



## CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

### **“Votes for Women: How the Battle was Waged and Won” is Topic for Fall Lecture**



**Elisabeth Griffith to speak on women’s suffrage.**

of American women--and men. The nation is currently marking the 100th anniversary of that historic amendment, which was passed by Congress in 1919 and ratified by the requisite number of states in 1920.

The compelling story of how American women fought for and won the right to vote will be told at the CCHS Fall Lecture, “Votes for Women: How the Battle was Waged and Won,” by historian and author Dr. Elisabeth Griffith. The program will be held on Sunday, November 17, at 4:00 p.m., at the Lawton Community Center, 4301 Willow Lane, in the Town of Chevy Chase. The program is free and open to the public.

Griffith is an authority on women’s history, politics, leadership and education. Her definitive biography of suffrage leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *In Her Own Right*, was named “one of the best books of the century” by the editors of *The New York Times Book Review* and “one of the five best books on women’s history” by the *Wall Street Journal*. The book inspired Ken Burns’ PBS documentary, *Not for Ourselves Alone*, on which she consulted and in which she appears.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” The words of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution seem simple enough. But getting those few words added to the Constitution required a monumental fight, lasting over 80 years, by millions

Griffith herself is marking the centennial of women’s suffrage by writing a book about American women from 1913 to 2017, the period between the two women’s marches in Washington. She also teaches courses about women’s history for the Smithsonian Associates and at Politics & Prose bookstore. She says she loves to teach women’s history because it is inclusive, energizing, and populated by a diverse array of courageous women who fought hard to secure the rights we now take for granted.

Griffith was a classmate of Hillary Clinton’s at Wellesley College. She went on to earn a Master’s degree at Johns Hopkins University, a Ph.D. in history at American University, and was a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard University. Long involved in the women’s movement, she worked with the National Women’s Political Caucus and the Women’s Campaign Fund to recruit, train and fund women candidates.

From 1988 to 2010, Griffith was Headmistress of The Madeira School, an all girls’ boarding and day high school in McLean, Virginia. *The Washington Post* acknowledged her success with its “Distinguished Educational Leadership Award” in 2005. She has served on many boards including WETA television, the Wellesley College Alumnae Association and the Kingsbury Center. She was the first woman member of the board of Camp Dudley, the oldest boys’ summer camp in the country, and worked there to create a sister camp for girls. In 1989, her work on behalf of racial diversity and inclusion earned her the Junior League of Washington’s highest award. She is a member of the Society of American Historians.

Following the lecture, Griffith will join attendees at a reception. Light refreshments will be served. No reservations are necessary. Questions concerning the program may be directed to CCHS at 301-656-6141 or [info@chevychasehistory.org](mailto:info@chevychasehistory.org).

*Celebrating One of America’s First Streetcar Suburbs*



## Four Chevy Chase Suffragists

To celebrate the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment securing women's right to vote, the CCHS Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 lectures will focus on the women's suffrage movement. In addition, at both programs CCHS will display new information on Chevy Chase residents and organizations that were involved with the suffrage effort.

The article below previews this research and profiles four Chevy Chase residents and their contributions to the struggle for voting rights. Among the four is Chevy Chase's most famous suffragist, Minnie Brooke. Another article exploring the life of Minnie Brooke in greater detail will be published in the next CCHS Newsletter.

Many thanks to Evelyn Gerson and Bob Andrews, whose historical research and much longer biographies are the basis for these short profiles.



**Minnie E. Brooke  
(1871-1938)**

Minnehaha "Minnie" Etheridge Brooke, originally from North Carolina and a graduate of Trinity College (now Duke University), was one of the most active supporters of suffrage in Chevy Chase. She was the leader of the Chevy Chase Suffrage Association, and as a member of the Congressional Union Party led by Alice Paul, she was the chair of "outdoor speaking" and helped organize the famous 1913 Suffrage Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Although Minnie Brooke was active in the suffrage movement all of her adult life, she was also a successful entrepreneur. She and her husband, Wentworth Brooke, a florist, were the proprietors of the Brooke Farm Tea House (now La Ferme Restaurant on Brookville Road). The Brookes did not have children, but Minnie was a Girl Scout leader, and in many of her outdoor talks she encouraged women to agitate for the vote so they might end child labor. She was a member of the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase and the Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County.

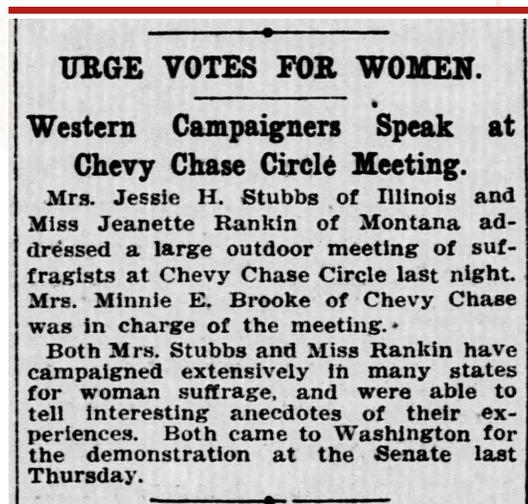
Minnie Brooke frequently hosted luncheons and celebrations for suffragists at the Brooke Farm Tea House, and supported many of the more "convivial" aspects of



**Chevy Chase Circle postcard, No. 293, published by Minnie E. Brooke, 1911. Image donated by Harold Silver.**

the suffrage movement – the parades, marathon lectures, and in at least one case, "dancing after a lecture." Among the many events she organized was an outdoor suffrage rally at Chevy Chase Circle on August 2, 1913. Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the featured speaker; she would later become the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Although there is no photo of this event, Chevy Chase Circle was a grassy field at this time, an ideal setting for such an event.

The Brookes eventually moved to Takoma Park, and Minnie died there in 1938.



**The Evening Star, Washington, D.C., August 3, 1913.**



**Gertrude Stevens, detail of photograph of the Chevy Chase Reading Class, c. 1905.**

## **Gertrude MacNulty Stevens (1871-1952)**

Gertrude Abigail MacNulty was born in Culpeper, Virginia. Both of her parents taught classes at the Whittier School in Warrenton as part of their work with the Freedmen's Bureau, an agency established by Congress in 1865 to help millions of former slaves and poor whites in the South in the aftermath of the Civil War. In the mid-1870s, they moved to Washington, D.C., where William MacNulty worked for the U.S. Post Office. After Gertrude graduated from high school, she attended Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, graduating in 1893. She then returned to Washington and taught in the public school system. In 1896, she married Eugene Stevens, a lawyer; both were active supporters of suffrage and representation for the District of Columbia in Congress.

In 1902, Eugene purchased land in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and the couple moved into their newly built house around 1902-1903. In 1914, Gertrude was part of a delegation of a number of suffragists and club women who met with President Woodrow Wilson to advocate for women's suffrage. Both Eugene and Gertrude raised money for the Maryland State Equal Suffrage League in 1915 by hosting a "bridge and 500" card party at their home.

Gertrude's work for the right to vote did not end with the ratification the Nineteenth Amendment. The Republican Party in Montgomery County recognized her work for suffrage, and in the summer of 1921, her name was submitted to the party convention as a possible candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates. She declined, but while the committee on nominations was in session, Gertrude and other women attending the convention met in a "back room" to organize the Montgomery County Women's Republican Club. She was elected its

first recording secretary. At about the same time, she was chosen to be the first president of the newly-formed League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, and she continued to be active with the League in the 1930s.

Sadly, Eugene died in 1922. Although Gertrude was then raising six children by herself, she continued to participate in women's organizations and local politics. She was named president of the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, and in 1925 she was a delegate at the Maryland Republican State Convention. In 1926, she was the Republican candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates representing Montgomery County; unfortunately, she lost this race.

Gertrude MacNulty Stevens was also instrumental in the development of the Chevy Chase reading clubs, which became centers of intellectual and civic life in the early days of the new suburb. You can read more about her on the CCHS website, in the online exhibition, "Chevy Chase Reads," at <http://chevychasehistory.org/gertrudemacnulty-stevens>.

## **SIXTEEN MILITANTS BEGIN 60-DAY TERM**

**Noted Women Put on Prison  
Uniforms at Occoquan.**

**WON'T PAY \$25 FINES**

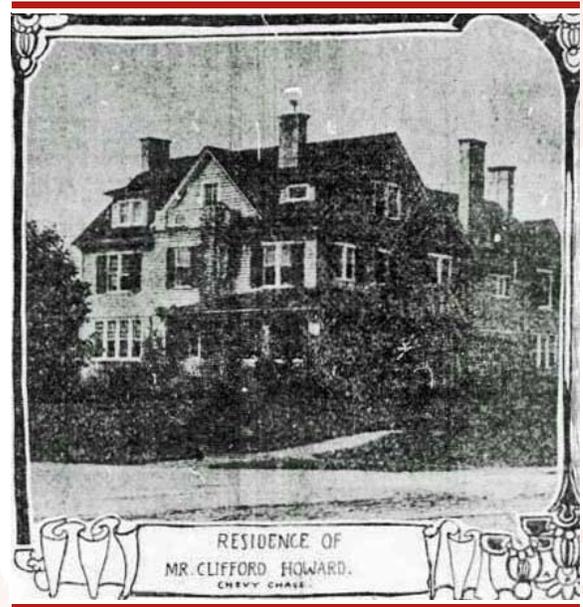
**Sentenced After Stormy Court  
Hearing by Judge Mallowny.**

***In 1917, Chevy Chase resident Judge Alexander Mallowny sentenced a group of 16 suffragists for obstructing the sidewalk in front of the White House. He first sentenced them to jail for three days. But when they continued their protests for women's suffrage, he sentenced them again, giving them a choice of \$25 fines or 60 days in the Occoquan workhouse. They chose jail. The Washington Post, Washington, D.C., July 18, 1917.***

## Harriet White Peters (1884-1978)

In 1907, Harriet White, daughter of a prominent Maryland family, wed J. Girvin Peters, chief of the Forest Management Branch of the U.S. Forestry Service. The couple lived in Washington, D.C. and newspapers show that Harriet was active in the Washington social scene, specifically with events calling attention to issues concerning women and children. In 1914, she is listed as assisting at an event hosted by Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell and attended by President Wilson's daughter Margaret to "exhibit the work and methods of the Montessori Educational Association."

In 1915, the Peters family moved from Washington to Edgemoor, near Bethesda, Maryland. Harriet immersed herself in area organizations and causes, including hosting meetings of the Woman's Club of Bethesda at her home and lobbying the Maryland legislature in favor of the Widow-Mothers Pension bill. By 1916, Harriet's dedication to advancing the causes of women involved chairing committees of the Washington branch of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage and speaking at their events alongside Minnie Brooke. Following the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, Harriet served as chairman of the Montgomery Branch of the League of Women Voters and was a member of the Girls Scouts Council. After her husband's death, she married Col. Joseph Hyde and died in Baltimore in 1978.



**Residence of Clifford Howard**  
*The Washington Times, Washington, D.C., February 4, 1906.*

But long before they moved to Chevy Chase, they were active in the suffrage movement in Washington, D.C. For example, Clifford attended an event in 1895 to honor the 80th birthday of suffrage icon Elizabeth Cady Stanton. In 1906, however, the Howards moved to the west coast and settled in Los Angeles. There he continued to actively support women's suffrage, and published a pamphlet, "Why Man Needs Woman's Ballot," around 1912. On a return trip to the Washington area, he spoke to members of the Chevy Chase Association about the campaign for women's suffrage in California. In his talk, he gave two reasons why women should have the vote – see the news clip below from *The Washington Post* in 1918.

Beginning a campaign which will cover every county in western Maryland, prominent woman suffragists held an interesting meeting in Rockville yesterday afternoon. In two flag-bedecked automobiles they reached Rockville about the middle of the afternoon, and, standing in one of the machines, Mrs. Edna S. Latimer of Baltimore was soon addressing a gathering of probably a hundred men and women. She was followed by Miss Barber of California, who was introduced as a "suffragist with a vote," and the other speakers were Mrs. J. Girvin Peters of Baltimore county and Mrs. Minnie E. Brooke of Chevy Chase.

*Detail of notice about Mrs. J. Girvin Peters and Mrs. Minnie E. Brooke speaking from "bedecked automobiles" in Rockville.*  
*The Evening Star, Washington, D.C., August 16, 1916.*

## Clifford Howard (1868-1942)

In 1903, Washington, D.C. residents Clifford Howard and his wife Hattie purchased a house lot at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and West Lenox Street in Chevy Chase, Maryland. When their new home was built, they quickly became active in local Chevy Chase clubs and activities: Clifford Howard was the first president of the Chevy Chase Association; Hattie was an early member of the Chevy Chase Reading Class; and they both supported the Chevy Chase Library.

**TALKS ON EQUAL SUFFRAGE.**

Clifford Howard, of Los Angeles, Addresses Old Chevy Chase Neighbors.

The Chevy Chase Association was entertained last night in the Library Hall at Chevy Chase, by Clifford Howard, a former president of the association, now a resident of Los Angeles. Mr. Howard gave quite a lengthy talk on equal suffrage to an audience of more than 150 men and women.

Mr. Howard declared that there are two reasons why women should be given the suffrage—first, because it is right, and, second, because it is necessary.

"It is right for the simple reason that our government is what it is—a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The women constitute part of the people," he said. "All objections to woman suffrage are based upon ignorance or upon prejudice, and they are, all of them, merely theoretical or academic."

*The Washington Post, Washington, D.C., September 9, 1918.*

# History-Go-Round Tour at the National Portrait Gallery “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence” Wednesday, December 4, 2019



*A wavy glass roof appears to float over the National Portrait Gallery's courtyard.*

To follow-up on Dr. Elisabeth Griffith's Fall Lecture, CCHS will sponsor a History-Go-Round tour of the suffrage centennial exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, "Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence." The docent-led tour, made possible by special arrangement between CCHS and the museum, will be on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. It will begin at 11:30 a.m., and last approximately an hour.

The exhibition explores the more than 80-year fight for women's suffrage as part of the larger struggle for equality that continued through the 1965 Civil Rights Act and is still ongoing today. It features the movement's most influential leaders, who also will be described by Griffith in her lecture, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul.

The exhibition also illuminates the racial struggles of the suffrage movement and how African American women, often excluded by white women from the main suffrage organizations, organized for citizenship rights, including the right to vote. Among the African American leaders of the movement portrayed are Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, and Mary Church Terrell.

The National Portrait Gallery relates this complex history through an array of early photographic portraits, paintings, engravings, video, newspapers, ballots, banners, fliers, a china set, embroidery and pennants. Participants will see authentic objects, including original banners from the National Woman's Party, a late-19th century ballot box, and original writings by influential suffragists.

After the tour, participants are invited to continue the conversation and compare notes on the exhibition at a private buffet lunch beneath the elegant glass canopy of the museum's spacious Kogod Courtyard.

The price of the tour and lunch is \$25. The price for the tour only, without lunch, is \$10. Space is limited and reservations must be paid for in advance.

Directions to the meeting point at the museum will be provided to all registrants. Participants will provide their own transportation. The National Portrait Gallery is situated between 7th and 9th Streets, NW, and F and G Streets, NW. The Portrait Gallery Metro stop is one block away. Further information about both Metro and parking will be provided to participants.

To make a reservation or for further information, please contact CCHS at [info@chevyCHASEhistory.com](mailto:info@chevyCHASEhistory.com), or at 301-656-6141.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

CCHS Spring 2020 Lecture  
Sunday, March 8, 2020 • 4:00 p.m.

### **"Suffragists in Washington, DC: The 1913 Parade and the Fight for the Vote"**

Journalist and author Rebecca Roberts will discuss the 1913 Women's Suffrage Procession down Pennsylvania Avenue, the first civil rights march to use the nation's capital as a backdrop.

Further details to come.





CHEVY CHASE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8401 Connecticut Avenue  
Suite 1010  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHEVY CHASE, MD  
PERMIT NO. 5513

**Address Correction Requested**

## MYSTERY!

*"Mystery!" is a regular feature in the Newsletter. We invite all sleuths to help solve "mysteries" contained in the CCHS archive.*

Thank you to the many community members who wrote in to solve the Spring/Summer 2019 Mystery! Congratulations to Alexandra Zapruder on being the first to correctly identify the gazebo as located at 10 East Lenox Street, the home of her mother and former CCHS Board member, Marjorie Zapruder. George Hartman of Hartman and Cox designed the gazebo and it was constructed in 1980.



Can you help CCHS identify the women in this photograph? It was taken at an unknown location circa 1925 and donated by Edith Claude Jarvis. The woman in the middle in the black coat has been identified as Mrs. Alice Southgate, the first president of the Garden Club of Chevy Chase. If you can help solve this mystery, contact CCHS at [info@chevyCHASEhistory.org](mailto:info@chevyCHASEhistory.org) or 301-656-6141.