



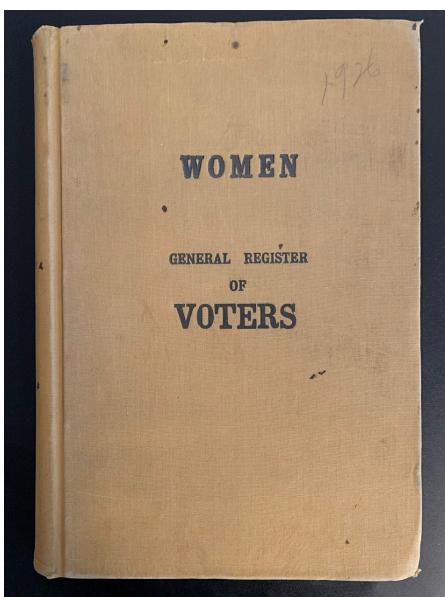
HINGHAM
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dear Friends - Welcome to installment #12 of our **History Moment** emails - the Hingham Historical Society's effort to bring Hingham History to you. We hope this material which we have selected to be uplifting will provide a periodic break from important daily news and information.

HISTORY MOMENT: Hingham's Earliest Women Voters Eileen McIntyre

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women in the U.S. the right to vote in all elections, we look back at Hingham women who were among the first to register to vote. The Massachusetts legislature voted to allow women to vote in School Committee elections in 1879, though women had to pay a poll tax to exercise this right until it was abolished in 1892. Some communities in Massachusetts extended women's limited suffrage to all municipal elections at the turn of the century, but Hingham voters repeatedly voted that down. So the number of women who registered to vote in Hingham stayed low until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in August 1920.

The growing numbers of women who registered between 1913 and 1920 (prior to ratification of the 19th Amendment) included factory workers, housekeepers and telephone operators, as well as teachers and housewives:



The Hingham Town Clerk, Eileen McCracken, has in the town archives a book that shows the women who registered to vote starting in 1913 and continuing through the 1920s. As a member of the **League of Women Voters of**

Alice Rubinstein Lane, a 22-year-old public school teacher living with family on Spring Street who in February 1915 registers along with her 49-year-old mother Leah (a housewife) and her aunt Anna (also a housewife) age 41. (I like to think that Alice initiated the group outing to Town Hall.) Alice's father was then a house painter. She was one of 5 children; one older brother was also a teacher; another brother painted houses like their dad.

Alice, Leah, and Anna Lane signed the registration book above.

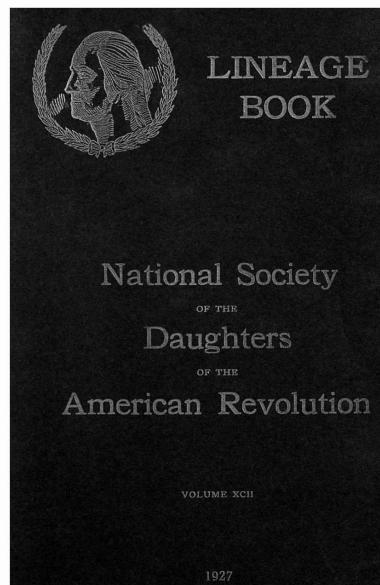
Mary Ann Coughlan was born in Ireland in 1861 and emigrated that same year with her parents. She was raised on Hersey Street in Hingham in a hard-working family. In the 1880 census, she (at age 20) and a brother John, then 22, were working as laborers.

Hingham suffrage centennial committee, I borrowed this historic volume earlier this year to learn more about local women who registered to vote in these early years. I was able to supplement the information in this historic register with data that HHS archivist Bob Malme dug up in Town Reports for the years 1906 to 1913, along with census records and other documents I accessed through Ancestry.com.

In 1910 and 1911, only one woman in Hingham is recorded as having voted, according to the Town Report for these years:

This voter was **Natalie Holden Lovejoy** (1880-1930) of Lincoln Street. A 30-year-old housewife married to Boston attorney Joseph Lovejoy in 1910, Natalie was later documented as a "Daughter of the American Revolution" (listed in the 1927 lineage book of the National Society of the D.A.R.) with maternal ancestors including Joshua Walker of Woburn, MA, a lieutenant in the militia at the battle of Lexington, and Jonathan Moulton of Meredith, NH, who, in 1775, took command of and equipped at his own expense the 3rd regiment of militia, guarding the seacoast.

Perhaps Natalie was inspired by those who fought for independence when she decided to exercise her limited right to vote.



three younger brothers are employed at local factories: 18 year old William at the Burr Brown & Company Cord and Tassel Factory; 14 year old Patrick and 16 year old Thomas at the Ropewalk/Cordage Factory. **Mary Ann is working as a housekeeper when she registers to vote at age 56 in 1917.**

Perhaps teachers were particularly motivated to vote in School Committee elections. Other teachers who registered prior to 1920 included:

Fannie O. Cushing, a 57-year-old teacher living on North Street who registered to vote in February 1914.

Helen Dorritty, a 25-year-old teacher living on Hersey Street, who registered in 1915.

However, many local women who did not work outside the home also registered to vote in School Committee elections.

Among them were: 43-year-old housewife **Mary S. Henderson** of Water Street registered in 1914. 48-year-old housewife **Nellie Foster** of Middle Street registered in 1915. 51-year-old housewife **Louise B. Cushing** of School Street registered in February 1915.

Among those who registered to vote in 1920, shortly after the 19th Amendment passed, were these young women:

The three Kelly sisters living on Green Street Court who all registered to vote in Oct 1920: **Catherine F. Kelly**, then 23 years old, working as a telephone operator, **Mary E. Kelly**, then 30, working as a Forelady in a local factory, and **Margaret F. Kelly**, then 28, working as a machine operator at a factory in Hingham. Their parents both emigrated from Ireland in 1885 and in 1920 their dad worked as a gardener on a private estate.

The Kelly sisters signed Registration book in picture below.

GENERAL REGISTER OF VOTERS									
Name Registered	Date	Signature of Applicant	Place of Birth & State		ID No.	Title	Occupation	Place of Residence & State	Place of Birth & State
			Place of Birth	State					
1877-1911 Hannah Gardner A. 1878-1911 Clarissa Johnson B. 1879-1911 Alice Anna C. 1880-1911 Sarah Adele D. 1881-1911 Lydia Clara E. 1882-1911 Catharine Clara F. 1883-1911 Lizzie Lydia G. 1884-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth H. 1885-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth I. 1886-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth J. 1887-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth K. 1888-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth L. 1889-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth M. 1890-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth N. 1891-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth O. 1892-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth P. 1893-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth Q. 1894-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth R. 1895-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth S. 1896-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth T. 1897-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth U. 1898-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth V. 1899-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth W. 1900-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth X. 1901-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth Y. 1902-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth Z. 1903-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth A. 1904-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth B. 1905-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth C. 1906-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth D. 1907-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth E. 1908-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth F. 1909-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth G. 1910-1911 Lizzie Elizabeth H. 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MRS. WINNIFRED DEARBORN NELSON.

Born in North Woodstock, N. H.
Wife of G. H. Nelson.

Wife of C. H. Nelson.
Descendant of Corn. Reuben Parker, as follows:

- Descendant of Corp. Reuben Parker, as follows:

 1. David Aldrich Dearborn (b. 1832) m. Abbie Parker (1836-99).
 2. Reuben Parker (1807-62) m. Mary Vilas.
 3. Amos Parker (1770-1822) m. Hannah Gilson.
Buried Parker, South Wrentham

Reuben Parker m. Sarah Wooley.
Reuben Parker (1733-1825) served as corporal in Capt. Reuben Alexander's company of Cheshire County, N. H., to reinforce the army at Ticonderoga. He was born in Reading, Mass.; died in Richmond, N. H.
Also Nos. 66220, 26173.

MRS. NATALIE HOLDEN LOVEJOY

01368

Born in Boston, Mass.

Born in Boston, Mass.
Wife of Joseph Lovejoy.

Descendant of Capt. Joshua Walker, Joseph Neal, Col. Jonathan Moulton, Ebenezer Richardson, James Bennett, Ensign James Bennett, Jr., William Tufts and Moses Senter, as follows:

Mary Proctor.
Joshua Walker (1728-98), who had fought in the French war, served as lieutenant at the battle of Lexington. He commanded a company of Middlesex County militia, under Col. David Green, during the

Also Nos. 69735, 80476.
Joseph Neal (1750-1838) served as private in Captain Gilman's com-

Joseph Neal (1759-1836) served as private in Captain Gilman's company, Colonel Evans' regiment, New Hampshire Line. He was born in New Market; died in Meredith, N. H.

Jonathan Moulton (1726-87), in 1775, took command and equipped at his own expense the 3rd regiment of militia, guarding the seacoast. He was with Gates at Saratoga and served throughout the war.

He was with Gates at Saratoga and served throughout the war as paymaster with rank of colonel. He was baptized in Hampton, N. H., where he died.

N. H., where he died.
Also No. 89389.

• 1999 •

In 1912, only four “women’s ballots” were needed for the Hingham School Committee election. But in 1913, women were becoming more engaged, and forty women’s ballots were needed, according to the Town Report. Among those who first registered in 1913 was 23-year-old housewife **Beatrice Kimball** of Winter Street. Beatrice was married to James H. Kimball, a manager at the family-owned Kimball Lumber Company located along the inner harbor. They then lived on Winter Street.

For More Information:

WATCH the League of Women Voters January 2020 Lecture and Discussion "Fight for the Vote" held at the Hingham Heritage Museum.

Thank you to the League and our partners at [HarborMedia](#) for recording this program.

[Previous History Moments can now be accessed on our website.](#)

For the most up to date happenings at the Hingham Historical Society, join us [online](#)

