



Gaslight News

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Open this *Gaslight News* as a PDF file on rivertonhistory.com and all of the **blue highlighted underlined terms** become links to more content.

See 1:19 [Archival newsreel footage](#) and 4:28 [press coverage](#) videos of the 1913 Suffrage March on YouTube.



I recall showing this episode of *Schoolhouse Rock* (and others) to RPS students in the 70s. [Sufferin' 'til Suffrage](#) first aired 1976. It still lives on at YouTube along with *Lolly, Lolly, Lolly, get your adverbs here* and [other favorites](#). - JMc



[Purple fabric flowers](#) from the Woman Suffrage Parade, March 3, 1913 in Washington, DC

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MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATION APPEAL FORM ENCLOSED

Locals participated in suffrage battles

Tantalizing clues point to the contributions of Riverton women in winning their right to vote

In 2015, among other early 20th century images, [Nancy and Bill Steel's family photo album](#) yielded photos of a group of apparent suffragists lunching at Haine's Pond, Burlington Pike.



Luncheon at Haines Pond - Steel



Pilgrim singing at Bridgeboro - Steel

female presidential nominee of a major party, the enigmatic photos of crowds walking, singing, and bearing "VOTES FOR WOMEN" signs at several Burlington County locales warrant revisiting the Steel photo album to see if there is a local connection.



PHOTO: [Library of Congress](#)

their "Pilgrim Army" had piqued my interest.

Some newspaper research and many Google hits later led me to the above Library of Congress photo documenting the 1913 suffrage hike from New York City which culminated in

an immense suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. timed to coincide with newly elected President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration.

Newspaper accounts confirmed that the hikers did in-

At Bridgeboro the pilgrims halted and held a meeting. There was speaking by Gen. Jones and Col. Craft. As Col. Craft stepped down from the automobile the pilgrims began singing one of their songs. The tune is that of "Onward, Christian Soldiers." As they sang several women came out. They were evidently under the impression that it was a religious meeting. When they heard the words of the song they turned and walked back into their houses.

Excerpt from "Mob buffets hikers now in Philadelphia" *New York Times*, Feb. 17, 1913

deed pass through these parts, but confirming that any women from this region participated proved only circumstantial, if not frustrating.

Turns out, the Steel family album documents an important chapter in the long fight for women's right to vote.

Welcomed with cheers in some places, but also scoffed at and booed, these women demonstrated in 1913, for voting rights they did not get until 1920. While the Constitution never prohibited women from voting and indeed, several states did allow them to vote prior to 1920, it was the adoption of the 19th Amendment that established a uniform rule for all states to follow in guaranteeing women this right.

Dubbed "The Army of the Hudson" by newspapers, General Jones considered the movement of women to become enfranchised of as much importance to this country as [General](#)



[Sunday Evening Times, Feb. 16, 1913](#)

See **SUFFRAGE** on 2

Women Open Headquarters in Campaign for Parade



MISS ALICE PAUL

Alice Paul
Denver Post, Jan. 11, 1913



PHOTO: [Library of Congress](#)

100 Years Ago, The 1913 Women's Suffrage Parade

24 historic photos from

The Atlantic

CHARGE POLICE INSULTED WOMEN

Suffragists Before Senate
 -Probers Say Officers Encouraged Attacks

Miss Paul, of Philadelphia, in Charge of Hearing on Part of Complainants

Special to The Inquirer.
 THE INQUIRER BUREAU, POST BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6.—
 Charging that the police force of Washington not only failed to give protection to the suffragettes at their parade last Monday, but actually encouraged the crowd to scramble over the ropes and block the streets so that the procession could not proceed, were made before the District of Columbia Sub-committee of the Senate today.

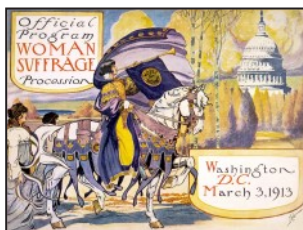
Philadelphia Inquirer,
 March 7, 1913 pg.5.

SUFFRAGE from 1

[Washington](#)'s celebrated crossing of the Delaware. Jones and her "pilgrims" marched 230 miles in 17 days to the nation's capital.

Meanwhile, [Alice Paul](#), the acclaimed 28-year-old Quaker suffragist from nearby Mt. Laurel, had been in Washington working for the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) since December 1912.

As chair of NAWSA's Congressional Committee, she strategized, raised funds, organized, and maximized publicity for the first suffragist parade in Washington, D.C., known officially as the Woman Suffrage Procession.



Official Program—[Library of Congress](#)

Imagine a parade comprised of nearly 8,000 marchers and 26 floats with costumed suffragists, bands, mounted brigades, and automobiles with speakers lecturing on suffrage. Dressed in Greek robes and astride a white horse, labor lawyer [Inez Milholland](#), acknowledged as "the most beautiful suffragist," led the procession as a half-million spectators clogged the Pennsylvania Avenue route to the White House.

Brigades of women from Canada, Australia, India, and many other countries had responded to Alice Paul's call to come and gather for the march in the immense protest against a society whose political organization excluded women. Helen Keller and intrepid reporter Nelly Bly attended.

The nation observed the spectacle through countless newspaper accounts. On the route that should have been cleared for the parade, the well-organized demonstration soon met with mostly male crowds that harassed the marchers with taunts and jeers.

Young men from the Maryland Agricultural College formed a human shield to protect the women as they pressed on to their destination.

A later scandal asserting a lack of response by police to the violence perpetrated by suffrage opponents in the crowd fueled tremendous sympathetic publicity. A subsequent investigation by Congress led to the firing of the police chief.

In 1916, [Alice Paul](#) founded the National

Woman's Party. She led pickets at the White House and bombarded members of both houses of Congress with petitions. As the US entered World War I in 1917, she relentlessly pursued her goal.

Arrested and imprisoned, placed in solitary confinement, she and her colleagues engaged in hunger strikes and endured forced feedings at the hands of authorities. At last, her tactics convinced **President Woodrow Wilson** to favor a federal suffrage amendment, a position he had previously refused to take. Certainly, [Alice Paul](#) was a critical force resulting in the passage and ratification in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing no State could deny the right to vote based on sex.

The fight for female voting rights had involved other pioneering advocates for women's suffrage and played out on a [national stage over many years](#), but the convoluted chapter involving New Jersey's women also contributed to its success.

Oddly, the New Jersey State Constitution's guarantee to "all inhabitants" allowed women to vote in the 1780s. A later act of the New Jersey Assembly specifically enfranchised women, but later in 1807, the Assembly rescinded and passed another law limiting suffrage to free white males.

So, it was initially on, then off for decades.

In 1858, [Lucy Stone](#) argued "Taxation Without Representation" in her letter to the tax assessor in Orange, NJ, signaling her refusal to pay property taxes; the town responded by auctioning off Stone's household goods. While highly publicized protest did inspire other women to action, the battle for women's suffrage in New Jersey did not get much traction until after the Civil War with the Founding Convention of New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association in 1867. The NJ State Senate mocked its 1869 suffrage petition.

Undeterred, New Jersey women entrenched for the long fight, and although less well-documented, Riverton women also found themselves committed to the battle. Circumstantial evidence suggests that perhaps at least some Rivertonians took part in women's suffrage events.

[Alice Paul](#) graduated from Swarthmore College in 1905, a Quaker institution co-founded by

her grandfather, **Judge William Parry**, an important figure in local history. Accounts inform us that, at the 1913 parade, she marched with a contingent of Swarthmore friends. Perhaps among them were her Riverton cousins and sister Swarthmore grads **Beulah and Susanna Parry** and **Elizabeth Lippincott**, a Moorestown Friends and meeting acquaintance.

Many other members of prominent Riverton families had attended Swarthmore, including **Hetty Coale Lippincott**, **Martha McIlvain Biddle**, **Clara Atlee**, **Ruth Hunt Conrow**, **Abigail Mary Ellsworth**, **Esther Fisher Holmes**, **Bertha Lippincott**, **Anna Lippincott Miller**, and **Elisabeth Somers Williams**.

Alice Paul's father, **William Mickel Paul**, was vice-president of the Riverton and Palmyra Water Company and owned stock in the Tacony-Palmyra Ferry Company.

In 1904, **Helen Lippincott**, Swarthmore alum and Porch Club Charter Member, called for the formation of a Suffrage Section, or department, at the Porch Club. Later she served as a delegate to the November 1912 National Convention of the Women's Suffrage Association at which Alice Paul was an alternate delegate.

Mrs. Henry Wright and later, **Miss Amelia Coale** succeeded

Helen

Lippincott in heading the Porch Club's Suffrage Section, eventually renamed as the Riverton Suffrage League.

Mary Woodward Lippincott, another Swarthmore grad, also presided over the Riverton Suffrage League in 1915, and was a member of both the N.J. Woman Suffrage Association and the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Riverton's League held monthly meetings and aggressively pursued its goal by holding a Rummage Sale enabling it to bear its share in the State activities, publishing suffrage news in *The New Era* weekly, canvassing households in Riverton, and offering cash prizes to Palmyra High pupils for the three best essays on Equal Suffrage.

As excerpted from **Amelia Coale's Porch Club Minutes**:

PORCH CLUB

The meeting on Tuesday, March 9, at 3 p. m., will be in charge of the suffrage section. **Miss Helen Lippincott** will give a report on the Chicago convention, with special reference to the new League of Women Voters. Music by Miss Anna James.

The New Era, March 5, 1920, p2.

May 2nd (1913) was National Suffrage Day and observed from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Riverton League entertained seventy guests at four o'clock tea at the Club House, when Mrs. E. C. Grice, Mrs. Bond (former dean of Swarthmore), and Dr. Earl Barnes, spoke to a resolution, petitioning the United State Congress for the immediate enfranchisement of women. The resolution was carried and forwarded to Washington with dozens of others from New Jersey, to be presented to Congress on the 9th of May, with those from all the other States in the Union. Then the company marched under yellow pennants to the corner of Howard and Main Streets where the first open-air meeting of the League was held. Dr. Barnes again addressed an interested audience, and the cash prizes for the suffrage essays were awarded.

On April 27, 1917, the Porch Club and Riverton Equal Suffrage League held a meeting in town. A total of 122 women attended, representing 13 New Jersey counties.

Mary Van Meter Grice, Porch Club founder and suffrage advocate, moved to Philadelphia in 1903, and went on to serve on Alice Paul's Advisory Council of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage.

Suffice it to say that the timing and locations allow for the possibility that at least some Riverton women helped advance the cause of women's rights.

Two questions: Do pictures in the Steel album show the participation of an ancestor or another deeper connection to Riverton history?

And what would those suffrage pioneers think of today's developments in the Election of 2016?

I imagine that another family album, a memoir, an anecdote in a genealogy record, or an undiscovered newspaper account can confirm a Rivertonian's larger role, but for now this suspicion remains only a theory.

The Riverton Suffrage League recently held a successful rummage sale for the benefit of the State Association and local league. The Riverton League is the Suffrage Department of the Woman's Club of that town.

Trenton Evening Times,
November 25, 1913, p11



Trenton Evening Times,
October 18, 1915, p11

Women Rocked the Vote

The New Era and *Palmyra Weekly News* published election results in 1916 and 1920.

1916

PALMYRA	
1st District	441
2nd District	321
RIVERTON	
1st District	310
2nd District	208
TOTAL	1280

1920

PALMYRA	
1st District	477
2nd District	366
3rd District	626
RIVERTON	
1st District	649
2nd District	472
TOTAL	2590

How much of the increase was due to new development vs. newly enfranchised females is not clear. However, *The New Era* said, "Hats off to the Ladies," crediting women's committees for the 84% turnout of registered voters.

- JMc-

THANK YOU TO
Pat Brunner and Paul W. Schopp
for research that made
this article possible



ELIZA BLACKHEART played to a full house Oct. 27 at the Library

On a dark and rainy October night, **Eliza Blackheart**, of the Brecken-

vale coven of witches rode her broom to the Riverton Free Library for a program sponsored by the Historical Society of Riverton and the Riverton Free Library

Blackheart, aka **Alisa Dupuy**, professional storyteller and historic reenactor, entertained and educated a SRO crowd with a mixture of witchcraft history, Halloween traditions, and myths surrounding modern day wiccans.

"Beware," she cautioned the audi-



ence. In days gone by witches were identified quite often and easily, sometimes by as simple a clue as a mole or freckle.

Displaying a pentagram, she explained the five points represented the elements of fire, water, air, earth, and the spirit. It can be found depicted on the American flag, the Great Seal, and on currency.

It wouldn't be a HSR program without snacks.

- Susan

Dechnik



HSR Museum open Sat., Dec. 3

Society crews have been busy getting our space in the RFL basement in shape and preparing artifacts and materials to display for the HSR's **Museum-for-a-Day** that will be open during the Library's **Candlelight House Tour**.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2016, FROM 4-9 P.M.

Tickets on sale at The New Leaf and Riverton Free Library. \$15 advance; \$20 at the door

The tour features nine homes, and six businesses will be open with carolers and refreshments available. **The New Leaf Tearoom** is open 4-9 p.m. as a refreshment/rest stop.

Our Museum space will feature themed displays with items from our archives and have mugs and prints for sale.

Help make our HSR website at <http://rivertonhistory.com/> grow with YOUR comments, recollections, and contributions. Check in for information on upcoming events, past issues of *Gaslight News*, vintage images, a veterans' page, our blog, and more.

Readers: Inside this issue read "Locals participated in suffrage battles," a recap of the Oct. 27 **Witchy Woman presentation**, and see what is in store during the **Candlelight House Tour**. We honor veterans on Nov. 11 and will publish articles in 2017 about WWI.

Gaslight News

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HONORING RIVERTON VETERANS

The following names will be added to the Honor Roll at Riverton War Memorial on Veterans Day, Sunday, November 6, 2016 @10:30 a.m.

John W. Kohms.....	U. S. Army
Bernard J. Swiderek.....	U. S. Army
Anderson B. Winters Jr...	U. S. Army
Alexander Cole.....	

To mark the Centennial Commemoration of the US entry into WWI in 2017, the HSR will publish some articles to honor the service of its armed forces, as well as to depict what life was like in Riverton during the war.

Palmyra Weekly News, April 6, 1917

HOME DEFENSE UNIT BEGINS TO GROW

Seven Recruits Already; Rev. T. J. Bensley Chaplain; Get Use of Yacht Club Wharf

Seven youths of Palmyra and Riverton have joined the Home Defense unit being formed under the guidance of the Volunteer Marine Corps and several others are expected to take up the work immediately.