



## **Florence Wyman Richardson Usher Scrapbooks (S0059)**

**Collection Number:** S0059

**Collection Title:** Florence Wyman Richardson Usher Scrapbooks

**Dates:** 1909-1913, 1931

**Creator:** Usher, Florence Wyman Richardson, 1889-1966

**Abstract:** Florence Wyman Richardson Usher helped found the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis in 1910. She chaired the League's lecture committee for six years and was a member of the board of governors in 1912. The scrapbooks in this collection document suffrage activities both nationally and in St. Louis. They include news clippings, correspondence, public notices, programs, leaflets, and Usher's annotations.

**Collection Size:** 1 microfilm roll

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Florence Wyman Richardson Usher Scrapbooks* (S0059); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** Three scrapbooks were loaned to the University of Missouri for copying, by J. Richardson Usher on November 13, 1982 (Accession No. SA2490).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Florence Wyman Richardson Usher Scrapbooks can be found in the following collections:

*Edna Gellhorn Scrapbook* (S0642)

*Florence Taussig Papers* (S0590)

*League of Women Voters of Missouri Records (S0232)*

*League of Women Voters of St. Louis Records (S0530)*

*Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters Records (S0248)*

*Urban League of St. Louis; Collection (S0093)*

**Processed by:** Processed by Western Historical Manuscript Collection staff. Updated by Claire Marks in August 2019.

### **Biographical Note:**

In 1907 Florence Wyman Richardson began writing letters to prominent women's social clubs in St. Louis inquiring about other women who might share her interest in the women's suffrage movement. She worked with Victoria Conkling Whitney on a federal petition drive for a suffrage amendment in 1909. Whitney encouraged her to revive the local chapter of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and speak out for woman suffrage. Richardson wrote NAWSA and a national organizer responded, amazed that the request was from a nineteen year old woman. When she lectured in support of English suffragettes in 1910, the newspapers noted her fashionable dress and her status as a Veiled Prophet debutante and niece of the St. Louis Postmaster. That same year she founded the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis with ten other women, including her mother (also named Florence Wyman Richardson) who served as the League's first president.

Richardson married Dr. Roland Usher, noted Washington University professor of History, in June 1910. She chaired the League's lecture committee for six years and sat on its board of governors in 1912. She wrote a campaign leaflet, *A Question of Fitness*, which the NAWSA printed for mass distribution in 1913. After the passage of the nineteenth amendment. Usher transferred her energies to civil rights and was an active member of the Urban League during the 1920's and 1930's. Her name was included on a bronze tablet dedicated in Jefferson City to honor Missouri suffrage pioneers in 1931. She died in 1968 and is buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis.

### **Arrangement:**

The scrapbooks are arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The scrapbooks document woman suffrage activities both locally and nationally. They are arranged chronologically and contain news clippings, correspondence, public notices, programs, leaflets, and Florence Wyman Richardson Usher's annotations.

### **Container List:**

Roll 1                      Scrapbook Volumes 1-3

### **Index:**

Index Term
Gellhorn, Edna Fischel, 1878-1970
Atkinson, Florence
Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis
Equal Suffrage League (U.S.)
Fordyce, Christine Orrick
Fuller, Bernice Morrison
Garesché, Marie Louise, 1856-
Grossman, Althea Somerville
Kenney, Annie, 1879-1953
Miller, Helen Guthrie
Missouri Equal Suffrage Association
League of Women Voters of Missouri
American Women's Suffrage Association
O'Neill, Barbara
Pankhurst, Emmeline, 1858-1928
Pankhurst, Sylvia
Richardson, Florence Wyman
Usher, Florence Wyman Richardson
Rombauer, Bertha
Rumbold, Charlotte
Shaw, Anna Howard, 1847-1919
Women--Suffrage--United States--History
Wednesday Club (Saint Louis, Mo.)
Women's Trade Union League
Women's rights--Missouri--Saint Louis