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CATT, CARRIE CHAPMAN
(1859-1947)
PAPERS
1916-1921

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INTRODUCTION

This collection is centered around the work of Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), who was called upon by Tennessee women to assist in the fight for passage of the Nineteenth Amendment (Susan B. Anthony) to the United States Constitution, in the crucial thirty-sixth state, Tennessee. The materials in this finding aid measure 2. linear feet. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Carrie Chapman Catt Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Carrie Chapman Catt Papers, containing approximately 766 items, cover the years 1916-1921. The collection is composed of some accounts, correspondence, telegrams, newspaper clippings (reports and political cartoons) and some writings.

The correspondence and telegrams, a good deal of which were written by or to Mrs. Catt, deal with the work (lobbying, writing letters, etc.) of getting the necessary votes to pass woman suffrage in Tennessee. Other letters in the collection deal with the payment of debts incurred in Tennessee in the work for passage; the concern for the reelection of Governor A.H. Roberts who had called the special session of the Legislature for the vote on woman's suffrage; and later the controversy between the two factions of the Tennessee Equal Suffrage League as to the writing of the Tennessee Chapter in the book, *History of Woman Suffrage*, edited by Ida Husted Harper. For the most part, this last grouping of letters were written to or by Mrs. Harper.

The clippings from various newspapers give the day-by-day happenings of the suffrage work, as well as some anti-suffrage work, in the state of Tennessee. The political cartoons, also from various newspapers, emphasize the importance of the Tennessee fight and also, in many cases, ridicule the plight of the Woman.

The writings, which make up the remainder of the collection, include the planks on woman suffrage for the Republican and Democratic platforms (1920); typed statements or articles for newspapers and other publications; several anti-suffrage tracts; a booklet and article on woman suffrage presented by the Louisiana Ratification Campaign Committee; and rough drafts of both articles on the history of Tennessee woman suffrage by Mrs. John M. Kenny and Mrs. Margaret Ervin Fort. These articles, after some editing, made up the chapter, "Tennessee, Part 1 and 2," for the book edited by Mrs. Harper.

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