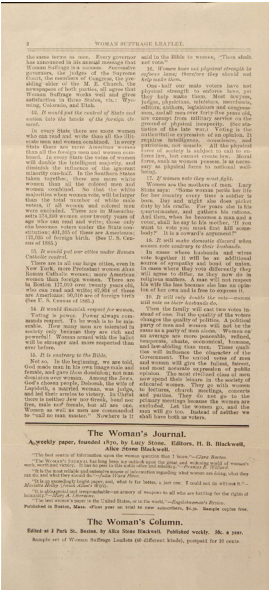
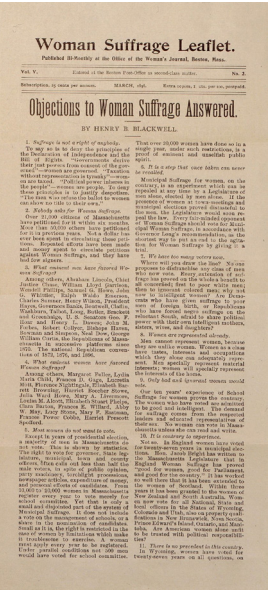
Courtesy of the photographer



"Vote No" ephemera

c. 1915

Gift of Martha's Vineyard Community Services



“Objections to Woman Suffrage Answered”

1886

Henry Blackwell

From the Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, courtesy of the National Archives

“Objections to Woman Suffrage Answered,” by Henry Blackwell; 3/1896; Petitions and Memorials, 1813-1968; Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Record Group 233; National Archives Building, Washington DC, 20408. [Online Version, <https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/woman-suffrage-blackwell>, December 29, 2020]

Up Island

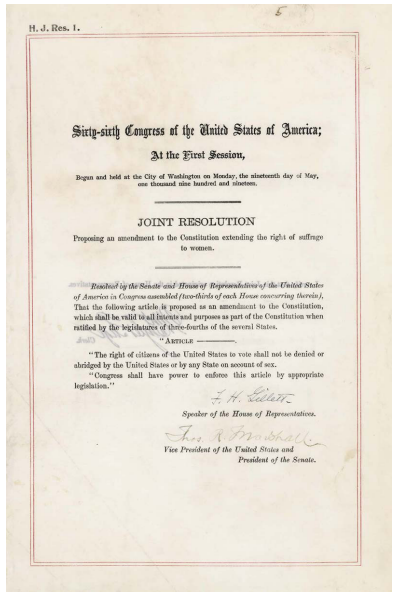
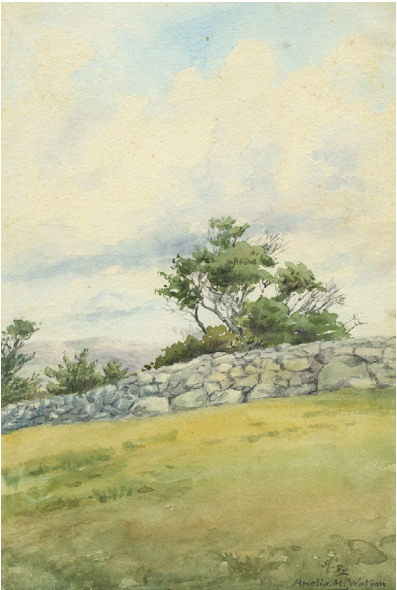
c. 1888-1893

Watercolor on paper

Amelia Watson

Museum purchase

Martha's Vineyard Museum, 1942.059.008



Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

June 4, 1919

Courtesy of the National Archives



Chilmark Town Hall

c. 1915

Martha's Vineyard Museum,
Photo Collection, File 1502

Women Disprove Pet Theory That They Won't Admit Age

When the Tennessee house gets through taking the part of an Indian giver and casts the deciding vote for woman suffrage without changing its mind—an ultra feminine trait—woman voters of Martha's Vineyard will have an opportunity to prove that they can vote as intelligently as they can register. The registration in the Island towns has not been exceedingly large but is of a size and quality encouraging to those who believe in equal suffrage.

Sixty eight women have registered in Edgartown, but this number will probably be largely increased today, as there will be a last opportunity to register this afternoon and tonight. Fifty six registered in Oak Bluffs, while Vineyard Haven turned out the largest number, 115.

Mere men who acted as registrars of voters were unqualified in their approval of the spirit in which the women of the island are approaching their new task. And as for the old stigma which has attached to womankind from time immemorial—her foolish reluctance to tell her age—that bubble has burst for ever, if Vineyard experience is any criterion.

“Women Disprove Pet Theory They Won't Admit Their Age”

Vineyard Gazette, September 2, 1920

Courtesy of the Vineyard Gazette

FIRST EDGARTOWN WOMAN TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Henry H. Jerneagan was the first woman in Edgartown ever to cast a vote for the President of the United States. Mrs. Jerneagan's ballot dropped into the box when the polls opened Tuesday morning.

“First Edgartown Woman Votes for President”

Vineyard Gazette, November 4, 1920

Courtesy of the Vineyard Gazette

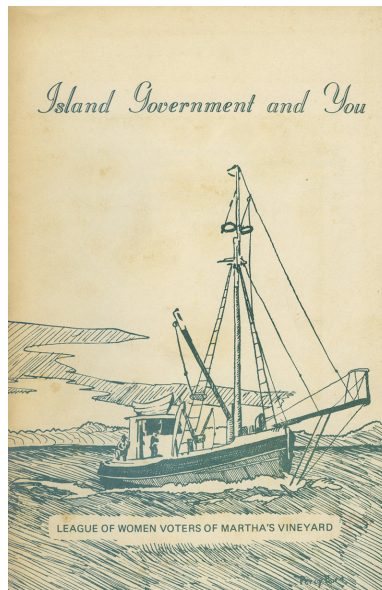
PETTICOAT GOVERNMENT IN CHILMARK AT END

Chilmark, Feb. 8.—This little Martha's Vineyard town has had enough of petticoat government. At the town meeting last night the voters not only threw the three women office holders out of power but abolished their offices.

The women were Mrs. Bartley Mathew and Mrs. Evelyn M. Adams, field drivers, and Mrs. Hope Flanders, pound keeper. They were elected at the annual meeting last year to appease those who thought women ought to have representation in the town government.

"Petticoat Government in Chilmark at End"

Fall River Daily Evening News,
February 8, 1923



"Island Government and You"

c. 1970

League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 175, Martha's Vineyard Women Voters Collection



"Your Vote Makes a Difference"

c. 1970

League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 175, Martha's Vineyard Women Voters Collection

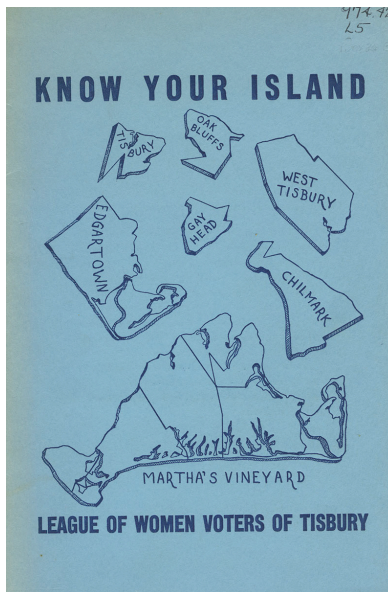


"Our Island Government"

c. 1970

League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 175, Martha's Vineyard Women Voters Collection



"Know Your Island"

c. 1970

League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 175, Martha's Vineyard Women Voters Collection