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VOTES
FOR
WOMEN

Women Who Made History

19th Amendment Centennial

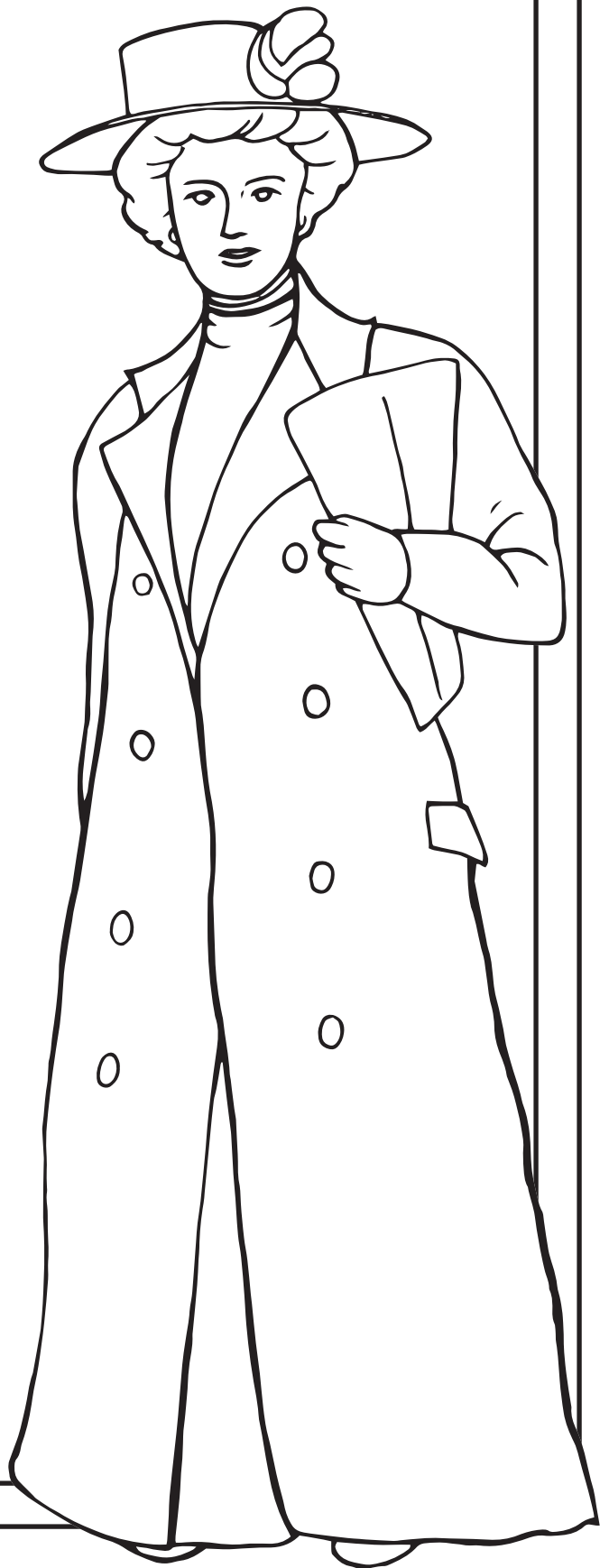
1920~2020



“ The right of
citizens
of the
United States
to **VOTE**
shall not be
denied or abridged
by the United States
or by any State
on account of sex.

Congress
shall have power to
enforce this article by
appropriate
legislation. ”

19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



1920  2020

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted women in the U.S. the right to vote.

Passed by Congress in 1919, the amendment was ratified August 18, 1920, and certified August 26. The journey had been long and arduous and, for many women of color, the fight to exercise their voting rights was far from over. Passage of the amendment, however, forever changed the path of women in our nation.

Many historians point to the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848—the nation’s first women’s rights conference—as the beginning of the national suffrage movement. The resulting Declaration of Sentiments, written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, proclaimed voting an inalienable right and rejected a government in which women had no voice.


In the following decades, women successfully secured voting rights in select local and state governments but the need for a constitutional amendment remained. While Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and other celebrated suffrage leaders would not live to see the 19th Amendment adopted, many others took up the fight, campaigning at the national, state, and municipal level.

Like their famous counterparts, local activists took part in the movement through women’s clubs, lecturing, marching, and lobbying passionately for voting rights. This coloring book celebrates a few of the spirited suffragists who called Kansas City home.



Ida Bowman BECKS

(1880–1953)

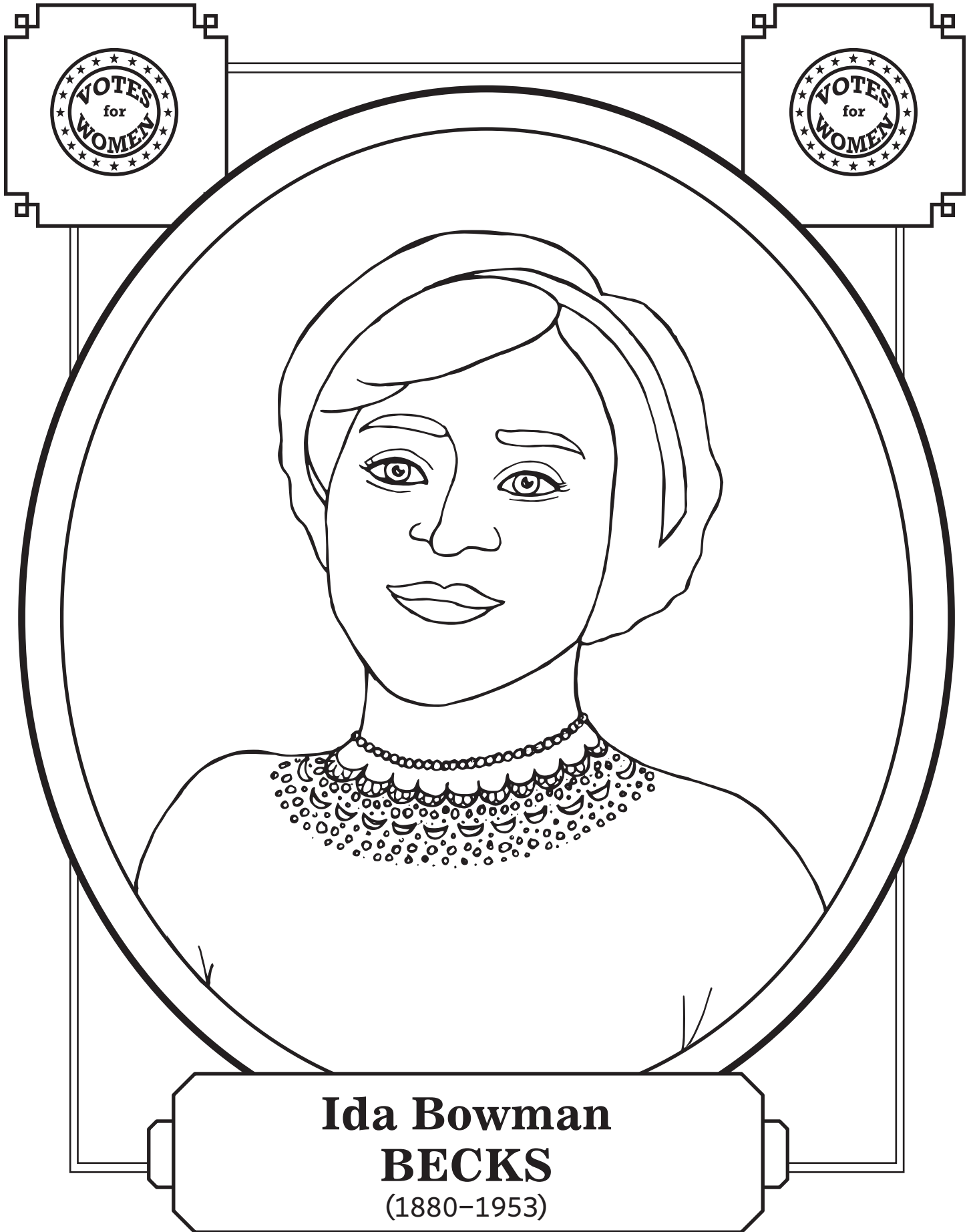


As a renowned lecturer and suffragist, Ida Bowman Becks led the local African American community in the pursuit of equality. Born in Armstrong, Missouri, she showed promise as a student and graduated as class valedictorian. In 1908, she moved to Kansas City and became involved in charities and women's clubs. Ida's work led to the establishment of the Yates YWCA and the Kansas City Urban League, and her passionate speeches on suffrage were praised for their eloquence. She went on to become a delegate to the 1921 NAACP convention, a board member of Wheatley-Provident Hospital, and chair of the Negro Women's National Republican League.



"Her manner of address is direct, dramatic, and at times sensational, yet pleasing and intensely interesting. She is a fearless advocate for women's suffrage and is an uncompromising defender of the Afro-American race"


Samuel Bacote, *Who's Who Among the
Colored Baptists of the United States*



Ida Bowman
BECKS
(1880-1953)

Sarah Chandler COATES

(1829–1897)



A progressive social leader known as the Queen of Quality Hill, Sarah Chandler Coates was one of Kansas City's earliest suffragists. Originally from Pennsylvania, she moved to Kansas City with her husband Kersey in 1856. Sarah ran charities out of their home, promoted the arts and sciences, supported anti-slavery organizations, and founded the '81 Club. In 1892, she organized and led the Equal Suffrage Association of Kansas City as a tireless advocate for women's rights. She was also instrumental in bringing the Missouri Suffrage Association's annual convention to Kansas City in 1896.



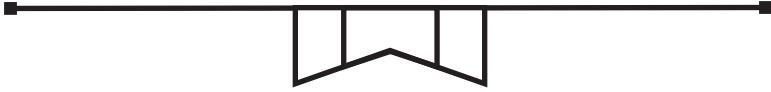
After Sarah's death, friend Susan B. Anthony wrote,
"Our good cause of justice to woman [is left] without its best and truest champion. All of us are the poorer for the loss of her presence with us, but the richer, the better and the nobler because of her heroic life, if we but strive to emulate her many virtues."



**Sarah Chandler
COATES**
(1829-1897)

Phoebe Jane ESS

(1850–1934)



Regarded as one of Kansas City's most influential leaders, Phoebe Jane Ess was an outspoken suffragist and a dean of Missouri women's clubs. Born in Kentucky, she moved to Kansas City at age 22 and taught at Washington School until she married. She then was involved in the establishment of the Kansas City Athenaeum, the Susan B. Anthony Civic Club, and the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs. She also served as president of the Equal Suffrage Association. With over 33 active affiliations, Phoebe Jane sought to protect the rights of women and children, supported Prohibition, and petitioned for disarmament. In 1932, the Athenaeum honored her for 50 years of exemplary service.



"To have followed her active trail through the years would have been to have seen the steady unfolding of women's suffrage and rights, the blossoming of countless charities, and the constant amelioration of humanity everywhere through her crusades against vice and injustice."


The Kansas City Star, April 10, 1934



Phoebe Jane
ESS
(1850-1934)

Mary Tiera FARROW

(1880–1971)



As one of the first female lawyers in Missouri, Mary Tiera Farrow was a pioneer in the legal field. She graduated from the Kansas City School of Law in 1903 and opened the first women's law practice in Kansas City, where she worked to protect the rights of women and children. Tiera was a member of the local Business Women's Suffrage Club and, in 1925, co-founded the Women's School of Law to educate women on legal matters. She also took the lead in organizing the Women's Bar Association of Kansas City. Her remarkable career, which included appointments as a judge and city treasurer, spanned more than 54 years.



"This is the age when women must come to the front. This is our golden opportunity to offer our services in the places where they are most needed. There is a field of endeavor for us that cannot be reached by men in the practice of law."

Mary Tiera Farrow, *The Kansas City Times*, November 9, 1917



**Mary Tiera
FARROW**
(1880-1971)

Emma Lard LONGAN

(1854–1924)

Author, clubwoman, and city council member Emma Lard Longan sought to educate and inspire women to take an active role in government. In 1900, she founded the Longan Study Club to discuss current affairs, arts and culture, history, and law. She later published the book *Parliamentary Rules Made Easy*, which sold over 200,000 copies by the time of her death in 1924. Emma also served as president of the Equal Suffrage Association and Council of Women's Clubs, and she was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and Kansas City Athenaeum. In 1922, she became the first woman elected to the upper house of the Kansas City Council.



"The suffrage movement had an earnest and vigorous proponent in Mrs. Longan, who from her earliest days in Kansas City was zealously interested in giving women the vote and a place in government."

The Kansas City Star, May 1, 1924



Emma Lard
LONGAN
(1854-1924)

Alma NASH

(1883–1965)



Before Alma Nash became one of the most popular music teachers in Kansas City, she was known as the suffragist bandleader in Maryville, Missouri. There, she formed the Missouri Ladies Military Band—later called the Missouri Suffrage Band—and led it in the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C. Five years later, Alma moved to Kansas City and opened an in-home studio where she taught for 47 years. She also played with local orchestras, was honored by the Fretted Guild of America, and was a charter member of the Kansas City Music Teachers Association. By the end of her long career, Alma had trained an estimated 4,000 students.




"I believe [music] is a powerful weapon that can be utilized in the cause of woman suffrage. Men will be brought to realize the justness of our cause."

Alma Nash in *The Kansas City Star*, August 22, 1913



Mathilde “Dolly” DALLMEYER SHELDEN

(1885–1980)



Before moving to Kansas City in 1920, Mathilde Dallmeyer Shelden campaigned for women’s rights as a politician in her native Jefferson City, Missouri. There, she organized the Jefferson City Equal Suffrage League and became the first woman elected vice-president of the Missouri State Republican Club. Renowned for her skills as an orator, she gave speeches on suffrage in more than 20 Missouri counties. In Kansas City, Mathilde continued to be involved in civic life as a member of the Athenaeum, the Women’s City Club, and various arts and culture organizations.

In 1924, she succeeded Emma Lard Longan as a member of the Kansas City Council’s upper house.



“Miss Dallmeyer had been announced as the Joan of Arc of Missouri and she well deserves the honor, for, whether inspired or not, she at least completely captivated her hearers and led the biggest crowd that had ever gathered at the Court House ...”

The Daily Capital News, April 12, 1918




Mathilde "Dolly"
DALLMEYER SHELDEN
(1885-1980)

Emma Siggins

WHITE

(1857–1936)



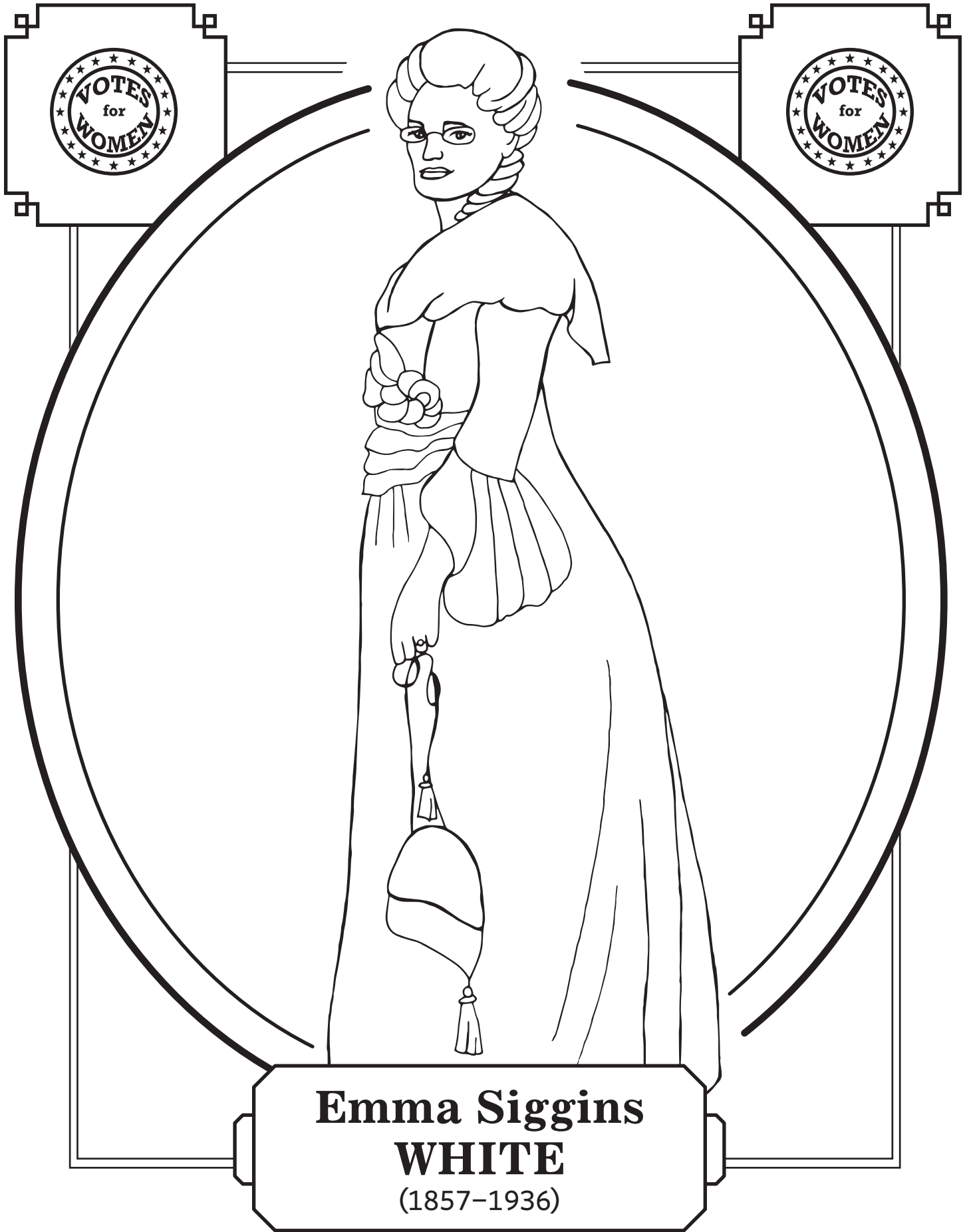
Known primarily as a philanthropist, Emma Siggins White used her societal platform to achieve women's suffrage in Jackson County. The wife of a lumber baron, she led numerous charities and organizations, including the Boys Hotel and the Missouri Valley Historical Society, while also serving as chair of the Jackson County League of Women Voters. Emma oversaw the Suffrage Campaign Committee of Kansas City and, in 1918, distributed unofficial ballots allowing women to voice their demands to the Missouri legislature. In 1920, she organized a nonpartisan citizenship school at the Kansas City Public Library to help women prepare to participate in national elections.



"The legislators of Missouri have too long put us off with the statement that the women of this state do not want suffrage.

We are going to show in actual figures the proof that Missouri's women want the ballot."

Emma Siggins White, *The Kansas City Star*, July 6, 1918



Emma Siggins
WHITE
(1857-1936)

TIMELINE

July 1848

Seneca Falls Convention, Declaration of Sentiments

1887

Kansas passes municipal suffrage

1912

Kansas passes state suffrage

1919

Missouri passes state suffrage
(presidential elections only)

June 4, 1919

19th Amendment passed by Congress
and sent to the states

June 16, 1919

Kansas ratifies 19th Amendment

July 3, 1919

Missouri ratifies 19th Amendment

August 18, 1920

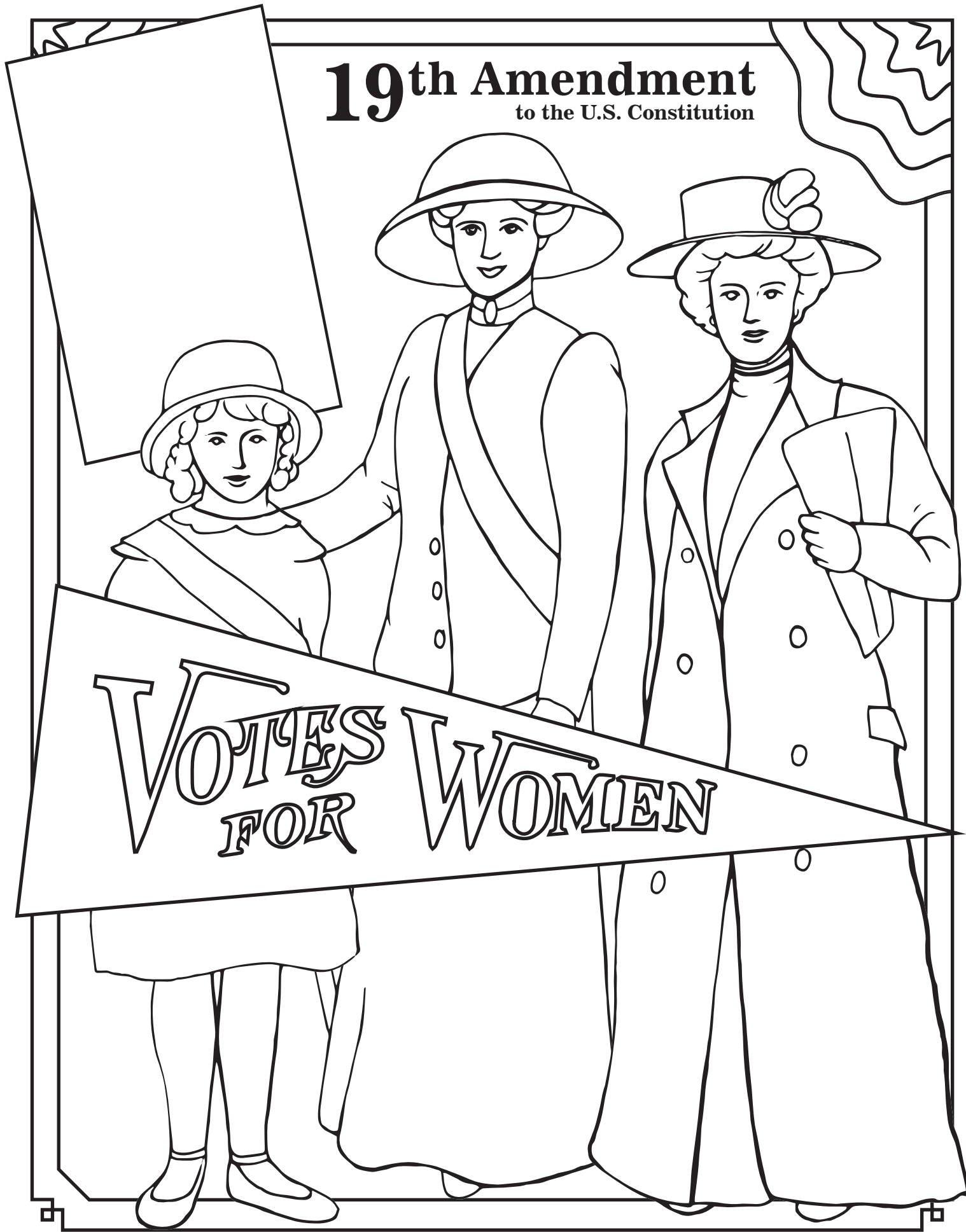
Tennessee ratifies 19th Amendment,
ensuring its passage

August 26, 1920

U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby
certifies the ratification

19th Amendment

to the U.S. Constitution



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Photo: Reassembly Day Tea, 1947

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volunteer service and philanthropic endeavors.

Member: General Federation of Women's Clubs

kcathenaeum.org

More profiles of extraordinary women
of Kansas City history are available at
kchistory.org

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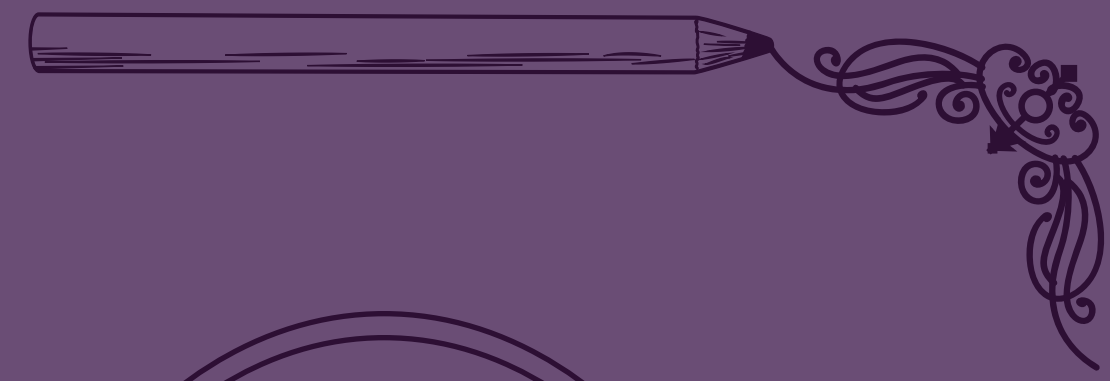


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