

Illustration from an 1897 *Vassarion* article on the election of 1896

Woman Suffrage, Vassar College, and Laura Johnson Wylie

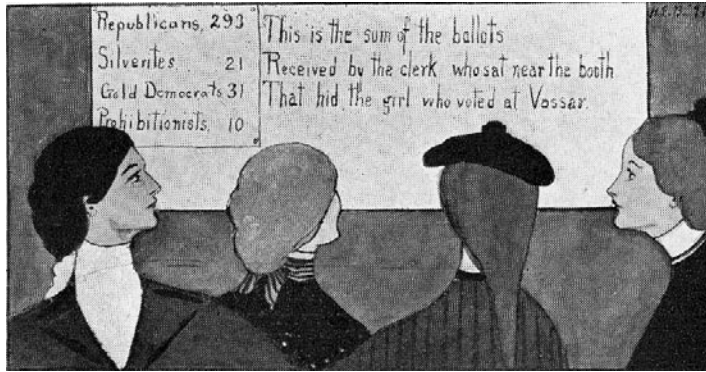
Eva C. Boice

The presidential election of 1896 was notable because of the battle over the currency standard. Republican candidate William McKinley, who favored maintaining the gold standard, was so confident of victory that he barely campaigned. His opponent, “silverite” William Jennings Bryan, delivered thrilling speeches, but they were not enough to counter the financial and industrial influence of the Northeast and Midwest that backed McKinley.

The election sparked interest throughout the nation, even in seemingly unlikely places such as Vassar College. Vassar opened in 1861, predicated on the idea that young women were capable of enduring the rigors of scholarship. Fears that women were too delicate for advanced education—or that education for women threatened the propagation of the human race—were dissipating, and Vassar was recognized for producing graduates of enormous promise. In 1896, its student population numbered 600. These young women hailed primarily from the Northeast and carried with them the Republican sympathies likely learned from their family environments. But as the nation had become more diverse, so, too, had the college. This had led to a continual exchange of divergent views, which was further encouraged by the contentious election of 1896.

Any type of formal suffrage activity was strictly forbidden on the Vassar campus—as it was at sister colleges—so students needed to develop a creative way to voice their opinions about the election that would meet the approval of the college administration. With the backing of their professors, they held a mock presidential election, complete with parades, stump speeches, songs, posters, and rallies. Students took on the roles of the various candidates and their supporters, appearing at events and speaking informatively and enthusiastically about the issues. The Vassar administration felt that it was part of the women’s education to make themselves aware, and it was perfectly comfortable with these activities.

Not surprisingly, the mock election resulted in a win for McKinley. However, “what the administration believed to be education was in reality much more. These young women gained a voice, through the newspaper coverage of their election, and came to realize what it was like to have the power of the vote...[T]he mock election of 1896 served as not only a voice for the many girls unable to speak



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Illustration from an 1897 *Vassarion* article on the election of 1896

on the suffrage issue, but also as a catalyst for many others. They came to see that voting was not something that only men had the ability to do. Women had the initiative, the desire, and the ability to run a campaign, debate important political issues, and most of all vote for the candidate they thought would best meet their needs.”¹ This was a harbinger of what was to come—for students and faculty at Vassar, and for suffrage in the city, county, state, and nation.

In November 1917, male voters in New York gave their blessings to a state constitutional amendment granting suffrage to women. That this was an auspicious moment in the quest for woman suffrage is undeniable, particularly in light of the fact that a previous referendum, in 1915, had failed. After that defeat, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, guided by a “Winning Plan” devised by its president, Carrie Chapman Catt, had identified the state as a potentially successful site for a constitutional suffrage amendment, and strategists and money came pouring in. Local workers were mobilized and victory was realized. The obvious long-range goal was national suffrage, and Catt saw that her group’s previous efforts, organized on a state-by-state basis, had been slow and fruitless. The focus had to change to national enfranchisement for women. The 1917 referendum result in New York would open another influential door.

Woman suffrage in New York had immense implications nationally, for the state, the most populous at the time, also had the largest number of members in the House of Representatives. With the push for an amendment to the federal constitution, no proposal would leave the floor of Congress without the imprimatur of the New York delegation. Large numbers of women owned property in the state, resulting in limited suffrage rights in some localities. Higher education for women in New York was flourishing. For these reasons, woman suffrage in the state would leave an indelible mark on national policy.

But Nancy Cott points out that Carrie Catt emphatically warned suffrage speakers during the 1915 New York campaign to avoid “promising what women will do with the vote.”² There was additional concern after 1917 that national suffrage efforts on the part of New York’s women would wane now that state suffrage laws included them, and that women’s organizations would falter and lose their focus. An examination of pre- and post-amendment activities in Poughkeepsie contradicts these concerns.

A city of approximately 30,000 in the 1910s, Poughkeepsie was in an interesting position in several ways. Geographically located midway between New York City and Albany, it was mightily affected by both cities, but subsumed by neither. New York City had been a pro-suffrage stronghold for many years, while Albany was notoriously anti-suffrage. Culturally, Poughkeepsie natives availed themselves of New York theater, museums, and lyceums. They might also take vacations in the Adirondack Mountains; to get there, they passed through Albany. Residents of both larger cities spent weekends in Dutchess County, while conversely, many upper-middle and upper-class citizens kept permanent family homes in the area, but traveled to Albany or New York to work. While Poughkeepsie had its own economic base, was located on a major rail line, and saw a great deal of Hudson River traffic, the tentacles of banking, transportation, and commerce reached to and from those larger cities.

Poughkeepsie did not have a resoundingly successful woman suffrage movement in the late 19th century. From time to time, speakers would address the issue, or a petition campaign would take place. The Women’s Christian Temperance Union and various clubs, such as the Young Woman’s Christian Association and the Daughters of the American Revolution, kept the issue of suffrage alive limitedly, but not as a primary goal. However, in the 1910s, students and faculty at Vassar College helped create a successful local suffrage movement. “Vassar women’s supra-localities and cosmopolitan orientation provided the Poughkeepsie movement with resources and talented recruits unavailable to other suffrage organizations in the region...[W]omen professors and staff members remained there year after year...”³

Many college professors lived in the city of Poughkeepsie, eschewing the more convenient campus housing; among them were Lucy Salmon, known for her work with the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and Laura Johnson Wylie, whose philosophy and leadership style would become crucial to the local movement. It is no wonder that these women lived away from the campus, for suffrage activity at Vassar was still forbidden by order of its anti-suffrage president, James Monroe Taylor. However, the ban was occasionally circumvented,

as the need arose. One amusing incident occurred when Harriot Stanton Blatch, a Vassar graduate and daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and student Inez Millholland were denied permission to hold a meeting on campus in 1908. Aside from the obvious suffrage implications, the meeting's guest speakers—feminist Charlotte Perkins Gilman (who advocated for economic independence for women) and labor union leader Rose Schneiderman—were known radicals in the movement for equality. As noted, Vassar students were always creative when it came to circumventing the anti-suffrage ban. This illegal meeting was held in a nearby cemetery, where nary a soul would protest the message of the speakers.⁴

(Two of the players in this campus conflict were casualties of the push for woman suffrage, but in very different ways. President Taylor would later rescind the ban on campus suffrage activities when presented with a petition signed by nearly every faculty member and student in 1912. Remaining personally anti-suffrage, he soon retired. Millholland, a brilliant and captivatingly beautiful woman, campaigned tirelessly for suffrage after completing her studies. But her health was precarious and doctors told her to stop her arduous travels. While in California in 1916, she collapsed as she gave a speech challenging Woodrow Wilson to support suffrage. Ten weeks later she died of pernicious anemia. An image of Millholland astride a white horse at the head of a pro-suffrage parade is an enduring part of her legacy. She literally gave her life to the movement.)

Drama such as the graveyard meeting was actually uncommon and unnecessary in the Poughkeepsie suffrage movement. Because many Vassar faculty and staff lived in the city, they developed an ongoing association with local women. Together they forged a number of organizations that would help to secure a successful local vote in the 1917 referendum and continue the work that suffrage implied beyond constitutional change.

Late in 1909, three Vassar professors, among them Wylie, and several local women formed the Equal Suffrage League. The organization's first event, held on January 12, 1910, featured Ethel Arnold, the British suffragette and author; Max Eastman, secretary and treasurer of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage of the State of New York; and Richard Connell, editor of the *Poughkeepsie Free Press*. Held at the Collingwood Opera House in the city, attendance was healthy for a midwinter night.

The Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle described the stage at the Collingwood as "prettily decorated with palms, ferns, bay trees...[S]eated upon it beside the speakers were Frank B. Lown, who presided...and Professor Lucy Salmon of Vassar. Mr. Lown said that he was satisfied that Vassar would become such a hotbed of woman suffrage, that when it was brought about in New York State, Poughkeepsie and

Vassar College would be looked to as the primary means of accomplishing this great reform.” The paper noted that Arnold’s speech was long and boring, and that Eastman stated that there were really no legal barriers to woman suffrage, merely emotional ones. The speaker that sent attendees reeling, however, was Connell who, according to the newspaper account, “had the temerity to take the floor and support the quotation from St. Augustine that domestic retirement and the constant care of family constitute the chief duties of a virtuous wife.” His comments received some applause, but the level of enthusiasm was not recorded. The program for the evening lists the names of seventy-four community members supporting the Equal Suffrage League, twenty-eight of whom were connected with Vassar College. Nonetheless, it is ironic that the first eighteen names listed were men who supported the group.⁵ One wonders if this was merely a courtesy to male supporters, or if, in 1910, emphasizing male support legitimized the existence of the league.

The Equal Suffrage League found a dynamic president that year in Laura Johnson Wylie. An 1877 graduate of Vassar, she received her Ph.D. from Yale in 1894. After teaching English at private secondary schools, she began her long tenure at Vassar in 1895, one year prior to the mock election. It is impossible to determine whether she was a faculty supporter of that election, but when examined in conjunction with the rest of her life, it makes sense that she would have been: It was precisely the kind of activity she would have encouraged. Wylie shared her life with Professor Gertrude Buck, and both women were extraordinarily community-minded. (Buck, also a member of Vassar’s English Department, was devoted to community theater.) Wylie became known in wide circles for her teaching, and her reorganization of Vassar’s English Department brought it renown. But her passion off-campus was woman suffrage and related community issues. Once suffrage was achieved, she created the instruments that gave lasting meaning to woman franchisement in Poughkeepsie.

The Collingwood Opera House was again the scene of a large Equal Suffrage League meeting, led by Wylie, on November 20, 1911. Peripheral suffrage issues that had been causing irritation to the movement—primarily property qualifications, the status of women laborers, and male fear of emasculation—were addressed. The keynote speaker was Inez Milholland, then active in woman suffrage in both London and New York City. The *Poughkeepsie Courier* reported that Milholland “spoke with passion and logic,” and notes her statement that “Women can and must cooperate with men in the humanizing of governmental processes.”⁶

Records and data are hard to find regarding the 1915 transition of the Equal Suffrage League to the Poughkeepsie Woman Suffrage Party. A Woman Suffrage

Party convention was held in the city on June 16, 1914, where the work of the Equal Suffrage League was reported and lauded. Oddly, not one name mentioned in attendance matches any name found on the 1910 list of Equal Suffrage League members. It is known that Vassar women continued their partnership with local organizations that addressed both civic and suffrage concerns. For example, between 1910 and 1917, six officers of the Young Women's Christian Association were Vassar faculty or staff members. And it would seem logical that, with the approach of a referendum granting suffrage to women in the state, the groups should, and would, combine rather than work at cross purposes. But where was Laura Wylie? In 1915, she was in the midst of writing the respected work, *Social Studies in English Literature*. But she likely continued her suffrage work as the referendum drew near, and probably even canvassed city wards seeking the amendment's approval. Its failure did not daunt her, as evidenced by a sentence in her obituary that appeared in the *Poughkeepsie Courier* in 1932: "A woman of indomitable energy, she was the local leader of the woman suffrage movement from 1910 to 1918."⁷ Not a leader: *the* leader.

Wylie and other suffragists used World War I to their advantage, combining war work with suffrage, keeping their cause in the public eye while showing themselves to be reliable and patriotic. Wylie wrote to a friend, "It has seemed impossible to plan ahead...and now with the war...there seems little chance that we can make definite plans."⁸ But plan they did. Florence Kelley, the progressive activist on women and child labor issues, agreed to visit Poughkeepsie to, as Wylie wrote to another friend, "talk on minimum wage matters."⁹ At this time, the anti-suffragists in Poughkeepsie were disorganized, and neither the war nor any slurs they threw at the suffragists appeared to have a deleterious affect on the movement. But the suffragists understood that a positive result on the next referendum, in 1917, depended on superb training and organization. For that reason, Poughkeepsie suffragists were trained in public speaking, responding to questions, and fund-raising. The Woman Suffrage Party headquarters was moved to a more prominent location in downtown Poughkeepsie, and as the election neared, its members worked tirelessly in each of the city's wards. Over half of the participating voters in the city of Poughkeepsie approved the state constitutional amendment granting enfranchisement to women. And while the referendum was a success for suffragists statewide, Poughkeepsie was the only major population center along the Hudson River north of New York City that lent its approval.

Poughkeepsie suffragists did not rest after this success. The following year, still under the leadership of Wylie, they reinvented themselves as the Women's City Club, which would serve as an auxiliary to the New York State Women's

Political Party. In 1919, guided by Wylie and Margaret Norrie of Staatsburg, the club was reorganized and renamed the Women's City and County Club. A club pamphlet issued that year states that the club's purpose was to "enlist women in the cause of good government." Women were now able to use their new powers for the "health, protection, and welfare of all citizens."¹⁰ This club, and many like it that blossomed around the same time, sought to help women obtain and practice their full rights. To that end, Wylie and the Women's City and County Club conducted civics classes routinely. For its first major project, the club commissioned a housing survey of the city of Poughkeepsie in 1919. Conducted by Helen Thompson of the Tenement House Department of New York City, hundreds of residences were examined for safety, primarily fire hazard and limited egress. The club rightfully recognized that economics was at the root of many of these safety concerns, and its nonpartisan members realized that further study needed to be done on jobs and wages.

Interest and enthusiasm regarding club activities ran high. The 1920 end-of-year report notes that eighteen meetings took place in a seven-month period. Wylie was elected president yearly until her resignation in 1928. Her obituary in the *Poughkeepsie Evening Star* stated that Wylie was "instrumental in obtaining a membership of 500 from the city and county. The club has become the best known of its kind in the country organized after the suffrage movement, and is interested in civic affairs of the city, county, state, and country."¹¹ Obviously, Wylie's leadership was pivotal to this success. This report also mentions for the first time an affiliation with the League of Women Voters. Throughout the decade of the 1920s, the Women's City and County Club turned over its rented rooms on Market Street, then later on Cannon Street, to the league for activities, but each organization kept separate dues and membership lists. Wylie was the league's Dutchess County chair. A letter from Dorothy Bourne, local league president, urged its recipients to join, pointing out that "We hope never to duplicate in any way the work of the city club, but rather to work together always."¹² In Poughkeepsie, the League of Women Voters may have had the name and national prominence, but the Women's City and County Club had the clout.

The club continued to prosper in the 1920s. Hilda Smith, who later headed the WPA Workers Education Project, came to town in 1921 to speak on the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Industrial Workers; the club gave a small scholarship to that program for several years. The League of Women Voters county convention was held that year at the clubrooms on Market Street. The Child Welfare Survey conducted by the league took center stage, its focus directed at health conditions in rural schools. Later, the Women's City and County Club invited members of

the local Board of Supervisors to attend a club meeting to hear a speaker discuss appropriations for child welfare concerns. Keeping local government aware of its agenda was always a job the club relished. And ever the educator, Wylie announced in an invitation to club members the opportunity to “make a first hand study of the local civic institutions in which they are interested.”¹³ Wylie knew that thorough preparation had to precede any actions the club might take.

The following year found the relationship between the Women’s City and County Club and the League of Women Voters growing. The Poughkeepsie league claimed there had been improper electioneering at the organization’s state convention, prompting an investigation headed by Eleanor Roosevelt, a member of both local groups. A local delegation attended the national conference of the League of Women Voters; that fall, the county convention featured Wylie, speaking on the value of education in civic work, and a visit from Maud Wood Park, president of the National League of Women Voters. *The Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* described her talk: “Mrs. Park gave detailed accounts of the passage of the two federal measures for which the League has been persistently working; the Shepherd Towner Bill for Infancy and Maternity Care, and the bill granting independent citizenship to women.”¹⁴ That Park would come to Poughkeepsie and speak in the meeting rooms of the Women’s City and County Club suggests a known forum for intelligent discussion of the issues, a place where a national leader would be warmly welcomed and appreciated.

Nineteen twenty-three saw a focus on national issues, with Eleanor Roosevelt speaking to the club on the importance of getting women elected as delegates to the national conventions of both major political parties, undoubtedly with an eye to the 1924 presidential election. The Women’s City and County Club published a pamphlet that year urging the return of the direct primary in the state, and again lent its rooms to the League of Women Voters, who invited Ruth Morgan, the national chair of the league’s International Relations Committee, to speak on rule of law as opposed to rule of war at the county convention. The leadership of Laura Wylie was so successful that the local league needed to remind women of its independent financial need: for the first time, the convention program stated that a member of the Women’s City and County Club did not automatically belong to the League of Women Voters. Separate dues must be paid.¹⁵

The influence of Laura Wylie and the Women’s City and County Club was portrayed in a feature story in the *Poughkeepsie Star* in 1925. Wylie is described as “inspired,” and the club as a “place where things may be talked out; it is alive.” It is a lengthy piece, which discusses the work of the club’s many committees, which included City Government, House (keeping of the rooms), Industrial



Laura Wylie's house at 112 Market Street, which now houses the offices of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

Conditions, International Relations, Legislation, Law Enforcement, Membership, Public Health, and Schools.¹⁶ (Wylie, as president, might have had her hands full, were it not for her leadership style, which was described in 1932 as “emphatic... expressive...courtly and courteous...endlessly social...embodied warmth and trust.” People obviously wanted to do things with—and for—her.) The year before, Wylie had retired from Vassar, and now devoted herself full-time to her avocation. She did not leave teaching entirely: after her last commencement as a Vassar faculty member, she headed south to Bryn Mawr, where she taught literature at the Summer School for Industrial Workers.

The fall of 1925 marked the visit of the famed suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt to Poughkeepsie, to speak at the Dutchess County Convention of the League of Women Voters. Eight organizations, including the Women's City and County Club, were sponsors of the event. As much as she tried to remind a reporter for the *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise* that she came to speak on China and international relations, Catt was pressed to admit that “History moves slowly. The main point in the evolution of society that was gained by suffrage was that women got a new tool to work with and there has not been enough time to show much what she can do.”¹⁷ Although woman suffrage had been law in New York State for eight years, women continually had to prove they were worthy of enfranchisement—even in Dutchess County, where women's organizations had proven effective both for them and for the common good.



Laura Johnson Wylie at home with her pet

Laura Wylie resigned the presidency of the Poughkeepsie Women's City and County Club in 1928, but the club was loath to let her go and named her honorary president, a post she held until her death on April 2, 1932. She left her home at 112 Market Street to a trust that proposed its use by the club rent-free for the next six months, but the personal loss to the club was enormous. Difficult times were upon the country, and the club was hard-pressed to collect dues from its members. And although Wylie left a \$10,000 bequest to promote ties between Vassar College and the community, that money was earmarked primarily to sustain the community theater project founded by Gertrude Buck. The Laura Wylie Memorial Associates was created, hoping to buy the Wylie home outright. Its goal was to create a civic center that would lease the house to the Women's City and County Club for a nominal fee. By 1933, that goal was realized, with the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank agreeing to hold a mortgage.

For several years, the plan seemed to work. The club used the home and the Memorial Association rented the upstairs rooms to boarders to defray expenses. The memorial association held a ceremony to dedicate the house on November 8, 1933, when a bas relief portrait of Wylie was unveiled. The club continued the work that had meant so much to Wylie, but ominous clouds appeared on the horizon as fund-raising faltered. Amelia Earhart was invited to speak to the community at large under the auspices of the club, but unbelievably, money was lost on the event. A booklet entitled "Our Miss Wylie" was written in 1934 and sold for \$2.50, with the club making 65 cents per copy. Pledges that were to assist in paying off the mortgage did not materialize. In a letter dated June 24, 1940, the Memorial Associates reported that the club had not been able to live up to the financial arrangement and had voted to separate itself from the project. The Women's City and County Club had lost the use of the home of its founder for the inability to pay for rent, heat, and electricity. The letter states that "While feeling deep regret for this decision we are glad to report that a new and most opportune use has been found for 112 Market Street as a continuing memorial for Miss Wylie through the willingness of [Vassar] college to accept the property as a direct memorial gift. It will be used, we assume, as a home for members of the faculty, who prefer, as Miss Wylie did, to live in closer touch with the town."¹⁸ Today, Wylie's home is the headquarters of the environmental organization Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. As a progressive activist, she would likely be pleased that the house continues to serve the public good.

The club carried on its community mission for the next 30 years, supported by the solid foundation laid by Laura J. Wylie. For a time, its shared space with the Young Women's Christian Association. The decade of the 1960s found the club

meeting monthly, usually at the Nelson House. The League of Women Voters slowly gained a foothold in Poughkeepsie; the early success of the Women's City and County Club seemed to be both a help and an impediment. But the fortunes of each group changed, as evidenced by a 1962 article in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* announcing that an anniversary celebration of the League of Women Voters in Poughkeepsie was to be held, ironically at Vassar College. The list of notable local invitees does not mention the Women's City and County Club. The growing local strength of the league, coupled with the new roles of women evolving in the 1960s, ultimately lead to redirection of the precious effort of Laura Wylie, as the club held sewing contests, listened to speakers, and discussed books. In 1968, the club that once boasted over 500 members celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a few dozen members in attendance. It finally dissolved in the 1970s. (The Dutchess County League of Women Voters merged with the Ulster County unit and exists today as the Mid-Hudson League of Women Voters, meeting primarily in Kingston. It continues its mission of voter education.)

Laura Johnson Wylie did not seek the limelight. She did what came naturally. Shortly after her death, Vassar economics professor H.E. Mills remarked: "her main character was an ever present struggle for human freedom."¹⁹ When the Women's City and County Club raised money for a scholarship for summer students to be given in her name, Wylie wrote modestly, "The expression of their affectionate gratitude makes me feel both rich and humble, but most of all glad for their sense of what I have tried to do."²⁰ The acknowledgement of her work and its purpose by the club she founded was satisfying to her. Wylie made a monumental effort to sustain the "town and gown" relationship; she walked in both worlds, and left a legacy in each. At a memorial service honoring the life of Wylie, Eleanor Roosevelt spoke of this. "There burned a light within her that made her see the fine things in people," she said. "Her work in this community did much toward awakening city conscious [sic] in Poughkeepsie."²¹ Earlier, an editorial in the *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier* stated that "she was a living flame. Through the City Club, which she founded, Poughkeepsie gained a new civic consciousness."²²

At the April 6, 1932 meeting of the Women's City and County Club, a two-page resolution was passed by club members in recognition of the work of Laura Johnson Wylie. It ends with this tribute: "Resolved that we, the members of the Women's City and County Club, do hereby express our sorrow in the death of Miss Wylie; that we dedicate ourselves anew to the high ideals and liberal views instilled into our minds by our beloved leader..."²³

Laura Wylie would have approved.

Notes

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3. Stevens, Doris (Carol O'Hare, ed.). *Jailed For Freedom* (Oregon: New Sage Press, 1995), 239.
4. McDonald, David Kevin. *Organizing Womanhood: Women's Culture and the Politics of Woman Suffrage in New York State, 1910-1917* (Women's Network Project, 1987), 239, 241.
5. "For and Against Votes for Women," *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*. June 13, 1910.
6. "Equal Suffrage Meeting," *Poughkeepsie Courier*. November 21, 1911.
7. "Professor Wylie, City Club Founder, Brought "Town and Gown" Together," *Poughkeepsie Courier*. April 3, 1932.
8. "Laura Johnson Wylie, 1915-1917." Vassar Special Collections at Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.
9. "To The Women Voters of Poughkeepsie." "Laura Johnson Wylie, 1917." Vassar Special Collections at Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.
10. "The Women's City and County Club" Laura Johnson Wylie, 1921. Vassar Special Collections at Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.
11. "Laura J. Wylie, Professor Emeritus of English at Vassar Dies At Home," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star*. April 3, 1932.
12. Letter from Dorothy Bourne, President of the Poughkeepsie League of Women Voters, Adriance Memorial Library, Local History Room.
13. "Laura Johnson Wylie," 1920. Vassar Special Collections at Vassar College Library at Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.
14. "On Shepherd-Towner Bill," *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*. October 9, 1922.
15. League of Women Voters Convention Program, September, 1924; Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.
16. "Women's City and County Club Soon to Close a Busy Season," *Poughkeepsie Star*. April 14, 1925.
17. "Suffrage Gave Women New Power, Mrs. Catt, Here, Says," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*. October 3, 1925.
18. Letter "To the Donors of the Wylie Memorial Fund and Members of the Women's City and County Club." Laura Johnson Wylie; Vassar Special Collections at Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.
19. "Laura Johnson Wylie " *Vassar Quarterly; Fall 1932*. Vassar Special Collections at Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.
20. Letter from Laura Wylie to the Members of the Women's City and County Club; Vassar Special Collections at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.
21. "Vassar Honors Laura J. Wylie." *New York Times*; May 29, 1932.
22. "The Flame Remains." *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*. April 3, 1932.
23. Resolution of the Women's City and County Club; April 6, 1932; Adriance Memorial Library Local History Room.