

January 1, 1919 - Dear Journal, my name is Isabella Rossi, I am an 18-year-old woman who recently traveled with my family from in Italy to Pittsburgh. My father and brothers work in the mills and come home everyday exhausted and covered in dirt. I spend most of my days looking for a job. We live in a small house in Pittsburgh's Bloomfield neighborhood. The community is filled with Italian restaurants, clubs and stores.

January 18, 1919 - I got a job as a maid for the Miller family. The pay is meager but allows me to help my family.

February 5, 1919 - Mrs. Miller is fascinating. Today she told me about Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. She said American women have been trying to get the right to vote since the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Mrs. Miller is the leader of the State Suffrage Organization and has invited me to attend future meetings. I find that most of the women who oppose suffrage are from wealthy families. They believe women do not have the temperament for politics.

February 19, 1919 - Today we discussed Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin of Montana (the first woman elected to Congress in 1916). In 1918 she proposed an amendment granting women the right to vote. Congresswoman Rankin said, "I low shall we explain to them the meaning of democracy if the same Congress that voted for war to make the world safe for democracy refuses to give this small measure of democracy to the women of our country!" Though the legislation failed, Mrs. Miller felt it was a great step forward.

March 1, 1919 - Today I learned that the suffragettes were split into two groups. The National American Woman Suffrage Association led by Carrie Chapman Catt and the National Woman's Party led by Alice Paul. NAWSA conservatively lobbied leaders state by state while NWP believed in confrontation. In 1917 NWP became the first group to ever protest outside the White House. Though often arrested they were always released. That changed November 10 when 33 suffragists, including Dorothy Day, were arrested. Held six months without bail, the women were beaten, denied medical treatment or, legal advice. Mrs. Miller said this only solidified the suffragettes.

March 15, 1919 - I heard Julia Morgan Harding speak yesterday. She is head of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage and a Pittsburgh community leader. I was surprised to see so many women, even maids like me there. They are convinced that women should only engage in civic activities. Harding said politics would comlpl women same as men.

April 10, 1919 - My brother introduced me to his friend Paul (I think he likes me). When I told Paul that I supported women's suffrage he laughed. "Why would you do that? You are only going to get married and raise children. What's next women police officers and teachers?" According to Mrs. Miller, "Marriage may be a partnership, but you are 100 percent in control of your 50 percent."

May 1, 1919 - Mrs. Miller and her friend Jennie Bradley Roessing have been making phone calls and writing letters lobbying for congressional support. On another note, I met a young

Irishmen named Teddy. He seems like a fine man, very progressive when it comes to politics. Finally, I applied for a job at the Carnegie Library.

May 16, 1919 - Today we discussed the 19 states that had already given women the right to vote. Of the original 13 colonies only New York allowed women's suffrage. Ironically, the states that produced the Constitution and Declaration of Independence still won't give women the right to vote.

May 22, 1919 - Yesterday, the House passed the 19th Amendment allowing women the right to vote, now it is up to the Senate. We are making many calls and writing many letters. I pray it passes this time.

June 5, 1919 - Yesterday the Senate passed the 19th Amendment. Mrs. Miller fears that without the Southern support the amendment will not receive the two-thirds vote needed for ratification. Also, Teddy asked me to go to Kennywood. I said yes!

June 18, 1919 - Today, I was sitting with some of the other maids in the park. When we discussed suffrage I was amazed by several who said they only wanted to get married and raise a family (that voting is a man's job). It seems almost as if society continually support's this role.

August 19, 1919 - We thought the fight was over. The southern states had all voted no. Only Tennessee was left. To everyone's surprise Tennessean Harry T. Burns broke the tie and voted yes (he said his mother made him). Also, for some reason Teddy came to my house today to see my father. I have no idea what they could be talking about.

August 25, 1919 - I got the job at the library and today Mrs. Miller and had a delightful farewell lunch. We talked about all we had been through over the last year and what our plans were moving forward. She said that she would soon be meeting the Governor to celebrate Pennsylvania's passage of the 19th Amendment and that she was having a plaque made to give him. Mrs. Miller told me that we still have much to accomplish before all people have the same level of freedom. Then she mentioned how she was joining another organization. the League of Woman's Voters. Their goal, universal suffrage. Mrs. Miller asked if I was interested in helping saying it would be a tough fight but the good fights always are. I of course said I would assist however possible. As I was leaving, the last thing she did meant the most to me. She held out her hand and held mine and said, "from this day forward Isabella, please don't call me Mrs. Miller instead you can call me Lucy. ¹¹

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