

# RURAL VOICES ON THE PATH TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

## TOWN OF GROTON

KATE M. SHOEMAKER BALDWIN



Kate M. Shoemaker Baldwin

Kate M. Shoemaker was born December 27, 1858, in Pennsylvania. She married Dr. Alva M. Baldwin on March 17, 1880. She had been his student in Pennsylvania at the Lycoming County Normal and Classical Institute. The next day following their marriage they relocated to Groton, making their home at 123 Church Street, the first house south of the Congregational Church. They had two sons. Kate was the founder, charter member, and the first President of the Columbian Club (February 27, 1892). In 1898 she founded and was the first President of the Groton Political Equality Club. A few years later she and Emily Benton Page, founded the East Groton Political Equality Club. She was active in the women's suffrage movement representing Groton at meetings of Tompkins County Suffrage Association. In 1900 Kate was one of a group of women who worked to establish St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Groton. Kate was also a member of the Board of Education from 1900 to 1922. She was a Charter Board member for the Groton Home for Aged People which began about 1919 and where she lived for her final few years. Kate died in 1955 (age 97) and is buried in Groton Rural Cemetery along with her husband who died in 1914. (age 64).



Main Street Groton, 1904.

Verne Morton-N3.792.

Merchants provided hitching rails for country folk to tie up their horse teams when they came to town for sundries and supplies. On this frosty morning, three teams await drivers, passengers, and purchases. Pedestrians and a dog make their way up the opposite sidewalk, passing store window displays and a clock featuring a set of "spectacles" to show the time and what's available inside.

## WELTHEA M. (BACKUS) MARSH



Welthea M. Backus Marsh

Born Mary Welthea Backus January 2, 1841, in Groton, NY, Welthea was educated in a one-room school. She completed her education at the Groton Academy, graduating in 1860. On December 3, 1862, Welthea married Dexter Hubbard Marsh. Dexter was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Groton (May 1865). They had three children: Florence Lillian Marsh, Carrie S. Marsh, and a son who died two days after his birth. As President of the Groton bank, Dexter died November 28, 1895 while on a business trip to Chicago, Illinois. Upon his death, Welthea was elected President of the Groton Bank on January 14, 1896 continuing as President through mid-January 1901. (She is the only women President of this bank and was the 4<sup>th</sup> in the state, and 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation.) She had also taken control of Dexter's interests in the Crandall Manufacturing Company (as Director and President), and the Groton Carriage Company (as Director and Treasurer). In her business capacity, she signed her name as W.M. Marsh. Prior to and during these business endeavors, Welthea was active in the Groton Columbian Club (an organization still active to date). Other activities included the Groton Political Equality Club, the Congregational Church, and the Groton Thimble Club. Welthea and her daughter, Lillian, were active members for women's suffrage. Welthea died at her home on Williams Street on October 23, 1909 after suffering from breast cancer. She is buried in Groton Rural Cemetery.

## TOWN OF GROTON: 1920 POPULATION FOR TOWN OF GROTON (INCLUDING THE VILLAGE) 4,122 ENROLLMENT OF 290 WOMEN VOTERS 1919-1920 (ON FILE AT THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY)

Allen, Flora	Clark, Lucia M.	Finn, Mabel H.	Hicks, Ethel	Lovelace, Mary A.	Reynolds, Eva G.	Swartout, Allena
Alley, Lida B.	Clark, Mary M.	French, Lydia F.	Hicks, Helen A.	Mackey, Betsey	Rhodes, Emma W.	Swartz, Esther
Andrews, Louise R.	Clement, Addie	Fuller, Ella	Hicks, Juline E.	Marquis, Josephine	Rhodes, Mary S.	Tallmadge, Alice
Atwood, Edna C.	Clement, Amy	Gale, Ella	Hill, Katherine	Marquis, Kate	Rice, Sarah	Tanner, Nellie E.
Austin, Mary A.	Clough, Jennie	Gale, Inez M.	Hillyard, Mary	Marshall, Muriel	Richford, Ellen	Tarbell, Frances
Avery, Clara	Coggsball, Jennie	Gaston, Etta	Hoagland, Ada	Mathers, Ella	Richford, Lena M.	Tarbell, Frances D.
Avery, Effie	Conger, Allie	Gates, Dela O.	Hodge, Edna	McClintock, Florence	Ring, Mildred H.	Tarbell, Marietta
Avery, Jennie	Conger, Florence	Gifford, Sophia	Hoff, Eunice L.	McCormick, Margaret	Rogers, Cassie	Teeter, Hattie
Backus, Alice B.	Conger, Florence C. B.	Gilchrist, Margaret R.	Homer, Bessie U.	McElheny, Alice	Roloson, Nola	Thomas, Grace L.
Baitshaltz, Frances	Conger, Jennie E.	Gillen, Bertha L.	Hopkins, Bertha	McElheny, Mabel	Rounseville, Mina	Tilton, Etta
Baldwin, Florence M.	Conger, Leona	Gillen, Rosa J.	Hopkins, Emily	McMahon, Blanche	Scott, Evelyn	Townley, Ella
Baldwin, Jennie E.	Conklin, Anne R.	Givens, Grade M.	Hopkins, Elnora M.	McMahon, Lillian M.	Searles, Ruth	Townley, Louise
Baldwin, Kate M. S.	Connors, Anna	Gleason, Mildred	Horn, Edna	McMasters, Mabel	Sears, Kate E.	Upton, Lua
Barney F. Louise	Cooper, Ashley B.	Gleason, Stella	Houser, Lillie B.	Merrill, Vivian	Sebring, Carolyn	VanBuskirk, Rose
Barry, Margaret	Corcoran, Helen	Gobel, Alice	Howe, Mandie	Mespell, Anna	Sebronic, Barbara	VanBuskirk, Ruth M.
Bassette, Marcia L.	Corning, Madge E.	Gobel, Etta	Hugunine, Jessie	Metzgar, Emily	Sharpstein, Jennie M.	VanMarter, Jane
Beach, Ethel	Corwin, Mary	Green, Theodora	Hyde, Libbie	Metzgar, Eva	Shea, Marie	VanMarter, Leona A.
Beattie, Emma L.	Costello, Julia S.	Greenleaf, Ethel	Jackson, Nellie T.	Metzgar, Ida A.	Shea, Nora M.	Warner, Alida C.
Benedict, Lillian	Counterman, Jane	Griswold, Cora	Janorsky, Margaret	Moe, Ella A.	Shumaker, Mary H.	Waterman, Marie
Bennett, Juanita	Court, Dora E.	Guthrie, Hattie	Jennings, Mary	Moe, Helen	Simpson, Flora	Watrous, Pearl C.
Benson, Marjorie	Court, Helen L.	Hall, Edith	Johnson, I. Dorothy	Moe, Louise	Smith, Amanda T.	Weaver, Emma
Bisgrove, Satie	Crain, Grace D.	Hall, Mame	Karn, Alice	Moe, Mary J.	Smith, Calphurnia	Webster, Anna
Blaisdell, Carrie	Crossley, Anna B.	Halladay, Della	Kattan, Elsie	Monroe, Bertha	Smith, Ella	Wells, Hattie
Blanchard, Ella C.	Culver, Nina M.	Halladay, Emma	Keirns, Belle	Montfort, Mary L.	Smith, Emogene	Wilcox, Alice
Bliss, Kate H.	Cummings, Adelia	Halladay, Olive M.	Kellam, Ruth	Moran, Katherine L.	Smith, Flora D.	Wilcox, Lena
Bowman, Belle	Cummings, Hattie E.	Halsey, Nina	Ketchum, Sarah	Morgan, Bertha	Snell, Ida A.	Wilmot, Helen V.
Bourne, Margaret M.	Cummings, Lenna H.	Hamill, Nellie C.	King, Mildred	Morton, Ordella	Sobars, Ettie	Wilson, Ethel
Bradt, Cora	Cutter, Clara	Hamill, Ella	Kip, Florence A.	Nickerson, Sophia	Spaulding, Nellie L.	Wilson, Mary
Bradt, Erma S.	Cutter, Edith	Hamill, Florence R.	Knapp, Melva	Ogden, Lillian	Springer, Florence C.	Wood, Lillian
Brown, Ella	Darling, Amelia E.	Hamilton, Agnes R.	Kostenbader, Dora A.	Orcutt, Mary E.	Stedman, Harriet L.	Yates, Caroline B.
Brown, Minnie A.	Darling, Amy T.	Hare, Georgia	Kostenbader, Maude A.	Ostrander, Hattie	Steinberg, Ethel	Youngs, Effie M.
Brown, Netta	Dates, Clara M.	Haring, Cora	Lakey, May	Page, Emily B.	Stevens, Carrie	Youngs, Estella T.
Buck, Blanche	Dates, Etta B.	Harris, Hattie M.	LaMont, Alice H.	Pennoyer, Ada	Stevens, Elizabeth W.	
Buck, Emily A.	Davidson, Jane E.	Harris, Nancy	Landon, Mata R.	Perry, Sara G.	Stevens, Jennie	
Burchard, Leda A.	Detzer, Laura	Hart, Cora	Lane, Beulah S.	Personius, Bertha	Stewart, Helen	
Cajar, Mary	Dimon, Mary L.	Hatch, Allie	Lane, Mary L.	Peters, Minnie	Stickles, Katherine M.	
Campbell, Anna	Donohue, Grace	Hatch, Lanah R.	Langdon, Alice	Petrie, Cornelia	Stickles, Mary A.	
Carter, Laura E.	Doughty, Alliene	Hatch, Minerva	Langford, Crystal	Pettis, Emma J.	Stinard, Lena G.	
Carye, Nora	Dutcher, Anna	Hatch, Minnie	Lawrence, Florence	Picard, Eleanor	Stoddard, Ella	
Champlin, Minnie	Erving, Marjery M.	Hazen, Lavinia	Lawrence, Kate	Pierce, Florence	Stoddard, Leola	
Childs, Hattie	Evans, Hattie	Heffron, Dora	Leach, Louise	Potter, Marian	Stoddard, Pearl E.	
Clark, Grace L.	Exton, Sara	Hibbard, Carrie M.	Leach, Margaret	Predmore, Sylvia	Stoughton, Edna	
Clark, Lena	Farling, Bertha	Hibbard, Elcerna	Loop, Ada	Price, Mary H.	Sutliff, Lula	

THE POST STANDARD  
Syracuse, New York  
Monday morning, September 9, 1912

### SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION NEXT WEEK

GROTON, Sept. 8.—Local suffragettes are making arrangements for the Tompkins County Suffrage Association convention, which will be held here next Thursday. There are two suffrage clubs here: the Groton Political Equality Club and the East Groton Political Equality Club. The convention will be held in Odd Fellows Hall. The opening session at 10:00 o'clock. The feature will be the address by Mrs. May Morgan, one of the prominent workers of the state. There will also be reports from the various clubs of the county and some musical numbers.

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