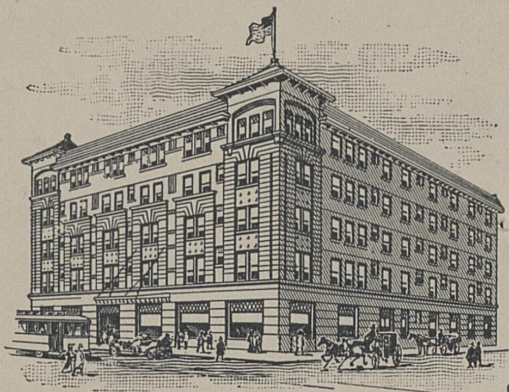




O'ROURK & BOCK

THE  
**Jone**  
A NEW UP-TO-DATE  
HOTEL

Guthrie, Okla. Jan 14 1907

My Dear Miss Clay:-

This is a cry from Macedonia, - come oh, come and help us! Our bill has passed second reading, - joint resolution introduced by Senator Yeager (Democrat.) The republicans have made such gains throughout the state that the democrats are much alarmed. You remember the Constitutional Convention consisted of 100 democrats and 12 republicans. The present legislature comprises 51 republicans and 102 democrats. This party gain is the menace that has made the democrats wary. Our measure has been introduced in the Senate by a democrat who stands very well and will be aided by Senator Campbell Russell who is very forceful. The rumor is that the Republicans will vote solidly for us. During the territorial legislature, one of our strong adversaries



was C. G. Jones. He is still the leader  
of the Republican forces, and a probable  
candidate for governor. He unhesitatingly  
states that he will vote for submission  
of our question. He ~~tells~~ me he does  
not believe in woman suffrage, but  
that if the people want it he believes  
women have a right to enfranchisement.  
Personally, I believe the Republicans would  
be glad to force woman suffrage on the  
democrats as a punishment for instituting  
the un-republican Initiative & Referendum!  
Fearing isn't it?

Our Hearing is fixed for Jan. 26.  
Can you possibly come to help us.  
I have also written appealingly to Miss  
Lordon. We must have some Southern  
women to help combat the assertions;  
that the Southern women would not vote  
if they were given the ballot

We have a good fighting chance to win  
from the legislature. The Chairman of  
the Senate Com. is Billups. The W.C.T.U.  
stood by him unwaveringly in his fight  
for the Prohibition measure. The new  
President - Mrs Hammet - (Mrs Hillerman's  
successor) is enthusiastic since her return  
from the W.C.T.U. Convention in Denver.  
She promises to line up the State  
W.C.T.U. with petitions, letters and telegrams  
to Billups. Mr. Fields of the  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers  
and the Legislative Committee of



Jan 14, 1909

Form 1074.

7-08-50M

MISSOURI KANSAS & TEXAS RAILWAY SYSTEM.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT DEPARTMENT.

HOTELS AND DINING  
STATIONS.

SEDALIA, MO.  
NEVADA, MO.  
PARSONS, KAS.  
MUSKOGEE, I. T.  
OSAGE INN, OSAGE, O. T.  
SOUTH MCALESTER, I. T.  
CHOCKIE, I. T.  
ATOKA, I. T.  
DENISON, TEX.

FRANK E. MILLER, SUP'T.  
WAINWRIGHT BLDG.,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

HOTELS AND DINING  
STATIONS.

HUGHES, TEX.  
DALLAS, TEX.  
HILLSBORO, TEX.  
SOUTH YARDS, TEX.  
SMITHVILLE, TEX.  
HOUSTON, TEX.

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The State Federation of Labor are doing what they can for us. Mr. Fields announces that should the Committee fail to report the bill, he will send Initiative petitions all over the State through his organization and have the question submitted independently. The Secretary of the Socialist Party also says we can count on his Party to aid us in an Initiative petition and that socialism shall not appear in the work at all. He realizes the detriment that might follow a strict party Initiative. The Labor people will circulate petitions also. Now we trust we shall not be obliged to resort to the Initiative, but there is nothing like being prepared for emergencies. There



is an understanding that there will be a special election on Constitutional Amendments this Spring.

Amendments will probably be: By the Railroad Corporations asking that two or more small railroads be allowed to combine or merge.

Locating the Capitol.  
New Jerusalem plan.

Dispensary law.

As no state officers are to be elected, each amendment will stand 'on the yea or nay vote.

I am going to ask Mr Anthony to introduce a suffrage bill in the House. If it differs in form from the Senate Bill, it will be practically a new bill and even though the old bill is killed in Senate Com. a new bill, with prestige of passage in House may give an opportunity for compromise or repudiation.

Please telegraph us if you can come to our aid. With you and Miss Gordon <sup>we</sup> ~~will~~ can dumbfound our Southern enemies.

Mrs Biggers spent last week with me, and will probably be



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here again next week.

Mr. Carey — our old friend in Constitutional Convention is a legislator and helping loyally.

Dear Kentucky, do put on your bonnet and come to the rescue.

Sincerely Yours  
Ida Porter - Bryan



Guthrie, Oklahoma, Jan. 10, 1909

My dear Mrs. Upton:-

We are rapidly approaching a climax in Oklahoma suffrage affairs. Senator Yeager (Democrat) introduced our Bill the first day the Legislature assembled. It is Senate Bill No. 2. The Senate Committee has been selected with a peculiar coincidence that every member is a "hold-over" save the one Republican; and is anti-negro in sentiment. The whole outfit are probably hostile to woman suffrage, and the intention seems to be to kill the Bill in Committee, as they dare not let it come before the joint-joucen. This was the information I got yesterday. That the Republicans mean to vote solidly for woman suffrage submission, and the democrats are scared, since they take it as a foregone conclusion that the black woman's vote would be a Republican asset. Mrs. Diggins was obliged to leave here yesterday, but will return for the Hearing before the Committee. Senator Yeager assures us that he will get the Bill out of Committee, but I am afraid he is over-confident. We are particularly exasperated, because we have more than the required majority in the House, and good prospects (if the Reps. vote solidly) in the Senate. The great bugaboo is the negro woman's vote. Our Bill has passed Second Reading. The Committee will probably act this week, and our agony will be curtailed. The Republican floor-leader is C.C. Jones, - our opponent in all previous campaigns. He announces his intention of supporting our Bill, and this is what has scared the Democrats. He is not in favor of woman suffrage, but wants submission because he desires to give the Democrats the full effect of the pernicious Initiative & Referendum doctrine and its evil possibilities!!!! At least this is my personal interpretation of his motives. I am shivering with anxiety, but we may come out all right yet. The next few days will



[Jan. 10, 1909]

decide. The Socialists will secure the Initiative petition if our work fails, and we may yet be in time for the special election indicated by other proposed amendments. I am counting chances for and against, you see. If we are killed in Committee, I will promptly close up my work and start eastward. Will try to stop at National Headquarters.

All the above is pessimistic, but here is a sun-ray: Miss Brooke (Bishop Brooke's daughter) is an enthusiastic Vassar girl. She wants to organize a college M.S. League in Oklahoma. She has the ability to make it go. Mrs. Biggers will write you about it, but I forgot to give her Miss Brooke's address. It is 427 W. 9th St., Oklahoma City. Do send her suitable literature. I have suggested her writing to Miss Thomas.

How about sending Progress to every legislator? Do you want to make a donation? Am enclosing a list of members. The present address is Guthrie, and if you are seized with a generous spasm, copies should be mailed immediately. We have some special literature printed here, and have ordered a little from you.

I was favored with an opportunity to address the City Federation of Women's Clubs yesterday. They were very cordial; ~~but~~ hope some good will result.

We had planned a big petition for the Legislature, but the members are racing bills through, and there will not be time for us to get out the number of signatures we know we can secure, so we will "call off" this plan.

Snowing to-day, and the wind is blowing fiercely. I wish it could blow a few senators into ---- Texas.

Sincerely

(Signed)

Ida Porter Boyer



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HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET

ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Headquarters Secretary, Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer, Oklahoma City, Okla.

State Lecturers { Dr. Frances Woods, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.  
                      Miss Laura Gregg, Guthrie, Okla.



Guthrie, Okla  
Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 1909

My Dear Miss Clay:-

Your letter bears the date, Feb. 10,  
Am sorry for the delay in answering. I was  
obliged to write to several friends in order to  
obtain copies of the letters pledging candidates. We  
sent out two, - the one to Democrats and Republicans,  
the other to Socialists.

Figuratively, I am sojourning in Valley Forge.  
Our Senate Hearing was well attended. Miss  
Gordon made a forceful speech and it  
won many of our influential Southern women.  
Nothing converts legislators. They are cowards  
and conscienceless. Our bill came before  
the Senate yesterday. 15 votes for and 21 against.  
Absent 7. Dead 1. Of the absentees 5  
were pledged to us. Dr Johnston who was recently  
asphyxiated with gas was our friend. Two  
members - Senators Thomas and Nevell broke  
faith with us. It is the old, old, experience  
of political assertion and the old, old anguish  
for us.

We had our hearing before the



House Committee on Tuesday evening. The Chairman is B. F. Harrison who opposed us in Constitutional Convention. We have a safe majority in the House and can afford to lose a few votes. I think there will be an effort to refuse to bring the bill out of Committee. We will insist, and one of the members is our staunch friend while three others are safely for us in the Committee. I know you will be glad to hear that Senator Sorrells who voted with us in Con-Con. made a brave stand for us on the floor of the Senate.

Mrs Biggers is ill with Grippe. So is Mrs Stephens. Neither could attend the House Hearing. Luthie women are not very helpful, except Mrs Carter. She has also suffered from the prevailing epidemic of Grippe and had to come to the Hearing in a cab. You can imagine how interesting it was for me to find at the last moment that the main props were all ill. However I braced myself and we came through all right. The bright feature was that we developed a new friend. Mr. R. H. Galyen of Chandler. He is a lawyer. Makes a good speech and announces himself ready to help us with the Initiative petition and to go campaigning for a month if his expenses are paid. He is a Democrat.

Miss Gordon has of course written you



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Feb 19, 1909  
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3  
her observations & conditions here. I have  
not lost faith in Oklahoma, but I feel  
that the National has been immeasurably  
generous, and that we have no right to ask  
for more. My keen regret is that if we  
abandon our hold now, it will indissolubly  
link all future for woman suffrage in this  
State with the Socialist party.

I presume the vote on our House Bill  
will be taken within a week or ten days,  
indeed it may be precipitated at any time.  
As I have no further instructions from the  
Business Committee, I shall close up  
the work as speedily as possible, and start  
Eastward. Like Lot's wife there will be many  
sorrowful glances backward in defiance of  
all saline traditions.

Good luck to Arizona. May she be "next"  
in the suffrage group. My love to you and  
Miss Gregg

Lovingly Yours

Ida Porter-Boyer



(Copy)

[Feb 28, 1909]

Guthrie, Okla.  
Feb. 18, 1909.

My dear Miss Shaw:-

The Senate voted on our Bill yesterday. Vote stood 15 for, 21 against, 7 absent, 1 dead. Of the seven absent, 5 were pledged to us. Senator Johnson who was asphyxiated by gas was our friend. Two senators were unfaithful to their pledges. We had the usual arguments against "de-natured" women and "he-women" and pedestals. Once more some of the known libertines and adulterers have lined themselves in a virtuous phalanx to preserve the purity of women from the horrors of the ballot. The legislator who clamors loudest for the necessity of preserving our morals is at present under indictment for embezzlement. He likewise believes that woman's place is in the Ho-o-m-e, and his wife had a job at the last legislature helping him support the family.

We have had our Hearing before the House Committee. I think the plan is to prevent this Bill coming before the House, as we have a very safe majority there, and the democrats want to prevent the Republicans from carrying out their caucus decision of a solid vote for us. We hope to call the Bill up however, and insist on a roll call. The legislature will adjourn March 5th. As it now stands it means any future work must be by Initiative petition.

A petition in this state would require about 40,000 signatures. If we decide to continue the campaign, the Socialists, Federation of Labor, Brotherhood of Railway Engineers and W.C.T.U. will aid in securing the necessary signatures. If we abandon the field, the Socialists will proceed independently.

Senator Yeager's unfortunate accident and Johnson's death were severe blows to us in the Senate. Both were strong men and could have collected some of the deserters.



2--Copy.

[Feb 28, 1909]

The women feel that the National has been more than generous in its aid, and while we hope will continue the work, we cannot urge it. I presume Miss Gordon has fully described the situation here, so I will not repeat.

Lovingly,

(Signed) Ida Porter Boyer.



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*Guthrie, Okla, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> '09*

*My Dear Miss Clay:-*

*Your postal just this moment received, indeed I am glad to write to you. Miss Gordon arrived Tuesday morning (6 a.m). Our hearing before the Senate Committee was at 8 P.M. Miss Gordon made a fine address and it had the hoped-for effect on the Southern women and men. She, as a southern-born could touch on raw spots as no northern woman could dare to mention. Mrs. Biggers presided at the meeting and was dignified and gracious as she always is. She is always so sweet and so dependable. Mrs. Bailey talked as a club woman. Mrs. Harris of Chickasha spoke for the Indian women (she is a Mississippi-Choctaw) in appearance she is stately and I think very handsome. Her address was excellent — really scholarly. Mrs. Carter of Guthrie told of women's efforts in civic lines and how abortive such labors were without the ballot. One instance was of a local nature. She told of*



a man nominated for a ~~municipal~~ office whose record for immorality was unspeakably bad. So flagrant had been his offenses that it was decided to hold a local prayer meeting for his defeat. On election day the women assembled and prayed earnestly, but when the returns were announced the man was elected by the usual party majority. Thereafter she suggested that the men go to the prayer-meetings and the women to the ballot-boxes. This was a recognized Gethsemane incident and the audience "caught on".

Mrs Minnie Braustetter related the conditions surrounding the working women and gave her personal experiences.

We had the unique ~~introduction~~ introduction on our program of Courtland Leugmay a youth of 18 years. He is very brilliant and a fine specimen of what the ideal American boy should be. He delivered a ten-minute speech, - full of very excellent points. The speech was admirable, but to me, the best and most touching lesson was that young boy pleading for his mother's liberty. He was so manly, earnest and dignified.

Mrs Hammet spoke for the N. O. I. M. She is Mrs Hillerman's successor in the Presidency and will do much more work for us than we received during Mrs Hillerman's in-



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Cumbersome. Our House Hearing will probably be next week.

Now this is the situation:  
The Socialists, W C T U locals, and our members are sending in petitions from practically every County. We copy these as fast as they arrive. So far we have sent in about 5000 signatures of individuals. These petitions go to the representatives of the respective districts from which the signatures are received, so that he may study the lists.

The Republicans canvassed on us some days ago. They will stand for us unanimously. This gives us organization support as follows:

Socialists (27000 strong)  
W C T U (increased interest and pledged effort)  
Republicans (unanimous support for submission)  
This does not mean party principle

State Fed of Labor (strong resolution at Ardmore Convention and personal interest of State Secretary)

Individual Democrats who cannot be whipped into line.

Now this is our hopeful line. Opposed to



us is the Democratic Administration. And this is a potent force. But the Democrats are in the throes of a family fight. The new speaker was selected as a rebuke to the administration. The insurgents number 23. The line-up of the House is:

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Administration Democrats | 45        |
| Insurgent "              | 23        |
| Republicans              | <u>41</u> |
| Total                    | 109       |

Senate;

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Democrats Regulars | 18                  |
| Insurgents         | 16                  |
| Republican         | <u>10</u> <u>44</u> |

Total Legislature      153

As our lists are now checked we have 23 pledges in the Senate, and 67 positive pledges in the House. These figures do not include any doubtful or suspected ones. Of course, under the party lash the democrats may recede from their pledges. This we are liable to experience. The Democrats are badly scared. They fear the Republicans are going to enlist the sympathy of the women of the state by their minority caucus support. Now I know the Republicans are not sincere in the support promised us. That is, they will give us the votes for the Referendum but they do not do it from a



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5

sense of justice, but as a rebuke to the Democrats for the un-Republican Initiative and Referendum. The Democrats are hard pressed. They are openly acknowledging the possibility of defeat at the next regular election. Whatever they do must be done now. I think they will endeavor to kill us in Committee. They dare not risk a vote in the Committee of the Whole. So I am confidently expecting a report that our measure "do not pass." I think we have fixed things so that we can get a vote, (but am not sure,) for the proposition to call the bill out of Committee. Now here is the next situation. Taking the pessimistic view that we do not get the Referendum. The Socialists are already committed to a campaign for woman suffrage in this state. Please read the enclosed circular letter carefully. Mr. Baustetter assures me they can get the required signatures (about 40,000) for the Initiative petition. The position is shall we withdraw and turn over the suffrage campaign to the Socialists? They have halted or suspended their activity solely because they think we have friends in all parties and the movement will



lose these when it is restricted to Socialist efforts. In my judgment there is slight hope of carrying a Suffrage Amendment instigated by Socialists. But I do believe an Amendment would carry under other or non-partisan circumstances.

The probabilities are for a special election in September, on several measures.

I think Oklahoma can secure the Initiative by its own labors. The Socialists can be defended in for say 30,000 and the W C T U and suffragists for the 10,000 remaining.

We would need some speakers during July and August at the picnics and at street corners to get out the vote. This was very effective during the prohibition campaign. Many of the women spoke from drags at street corners. Mrs Nannie Curtis and others of like ability. It is quite the custom here and is really more pleasant than speaking in a hot, smelly, hall.

We cannot make it plain to the Democrats that they have all to gain in allying the woman's vote. They will not see. The Republicans are jumping at the bait. The Socialists have swallowed and digested it. But this State will assuredly go Republican next election. I don't think it will remain so. It is normally democratic. But the problems to be solved now are too much for the



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Auditors { Mrs. Mamie Porter Farnsworth, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.  
              { Mrs. John Brown, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.

HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET  
ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Headquarters Secretary, Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
State Lecturers { Dr. Frances Woods, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.  
                      { Miss Laura Gregg, Guthrie, Okla.



dominant party. They are such as have two sides and the disaffected ones are tumbling into the Socialist ranks. All the phenomenal gains of the Socialists are from the Democratic party. And the Socialists are improving the opportunity. They had 20 speakers in the field last year and are growing and spreading. They will make extra effort in '09 in order to influence the election of '10. Every one of their speakers is under instruction to emphasize woman suffrage in every speech. You will readily see what this means toward getting out a popular vote. They work county by county very systematically.

I wish you might have a personal conference with the State Secretary, Mr. Braustetter. He is such a true-blue suffragist.

Are wondering if you purpose remaining in Arizona. If not, and we could hope for you at a House Hearing in a week or ten days, it would mean a great deal to us. We will have some local women, but Miss Gordon was worth a hundred local women. Her address is the one they quote.

My dear Miss Clay it is so hard to "let go" of this State with its work of the past and its hope for the future. It is an important State, - one



already big in population and one that will  
influence the older states southward. I have  
done my best, and wish I had more ability.  
The National has been generous, — inexpressibly  
so. I think the Oklahoma women realize this  
and are grateful. I did not try to color  
Miss Gordon's views during her brief stay here,  
for I know that I am unduly biased for  
Oklahoma. Miss Gordon has no doubt formed  
a correct opinion and her judgment should  
prevail for more reasons than one.  
You have been our good friend and will  
always be a fond memory ~~with~~ those  
~~among whom and for whom you & us~~  
who worked with you.

Yours with love

Ida Porter Boyer



[Mar 15, 1909]

Marlow, Okla. Mar 14<sup>th</sup> / 09

My Dear Miss Shaw:-

Am here with Mrs. Biggers.

Together we will finish up the accumulated correspondence and the odds and ends attendant on the wind-up of the legislative work.

I have your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> in which you say you will notify us of the decision of the Official Board regarding further work in this State.

I left Guthrie on Thursday morning. The legislature did not adjourn until Friday night, but it was useless to expect anything the last hours of the session.

It is probable that a special session may be called and several Democrats have volunteered to bring out our Bill then, but I have been fed so many promises so often that these assertions do not have weight.

Our Bill was introduced in the Senate within an hour after the body convened. We were not aware that Senator Jager had introduced it so precipitately as he did not consult us regarding the wording of the Bill. We made the best of the situation. Senator

Jager's illness was most unfortunate for our measure, as he was unable to champion it through the tortuous windings and routes devised by lawmakers. He had our majority in the Senate - that is, of pledges. This became known to the wire-pullers and it was decided to call up our Bill and dispose of it before Senator Jager, the author, could return to support it. Senator Jager heard of this and made a desperate effort to be present. He surprised the Senate by his presence. Really he looked like one from the dead. He was not at his desk an hour when the minority report signed by Potter

(Republican) and Taylor (Democrat) was called up. Jager succeeded in getting a roll-call although this was



[Mar 15, 1909]

difficult. Just preceding this the Appropriations Committee was asked to retire. This carried with it some of our pledged supporters, — one being Potter.

In the House the tactics were somewhat different. Anthony who so cheerfully agreed to introduce our Bill, is under the domination of the Administration. To our disgust and surprise he added the condemnatory "by request." Still we were hopeful as we had 72 pledges out of the 109. When it soon became apparent that a trio had been arranged to prevent our Report being voted on. This trio consisted of the Speaker Vilson, Harrison, and Macey. They effectually prevented any Republican from calling the Report out after it had been printed in the Journal of March 1. For three weeks there was a struggle toward this end. The men who did valiant work against odds were Partridge, Jones, Clark and Dixon. The two latter having signed the minority report.

Now ~~we~~ we have arrived at a peculiar situation. Mr Clark is the Caucus leader of the minority. Mr. Brewster and I had a Conference with him last Wednesday. Mr Clark will be a candidate for Governor at the primaries. He is a true suffragist and will do all he can for us. The School Land Lessees number over 40,000. They have called conventions in every County, Mar. 27, and a Stat. Convention at Enid, April 1. At this same time the Cattlemen will be in Convention there. Many of these are also School-land lessees. Various organizations are to be invited which contemplate submitting Amendments by the Initiative. Proposed Amendments are: Sale of School Lands; Location of Capitol; Railroad Merger; Elections Bill. — and several others. The iniquitous terms of our Initiative and Referendum



[MAY 15, 1909]

Law make the circulation of a petition a formidable task. Forty thousand signatures will be requisite. Initiating-petitions never meant the Initiative & Referendum to be operative when it was framed.

Now Mr Clark suggests that we send a delegate to each and have all petition blanks and all the others sent out under one management. There is to be an Executive Board of Petitioners consisting of a representative for each petition, - Mr Harrison, President of the Farmers Union to look after school houses. Some need for the Railroads; some are in behalf of the Suffragists, etc. These representatives to be of varied political faiths and interests. The many petitions to be circulated by the same agents, all made ready for filing. This will reduce the expense as it will be divided among the Amendments. ~~See Clark~~ (Mr Clark) thinks we will obtain more popular recognition by being in with the other Amendments, than by trying separately to get 10,000 signatures.

When the Petitions have been filed with the Secretary of State, the various interests divide and go on with their Campaigns independently. There need be no alignment or endorsement unless desired.

I was very much afraid of being drawn into some political scheme and so I sent for Mr Brundetter who has always been a reliable adviser. Later I submitted the proposition to Judge J. L. Brown an old-time friend and suffrage champion. He approves of a combination for securing signers. Our Suffrag. members, who were present at a meeting in Oklahoma City, also think it a good plan. Mrs Biggs approves too.

The obstacle may be no expense. We cannot hope to raise much money in this new State. People do not have it to give. The question now is whether the National will help us to go on. I shall await your reply. If it is unfavorable the work



[Mar. 15, 1909]

here will close immediately on receipt of your answer. I think the State could raise two or perhaps three hundred dollars toward the petition work, & not more. It will be impossible to learn the cost until after the Convention is held. Mrs. Biggers will attend this.

I have never experienced greater autocracy and irrationality than was shown by this legislature. Our women and friends sent in approximately 8,000 signatures to the legislative petitions. They had little effect. Yet when the subject of another ~~Bill~~ Bill was being argued, the objector made the emphatic and astonishing statement that he held in his hand a petition signed by 30 names, - residents of his county! Our signatures numbered thousands, yet they had no force.

To go back to our Initiative. If circulated and filed with all the others, it is not possible that the Governor could dare set it aside from the other election in 1910. I forgot to state that it is understood, and in fact the School Land Bill calls for a special election. So we would likely be included with the bunch.

Please telegraph your decision. Fearing you may be away from home, and in order to save you time, I will mail duplicates of this letter to Mrs. Upton, Miss Clay and Miss Gordon. I am writing them by this same mail.

I think Mrs. Biggers wishes to add a



[Mar 15, 1909]

postscript.

truly

Ida Porter - Boyer

My dear Miss Shaw

It was openly stated in the legislature by the democrats that woman suffrage would carry if submitted to the people, and that it would mean the supremacy of the republican party, since southern women are democratic and southern women would not vote. I am telling this as the general sentiment that woman suffrage would carry at the polls. The amendments that are to be submitted will call for a special election and this will be our opportunity. The legislature has just passed a law giving the Gov. the right to submit questions "at his discretion" which means that he can refer an amendment at a special election or hold it up until the regular. We think he would not dare to discriminate against us if we are included with all the other amendments. It would be rather serious for him to explain to forty thousand voters why our petition



[Mar. 15, 1909]

should not have the same chance accorded the others.

We have tried so hard and for so long that it seems too bad to drop the work at this juncture. This is the first time we have ever been accorded any political support or had an opportunity to "get-in" with political plans on an equal footing. Oklahoma has made many demands on the National but this has been a big task in a big State and a State in which conditions are unusual.

The special elections will probably be in September and we do hope the National will help us to continue the work until the election is over. We feel that this is the last stand that we can make for suffrage for some time to come.

Sincerely yours

Kate H. Diggers



Marlow, Okla.

May 15<sup>th</sup> 1909

My Dear Miss Clay:-

I am enclosing a copy of letter written to Miss Shaw. I know you will be interested in it. I shall spend this week with Mrs. Biggers assisting her in the correspondence which has accumulated, and she has made two public dates and arranged for a club meeting while I am here. Next week I go to Oklahoma City and will close up our work in this State, unless I hear from the Business Committee that we are to go on with the petition. Mrs. Biggers insists that I go with her to the Convention at Enid. So I shall try to comply and then start Eastward. Of course I feel sick and sorry but not discouraged. Hope the outlook is hopeful in Arizona.

Mrs. Biggers sends her love.

Sincerely,  
Ida Porter Byers



May 20, 1909

Dear Mrs. Boyer:- Have just been reading your letter still so full of interest, for the field of work you so recently left. - The work is progressing, - how we cannot tell - but we know that many are making a great effort to have our 40,000 names in before June 1.

We, at headquarters, realize what a stupendous task this is to be accomplished in so limited a time. Mrs. Stevens is still on the road to the N.W. - Believe she will be in Okla. City. over Sunday then go out again. Mrs. Laskey is now on the road to the S.W. - A minister is traveling in the S.E. - Miss David still working. also Mrs. Morrison. - Many petitions have been sent in - & a few not even sworn to - which gave us a little extra work to return & explain instructions again - many have signed from Okla. City.

Mr. Braniff came in last week to wake up the socialists. - So far they have in only about 2500 - signed - He put in a \$15.00 add. in the "Appeal to Reason" (we paid it) - think the socialists will now do more.

Mrs. Dalton has rheumatism - Cannot work. Miss Hayman took 1700 petitions, which was all she wanted. - Could not find your note-book - was sorry for needed it myself. - Hope you may have found it in some unlikely place 'ere this - Will send the key if it can be found - when Mrs. Laskey returns, she did not seem to know much about it -



[May 20, 1909]

Mrs. Guenay is discouraged, just think of it - Sig. Lord  
not always count for a brave spirit, does it?

Will enclose a couple of the petitions - Mrs Corder  
came up here to do her work - I paid all stamps +  
printing work for resolutions - That is all she has  
done. - Write us often - we still need your  
encouragement.

Sincerely -

May 20 - '09 -

204 1/2 W. Main St.,

Do Ruth & Gay.

Mrs Boyer:- This prince is going to add a line, Dr  
has been so rushed that I have been helping her some  
Came down today, to the office the first time, for a few  
days - The little ones have both had the measles - Aren't  
they dreadful - Both were very sick, but are now quite fully  
recovered, was sorry they could not have waited until after  
June 1, as Dr. has needed my help so much - Did some writing  
for her at home - I certainly hope I may have reason to  
be as proud of my son when he reaches manhood as  
you have, should have thought he would have  
almost devoured you when you reached St Louis -

Not doubt you are glad to be at home - You are certainly  
missed here, - Can send the good news for our City's  
interest - a new parking plant - to be built just south of  
Wheeler Park - across the river - Great enthusiasm was manifest  
at the Chamber of Commerce yesterday over it - + all work progressing  
at as rapid a pace as ever - Will this P.S. interest you and perhaps not -  
Sincerely Helen Gay-Minster



[May 1909]

Dear Mrs. Boyer.

I am always so glad to hear from you, but hardly know what to tell you about the work here. our names rec'd consist of about 10000 - and think the Socialist have about 5000 - in - think Akara is at the bottom of that part of it. but perhaps it is the due to the fact that we everyone of us were entirely new at the business - think I could do better next time myself - our names so far have not cost us less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cts each unless it was Mrs. Stevens work - which may in the end be only one cent. Miss Harris is our best - standby - is now working in Mrs. Rogers - do not see how we can possibly get through before the last of June or July - some say there will be no special election others do not know.

Have thought that we had better write our reports after we get through in the papers - is not all right. all that we have had from Stephens C. - is 120 names and from Mrs. Bejers secured short -

Mrs. Bailey of Kingsfisher has done fine



Also Alfalfa Co. Ened nothing as yet. But -  
hope to get names from them - hope to  
have in 15,000. By the 15<sup>th</sup> as I have rec'd  
nothing from Mrs. Morrison as yet - and she  
has been out most of the time.

Logan County is ahead with 758 names  
their Payson & Colde - about \$100 each. But -  
have to average 300 names from each Co. to  
get enough. However I think we will come  
in in the general election. Nov. 1900. What  
think you? Mrs. Woodworth discourages that.  
But seems to me in 16 months with you  
here all of that time or at least one yr.  
ahead of election we can do quite a little  
educating. But perhaps I am somewhat  
unsophisticated or green - again.

I have a plan all worked out for  
that part of it; a big job but think we can  
do it; will speak about it later if we do not  
fail completely on names.

Mrs. Stephens is a jewel. Have not heard  
from Mr. or Mrs. P.M. Clark. Partidge - Lee of  
Hugo: in fact not one of their men have done  
anything. I think they are all a little  
afraid of us - from Lincoln Co. have only had  
277 names. From Pott: only 20.



So that is the way things go.

2 [May 1909]

Mr Bransden was up the other day - was very much discouraged, told him to cheer up - as we had nine months ahead of us.

Am glad that your sister had her operation. These things are quite numerous amongst people called, women. But - about 99 - <sup>cases of women</sup> ~~of out of~~ to one of man - (wish we were all men) - it makes me somewhat tired when I think how women have all of that. Just - of it. As for though - and man gets all of this thing for everything - <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ when we get this fall - we will just get some of that thing.

Father & Mother are still in Iowa - as run the ranch all by myself. It was quite warm out here today but the breeze is so nice and cool tonight. You have no doubt heard about our immense Jacking plant. I guess there is no place growing better "Capitol Hill" just now believe it is to be located across from Helmer somewhere - am so glad they did not bring it out east of town. Let Miss Percy Barker high - Herman yesterday for names with - Mrs. Laskey. Think we have had about 300 from that town.



Mrs. Howell of Wynnewood has also worked  
her little time well. Mrs. Lathrop & Rose  
Bryson have done something - but think  
they might both have taken one week & left  
home - Mrs. Lasky got about 100 names from  
Robert, Ellis - Mangum - Gene Wolf - & Isobels - with  
a few from Quakers - Mrs. Roberts done nothing  
and the Ordmore people nothing -

Well will close this now and if I can  
think of anyone to write will add it in  
this morning. Will love & hope to see you back  
as soon as our names are in - Sh. Kay -

Now Mrs. Boyer I just got a letter from  
Mrs. Bygess. she seems to be afraid <sup>of a general election</sup> it will  
be a sed. inst. election - but if it is lets  
help make it more so - of course says what  
you think - but it will be a good education  
& if we wait for a <sup>special</sup> general election may  
wait for years - Sh. Kay



May 31 [1909]

Dear Mrs Boyer

I know that it is disgraceful that I haven't written to you, but I haven't written a word to my boy since before you went away, and you may see how very much my moments are full.

I was out just one month, and left petitions for about 10,000 names, with rather good assurance that the work would be done, but to-day a large package <sup>blank</sup> are returned from Guthrie, saying that they have done all they can. They have canvassed the town thoroughly, but I tried to get every one to see how vastly much more could be done by getting farmers on Saturday.

Mr Gartin, Miss Bees and old Mr Thomas took hold of the work nicely, and while in Guthrie, I reached many other parts of the county through the M & E conference - they gave me five minutes, and many of the preachers took petitions home with them. Mrs Morrison is at work, but she is slow - like myself. Alva Enid and Sherbee, the W & B T. took hold of the work beautifully. And all along, it was surprising, the helpers that would develop. On the trains and elsewhere. Of course it remains to be seen what they will do, they promised well. Mr & Mrs Clark of Pawnee, showed great interest in helping to plan, and rather insisted that I



I should not do any of the work - just get them <sup>May 31, 1909</sup> organized.  
But it was Saturday, and I couldn't let all these farmers  
get away, so I got a hundred names. I found no difficulty  
in getting 100 a day, <sup>in a good town</sup> besides much other work of looking  
up workers. Every where the women were astonished  
to see the ease with which names could be secured, and  
I usually had to work some, to convince them it could  
be done, but it seemed to me it would not pay for me  
to spend my time getting names. What one can do seems  
so little, - black said - don't you do it - start the  
others to work, and go on. But I had the fear all the  
time, that they wouldn't do it. It took so much pleading  
to get women to think of any thing but their house-cleaning,  
commence in dresses, getting ready to go away &c.

In fact I found the most willing helpers in the men.  
They surprised me many times by their enthusiasm.  
But the socialists will not nearly get their number  
I am sure. In several places, the secretary had lain  
them <sup>petitions</sup> away and the local didn't know any thing about  
them. Mrs Pullum of Hennessey Socialist, you remember, was  
quite inclined to be uppish, said that if the W-S-A was  
doing this thing, she was in favor of letting them do it.  
"The women would all vote the Dem or Rep tickets any-  
way, and nothing would be bettered, - "and then Mrs  
Lane always talked so much, now she might do this.  
"they had circulated their legislative petitions, and decided  
that hereafter they would confine themselves to socialism.  
T.C.T.C.



3) I couldn't blame her - I pleaded with Mrs Lane, <sup>May 31, 1907</sup> but in the afternoon, when we tried to meet to arrange for the work, Mrs Lane went to a whist club instead, and two Socialist women came, and they finally said that they would get the Socialists, - if some one else would work. So I found two men who said the thing must be done, and they'd see that it was done. But I'll put no more dependence on Mrs Lane. But I think I found several valuable <sup>friends</sup> women and men, in various <sup>localities</sup>.

Miss Hayman says Oh well, we can go right on with the work, and have the names by the time limit. And really, I fear we will not be ready for a special election. Partridge says there will not be any special. Others think the same. But we are not slackening our diligence. I am trying my best to get home affairs in shape so that I can be at the office, for they'll be coming in fast now - I think.

Mrs But and I went to El Reno last Saturday, and we will continue to send out for special days. But I tell you that 1248 names is a hard days work. It seemed to me that I was as tired every night, as a human could be. Getting others to work was just as hard as getting names. Altogether I secured about <sup>one thousand</sup> 1000 names, and since coming home, I'm sure I've done enough.



work for two decent women—Mother Stephens  
is getting ready to go to Iowa, and is insulted  
because I haven't any time to help her, and I'm  
sure you'll excuse this scrappy letter, for  
truly I haven't written a word to any one but Dr. Day  
except a one little line to Miss Hagen.  
My best is in the other one.  
Yours A. L. S.



Miss Clay: — I am respons-  
ible for the red pencil  
marks. — S. P. B.,  
[Aug 3, 1909]

Dear Mrs. Boyer:

Rec'd yours of last week  
and Mrs. Stevens has been  
looking for this finish  
ever since.

We have a man on the  
road now pay him \$30 a week.  
He averages about 80. <sup>names</sup> a day  
and pay anyone else  
sick a name. But our  
money is about run out -  
they say a special election  
will be called about Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> -  
for the "Capital petition" and  
also for the "Laws of Washington"



[Aug 3, 1909]

petition which they are  
just starting to get filled -  
the Taylor election bill  
was filed Sat. the Sec. of State  
saw fit to turn it down  
and the same would be  
done with ours if it was  
taken there soon. and think  
(we are just as well off to  
come up before the next  
general election. You did  
not say what you think  
about that part of it.

The supposition that \$20,000.00  
raised here to bring Kaskaskia  
safer here was a "bug" for the



Aug 3, 1909

vote on the 'capital petition' (the  
same man that got their sig  
is now getting ours - seems  
to be quite a hustler) and  
of course he is with the  
"Sons of Washington" so they  
will vote on that.

I cannot understand the  
Socialist deal. as they have  
perhaps 4,000 names all together  
and I gave them \$5.00  
for a write up in their  
paper, which I might  
better have kept.

Everything is very warm  
here in fact so warm that



[ Aug 3, 1909 ]

No women want to get out in  
the middle of the day to work  
any. Chickshe has sent us  
no money and only 140 names  
from that county. I shall try  
to prevail upon Mrs. Lewis  
to take a trip there and try  
for the money.

Mrs. Laskey was operated  
upon for gall stones - & removed  
and she will soon be well  
again - will be in Rochester.

Will try and send you some  
papers once in a while - Father  
and mother have just got  
back so will have a little more



time on my hands now. to do  
some little things.

I wish our good friend  
'Ben Owen' would send us a  
big or even a little check.

Hope your folks are all well  
by this time. and that you  
are getting some rest. for  
we want you back some  
day. write again -

With love Mr. Gay.

Aug. 3 - 08.



Centralia, Penna.

Aug. 9 , 1909

My Dear Miss Clay:-

Your letter of June 2 nd, merited a more speedy acknowledgment, but at that time I was quarantined with a diphtheretic nephew. Later when the bans were removed, I presumed you had gone to the Seattle Convention, where my thoughts were with you much of the time. Am sorry the reports were so meager, for we all expected impetus and enthusiasm from the Pacific Coast to shake our dry Eastern bones. Well, New York, it appears , has been electrified, and will surely accomplish much for itself as well as for the whole country.

I was much impressed by the portion of your letter referring to Arizona, and your conclusion that we must attain some political support if we are to win a victory in any State. I am glad you say that, for it was our experience in Oklahoma, that not until we were supposed to have an influence in political conditions, and we began to exert ourselves in local elections, did politicians take us seriously. When candidates began to call at our Headquarters in Oklahoma City it showed that they thought we were worth considering. And when some of them wrote asking the support of our Organization , it was another step forward. All these various straws were the influence which led the Republicans to caucus on our Bill and pledge their



[Aug 9, 1909]

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party support in the Legislature. Of course they had nothing to lose as they were the minority party, but it gave us prestige, and this, together with the Socialist advocacy made us a power to receive consideration in public. It greatly increased the respect of the Press; this was immediately observable. Pledging candidates, and pre-election work is the very essence of power. I am confident our best policy is working along these lines.

I left Oklahoma with a great deal of regret. I cannot but grieve that the women must struggle for themselves, for they are so much in earnest, and Oklahoma is such a vast and important State in its influence on the South and West. Mrs. Biggers still holds the helm in her quiet forceful way, and never lets an opportunity go by, especially among the Federated Clubs. This is her strong hold. Mrs. Stephens has developed wonderfully. She has charge of the Initiative Petition, and has been out in the field stirring up suffragists to circulate the petitions. Dr. Gay relieves her of the work in Oklahoma City, and attends to the necessary correspondence. Am enclosing their letters that you may form your own conclusions about the progress of the work. I remained in Oklahoma for one month succeeding the close of the legislature, and made my services a donation for that month. We circulated a subscription list in Oklahoma City to get funds for starting the Initiative, but these have been exhausted. I do hope the National Board may afford



[Aug 9, 1909]

-3-

the finances required to finish the petition. It would be most discouraging to fail when so many names have been already secured. Oklahoma City women are brimful of energy, and the brunt of all the suffrage work in the State falls on that local club.

I have not seen any one who attended the Seattle Convention, and my only knowledge comes from the columns of Progress and Woman's Journal. I am glad you retain your place on the official Board, for you can stand so gallantly and disinterestedly for principle. It takes courage, and situations are frequently most trying.

I am writing you about Oklahoma affairs, because your presence there enables you to comprehend the situation better, perhaps, than our officers who have not labored in that particular vineyard. I do pray that Oklahoma will not be abandoned, just at a time when we have had some political hold. A defeat is only a temporary affair and but enhances the ultimate victory.

Affectionately Yours,

*Ida Porter-Boyer*



[Sept 14, 1909]

Centralia, Pa.

Sept. 10, 1909

My dear Miss Shaw:-

Am in receipt of a letter from Miss Gordon in regard to the bibliography. She asks if it is in such shape that it can be turned over for tentative publication. I can turn over all the research work done in the Boston and Washington libraries. That is all that I can vouch for. There is a mass of material from various sources, but it is unsatisfactory and unreliable. It was done by correspondence and volunteers. In nearly every case, it is simply a transcription of some catalogue index with the word "Woman" in it. I have to throw out more than half of the material accumulated, as not pertaining to any phase of woman's rights.

Miss Frances Davenport of Washington, D. C. College E. S. League, has recently sent me a typewritten roll of titles from Poole's Index. In her letter, she naively says: "These may or may not be of service in bibliography." So you see it means an extra examination of all she has done, and it will not be safe to use the list unless the articles are scanned and listed as for or opposed to woman's rights. If the National Board desires, I will give my extra services to the work of the "Bib" in October, provided my expenses of room and board and railroad fare are paid. This is the same as was done when I made a canvass of the Boston and Washington libraries.

I can arrange to come to New York about October 1st, and go from New York to Philadelphia. I know the Astor Lenox



Sept 14, 1909

Library has a very large collection of books catalogued under the heading of "Woman". Certainly, if some one can be secured to do the work without entailing any expense, I will promptly turn over what material I have. Please advise me as soon as convenient, so that if the Business Committee desires to accept my services, I can arrange my own affairs to leave here October 1st.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) Ida Porter Beyer.



Cenahalia, Pa. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> 1909

My Dear Miss Celay:-

Am enclosing Mrs. Biggers last letter, together with some other Oklahoma matter, for I know your interest in all pertaining to that State. Oklahoma lies heavy on my heart. Those women in Oklahoma City are working so heroically to land that stupendous petition. The Haskell power is broken. Defections are occurring daily from his ranks and they are not insignificant politicians by any means. Clint Morrell is State Printer. It does seem too bad to let the suffrage work in Oklahoma go to pieces.



(This little scrap was part of a catalogue cover. Wouldst it be sticking in our suffrage literature. Am always on the qui vive for such things.)

New York is making lively efforts and its effect will be far-reaching. But oh! Oklahoma! My love and best wishes to you.

Eda Porter-Boyer.



189 N. Mill St.

Lexington, Ky. Oct. 30/09.

My dear Mrs. Boyer,

I was so glad to get your letter of October the 19th with enclosures. Yes indeed, I am deeply interested in Oklahoma for many reasons. I could not be in the State as long as I was without a permanent interest in it, and you know I consider the fact that it is a Southern and Democratic State a matter of strategic importance in our work. I am considering whether I can help them again out of the Bruce fund; but I have concluded that I cannot do so until they have reached their last 1500 names in their petition, as however much I may be interested I do not think I ought to spend the trust fund on a forlorn hope. However I am turning over in my own mind what I can send them myself. I am relying a good deal on your judgment and on Mrs. Bigger's as to whether we ought to continue to help them with funds but I conclude from both your letter and hers that you still consider it a hopeful field. I received a letter from Miss Gregg, in which she says she has held successful meetings in Arizona and that Mrs. Munds is working with her most effectively. Altogether she writes in a cheerful vein. Whether we win in Oklahoma and Arizona or not, I believe the fact that we are holding campaigns there would have a beneficial effect in the campaigns in the Northern States if it is well known, and I really think we should make these two campaigns of some newspaper importance. What do you think? I am not authorized by The National Board to make any such suggestion and maybe they might not think it discreet.

I am always so glad to hear from you and I have you also to thank for some clippings sent previous to this last letter. Please let me hear from you from time to time, and believe me  
Very Cordially,



189 N. Mill St. Lexington,

November, 27/09.

Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer,

Centralia, Penn.

My dear Mrs. Boyer,

I returned from my little trip to Florida on Thanksgiving day, after a very pleasant week spent there. I spoke at Palatka to the Federation of Woman's Clubs and at Jacksonville to the Woman's Club on Civil Service Reform. I spent several days in Jacksonville with Mrs. Jennings, who was born and raised in Madison County, where I was, and I enjoyed my visit to her very much.

I found your letter awaiting me with the enclosures and I realize fully the great opportunities in Oklahoma. I found a letter also from Miss Shaw, calling my attention to a circular letter Mrs. Biggers and Dr. Gay, of which a copy had been sent to her and to Mrs. Belmont and presumably to all the Official Board. I received a copy. In that they say they think the petition will be finished by the middle of December and that they will be able to get the bill at the special election early in the year. Miss Shaw expects to have a meeting of the Official Board very soon, and she may wait until then to discuss the Oklahoma situation. All the indications, however, are such that speedy action may be necessary, so I have written a letter to Mrs. Biggers, of which I enclose you a copy. I also send back the letters, which you enclosed to me, thanking you for the opportunity to read them.

I hope you will let me hear all the news from Oklahoma, and write to me of ~~any~~ when you can.

Very sincerely yours,

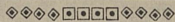
Diet.



President—Mrs. Lucretia L. Blankenburg,  
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Swarthmore.  
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4716 Windsor Ave., Philadelphia.

## PENNSYLVANIA

# WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION



Treasurer—Mrs. Mary B. Luckie,  
333 East Broad Street, Chester, Pa.  
Auditors:  
Miss M. Natalie Crumpton,  
Glenside, Penn'a.  
Mrs. Minora F. Phillis,  
7723 Juniata Street, Wilkinsburg, Pa.  
Chairman of Press Work,  
Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer, Pulaski City, Va.

Centerville, Pa. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1909

My Dear Miss Clay—

Want to keep you fully posted on Oklahoma and know the writers would be glad to have you read contents of their letters. Am keeping up a constant correspondence with people in Oklahoma in order to help the Initiative petition. As soon as petition is filed, which will be Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, there should be immediate work from State Headquarters. It is the pre-nomination work for or against candidates that counts. The aspirant is thrown on his individual effort before the primaries, and he has many rivals in his own party. Once the nomination is secured, the candidate relies on his ticket to carry him through, and it is a question of partisanship, more or less, to work for him then.

The primaries will be held in February, and the candidates will have advantage of summer picnics to make the campaign for November elections. We should insist



on having some reference to woman suffrage  
in every speech of every candidate who  
indorses our cause.

If a special election is called in January  
or February, it will mean hard and  
rapid work, and plentiful distribution  
of literature in the short time allotted  
for agitation of Amendments proposed.

We haven't a day to lose. Oklahoma  
women will advise you the day the  
petition is completed and filed. Then  
the responsibility for the vote will be  
too arduous for the State alone. I hope  
and beg the National will see its way  
clear to send ample aid.

Am just sending out a big mail to  
various parts of Oklahoma.

Sincerely Yours

Ida Porter Boyer



Centralia, Penna. Nov 9, 1909

My Dear Miss Clay:-

Your letter of Oct. 30, brought consolation to me. I knew your interest in Oklahoma had not abated, and I am elated that you could arrange for further financial help. Those women are struggling heroically to file the suffrage petition. It is pathetic to think how much must be accomplished, just as men achieve results and with such limited means. As Doctor Gay says in her letter, "Armstrong spent tenthousand dollars for the Railroad petition, while we have not had even one thousand." However this struggle against uneven conditions is part of the history of women.

You would be delighted to see how the Oklahoma women have developed! Doctor Gay is a wonder. She marshals those women and has had charge of all the petition work. Mrs. Stephens has evolved into a fine field-worker. She has canvassed much of the State, and brought results. Miss Barber, Mrs. Burt, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Jaskey, and a half-dozen others are fine. Indeed the personnel of the Oklahoma City Club exceeds that of any club of workers we have. The Guthrie women are broken reeds, but the Okla. City women are jim-dandies! I enclose recent letters from Mrs. Stephens and Dr. Gay. Will you kindly return them after reading? Lest there should be some remarks in them that are not exactly clear to you, I will try to explain.

# 1. The term Political deal disconcerted me at first, but it does not seem so serious as the plot <sup>unfolds</sup> unfolds. Presume she means



[Nov. 9, 1909]

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by it that she hoped to get Mr. Clark to make woman suffrage the basis of his campaign. Mr. Clark told me he would be a gubernatorial candidate. He is quite prominent .

# 2. A special election would doubtless bring out a light vote. There would be nothing but Amendments to be voted upon, and our chances would be better than at a general election. It would mean sharp , hard work to get our women into line in the specified time, and require hurried effort to effect any kind of precinct organization. I am more than ever convinced that we must work along county, ward and precinct lines to get out a vote. We may not need such methods for propaganda or educational service, but we must have it for political results.

If there is to be no special election, immediately after the petition is filed we should open Headquarters in Oklahoma City, and begin correspondence with the Farmers' Unions and the Labor locals to arrange for dates on their programs. Their picnics and mass meetings begin in May, and the preliminaries are made early in the year . Doctor Gay has worked hard, but her professional duties encroach uncertainly on her suffrage work. I think there will be very little, if any difficulty in securing plenty of local women at a dollar per day to work under direction, but they will need experienced aid to plan the duties.

Am telling you this that you may know the necessities, in case the National Board concludes to help after the petition is filed.



[Nov 9, 1909]

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Indeed it would be disastrous to abandon such a hopeful State after it has presented such a formidable petition.

I have devoted much time all summer to helping the women by correspondence, but it is hard work, and the distance makes delays vexatious. I wish you could go to Oklahoma. Think what it would mean to the South and southwest if we could bring in that State! Texas Missouri, Arizona and New Mexico would fall like ripe plums into the suffrage ranks.

The petition work has been fine educational influence. It means something to get over 40,000 voters to put their names on paper and few sign it who are opposed.

Mrs. Stephens letter is significant in showing the actual thought of many men. I have written her to reply thoughtfully, "Well, what percent of the women in Oklahoma do you think are bad?" I asked a politician that once at a picnic, and he was flustered. He didn't dare put himself on record by replying.

I have been so persistent about Oklahoma, that it may alienate and weaken the National's opinion of my judgment, but it seems too bad to give up where so much has been done. We have not worked as long as the prohibitionists, but they kept everlastingly at it until they lined up Oklahoma. Our work has been interrupted. It is a relief to unburden myself to you, because you know the conditions.

The Democratic candidates are beginning to announce themselves. We have friends among nearly all of them. Herring, you



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remember voted with us at the Constitutional Convention. Mrs. Herring visited us at Headquarters. Dawes is an out-spoken suffragist. Jesse Dunn gave us an endorsement for publication. Cruce is in favor of suffrage for women.

Our work should begin in ample time before the primaries.

Sincerely Yours,

*Ida Porter - Boyer*



Centralia, Pa. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 1909

My Dear Miss Clay: -

Have delayed replying to your letter of Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, as I hoped each day to receive word from Oklahoma, that the Petition has been filed. My last letter from Dr Gay asked about a Committee and its personnel, to carry the Petition to Guthrie. Mrs Biggers writes: -

I'll send you her letters so that you may read them for yourself.

Am also enclosing a few Oklahoma clippings. They are not of sufficient importance to be returned.

My present anxiety is relative to the very short time which we will have if a Special Election is called. And even if we hold over for the Regular election there is not a day to lose as the aspirants for nomination are declaring themselves numerous. We should endeavor to have them publicly advocate woman suffrage, before the Primaries are held in February. Am



trying to imagine the deep thankfulness which  
the Oklahoma women felt in receiving your  
most generous donation. Did they write you that  
Miss Blackwell had sent \$100.00?

What an interesting address Mrs Packhurst delivered  
in Cooper Hall. I have just finished reading  
in the Woman's Journal Dec. 11.

As soon as I receive definite news of Petition,  
will drop you a line.

Am wondering how we can reach the Federated  
Club women of Oklahoma. Do not want the  
delegates to go to Cincinnati, and vote against  
woman suffrage in the General Federation. The  
State President, Mrs Shreadgill, is a suffragist, but  
is fond of diplomacy and not inclined to take any  
stand that may lessen her position in Clubdom.

Sent Miss Caroline DeFon a list of women  
who may be helpful in forming College Leagues.  
Think Miss Brooke (Bishop Brooke's daughter)  
will take the State Presidency. Bishop Brooke  
and Mrs Brooke are staunch suffragists, and  
have recently removed to Oklahoma City.

Sincerely Yours  
Ida Porter - Boyer



Centralia, Pa. Dec. 30, 1909.

My Dear Miss Shaw:-

This morning's mail brought me your letter informing me of the action of the Business Committee relative to my going to Oklahoma. As I understand the matter, the Committee desires me to go only in the event a Special Election is called.

I want to be very clear about this, for I think Governor Taskell will strive by every means to prevent a Special Election. It is to the interest of the Democratic party in the State to avoid a Special Election for two reasons: First, the danger to the ring machinery; second, the depleted State treasury which the Republicans jubilantly use as campaign thunder.

Dr. Gay has charge of the Initiative petition, and writes me that the Petition will be filed in Guthrie January 4 th. She has appointed a large and representative committee to bear the document to the Secretary of State.

Newspaper rumor fixes some time in February for a Special election, but the Governor has contradicted this, qualifiedly however

I have yearned for a Special election, for we would have an excellent chance to win out at such time.

I confess I am not so sanguine over results at a General Election unless we are made a party measure. Then our chances would be fine, no matter which party endorsed us. Indications are that election results will be very close between the Democrats and Republicans. At Statehood election the Dems had a big majority. The vote was approximately:

|       |               |         |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| Dems. | 134,000       |         |
| Reps. | 99,000        |         |
| Soc   | <u>12,000</u> | 245,000 |

The second election showed some change in the make-up. The Democrats lost considerably to the Socialists. The latter about doubled its vote over the preceding year. The Republicans gained materially.

A change of a few thousand votes at the coming general election may change the political complexion of the State. This is why it does not make much difference which party endorses us, for such endorsement together with our champions in the other two parties, would be a pretty sure indication of victory.

I think there is small hope of endorsement from Democrats unless we can bring pressure through the Federation of Labor, and I am not sure that this would be wise. I believe Mrs. Biggers could get such endorsement from the Republican party, if we decided it would help our campaign. The Socialists are with us, and we can count on



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the active, loyal co-operation of their State Secretary, who has very recently been returned to the Oklahoma Headquarters. During his previous incumbency he and his wife were most helpful.

Now this is the question which is not clear to me. Do you wish me to go to Oklahoma if the Amendments are to come before the general election? Or, was it the sense of the Business Committee that I was to go for work at the Special Election only? In either event the work should be started immediately.

I think we could <sup>get</sup> local workers for much of the work in the rural districts, but these could not do all the work.

I expect to come to New York some time next week, but will defer my trip until I hear from you.

Indeed I hope you will be benefited by your rest-cure, though I am at a loss to know when you rested, for the newspaper reports chronicle constant activity.

A Happy New Year to you and Lucy.

Sincerely Yours,

Ida Porter - Boyer



Centralia, Pa. Dec 30, 1909

My Dear Miss Clay:-

Your letter and Miss Shaw's arrived in this morning's mail. Hers is very brief and the part relating to the action of the Board is practically as follows:

" At a meeting of the Official Board last week it was decided to assist Oklahoma in the campaign, provided a sufficient number of names should be secured to submit the question of Woman Suffrage to a special election. It was also unanimously voted that if this was done, we would ask you to assist the State on the same terms which you were there before- \$ 100 and expenses. I have written the result of the vote to Mrs. Biggers, and asked her to telegraph you so that no delay may occur, and that you could at one start for the seat of warfare."

I am enclosing you a copy of the reply I have just written to Miss Shaw. I note both you and she make definite reference to a Special election.

If the Amendments go over until the General, we must make a good showing on our Amendment even if defeated. If it received the smallest vote of the Amendments submitted, it would be disastrous all through the south and west.

Until now, I have felt competent to advise and plan for the securing of the signatures to the petition but am fearful about making further suggestions so far from the seat of operation. Conditions are sometimes peculiar and I am afraid of making wrong moves. Playing chess or politics by mail requires more skill than dischille possesses.

Dr. Gay wrote me that she notified the members of the Filing Committee to be present in Guthrie January 4 th. She has invited some very influential men to present it to the Secretary of State.

I will telegraph you immediately on receipt of tidings that the Petition has been delivered.

I thought perhaps you had not seen the "WORLD" clipping. Here is another that will cause no disturbance however.

A Happy New Year to You, with many more to follow.

Sincerely Yours,

*Ida Porter Boyer*



Centralia, Pa. Dec. 15, 1909

My Dear Miss Clay:—

Whenever I am worried about Oklahoma, I wish I could have a conference with you or Miss Gordon and "talk out the worry." You both understand the peculiar phases of conditions in that State, — first because you have both been there, and secondly its complex Southern attitude on many questions.

Before I left Oklahoma last April, I carefully planned the work in reference to the Petition.

The women were timid and lacked confidence so I omitted no details that would make the work easy, for I knew our women had the ability and the consecration to carry the Petition to its final stage. I made the

Oklahoma suffragists a cast-iron pledge, that if they secured the Petition, and the National decided to return me to the field, I would drop all my personal affairs and come back to their State. Also, that whatever service I could render during the interval, by correspondence



I would cheerfully perform. So, all summer, there has not been a day in which letters or papers have not gone out to help the women. But now the Petition is practically finished and another stage of the work is presented.

I have gone to sleep at night thinking of Oklahoma, and awakened in the morning with the same thought, so you may imagine how disturbed I feel over the enclosed clipping.

Wouldn't bother you with it, but a lack of harmony at our National Headquarters may affect Oklahoma just when she has reached a crisis. You are the peg on which we hang, and so for goodness' sake keep prodding the Business Committee.

Sincerely Yours

Ida Carter - Boyer

P.S. If our Porto Rican Brothers are given the vote it means "More Masters!" Then we may adopt the Nicaraguans and enfranchise them! Any old thing, just so it's a male,