



Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote

INTRODUCING SARATOGA'S SUFFRAGIST: ISABELLA BLANEY

Bella Blaney



Working on the Right to Vote

- ▶ Vice President, Club Women's Franchise League
- ▶ Chair, Santa Clara Valley Suffrage Movement
- ▶ Candidate for delegate from the 8th Congressional District, National Republican Convention
- ▶ Vice President, La Follette League of CA

Active Both Times 1911 & 1920

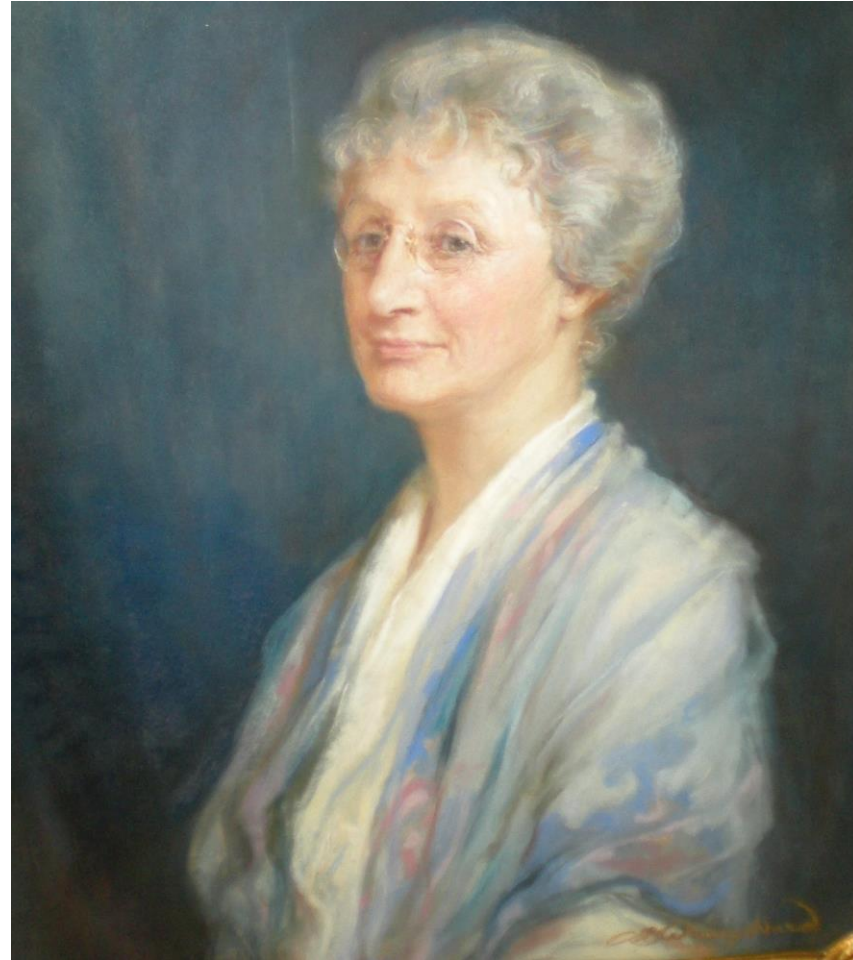
- ▶ Vice President of the Women's Roosevelt League of SF



Bella Williams was
born in June in
1854 in Chicago,
IL

-Graduated from
Ogontz School for
Young Ladies

- Post graduate work,
NW University in 1874





- *WENT TO ITALY WITH HER FAMILY
- * THE ITALIANS FOUND HER BEAUTY BREATHTAKING
- *UPON RETURN TO THE US, HER SCULPTED IMAGE WAS PLACED ON THE CHARLES STEVENS DEPARTMENT STORE

*Bella married Charles Blaney in 1877 in Illinois.

*They moved to CA in 1882 where they lived in SF and then in Saratoga

*Daughter Clarrissa was born in 1883, She died of typhoid fever at age 17

They built a wing for infectious diseases at O'Connor Hospital



- *The Blaneys purchased land on Horseshoe Drive in Saratoga where noted Architect Willis Polk designed a 20 room house
- *They called the home Rancho Bella Vista
- * Well known Landscape Architect Bruce Porter created the garden



Both Became Active in the Community

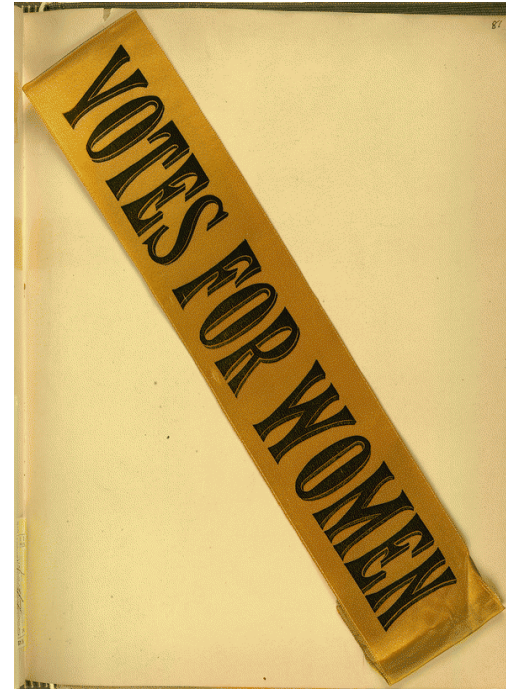
- * Charles moved the train station to enable a tree filled plaza to be the new entrance to Saratoga on Big Basin Way
- * Along with 11 other men, he raised money to build a Memorial Arch to honor the Saratoga WWI soldiers---first memorial in Santa Clara County
- * President of Madronia Cemetary Board
- * Became California's first Highway Commissioner

Bella Active in Many Clubs

- ▶ American Association of University Women
- ▶ Astronomy Society of the Pacific (Bella had a telescope on the roof of her house)
- ▶ Pasadena Music and Art
- ▶ Outdoor Art League for SF
- ▶ Santa Clara Rose Garden (She as known for donating roses from her garden for charitable events)
- ▶ Century Club
- ▶ Friday Morning Club
- ▶ Town and Country

Active for Suffrage

- ▶ Helped form Club Women's Franchise League and became Vice President throughout California
 - ▶ Equality Teas held at St. Francis Hotel in SF to gather support for suffrage
 - ▶ Chair of the Santa Clara Suffrage Movement
 - ▶ Supervised house-to-house canvass promoting women's vote
- ▶ Executive board of the California Equal Suffrage Association



Employed Many Tactics

Publicizing the Right to Vote

- ▶ Spoke to voters in the streets from cars
- ▶ Held mass rallies, picnics
- ▶ Used the appeal as a “mother, grandmother, teacher, nurse, garment worker” was a popular opening line
- ▶ Handed out buttons
- ▶ Posted pennants

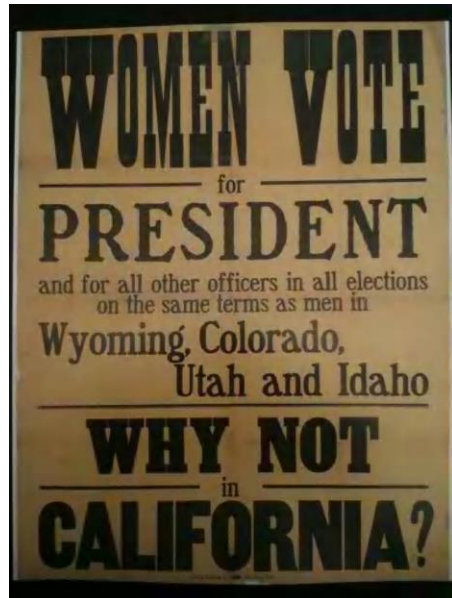


Cars -- Unique & A Big Draw

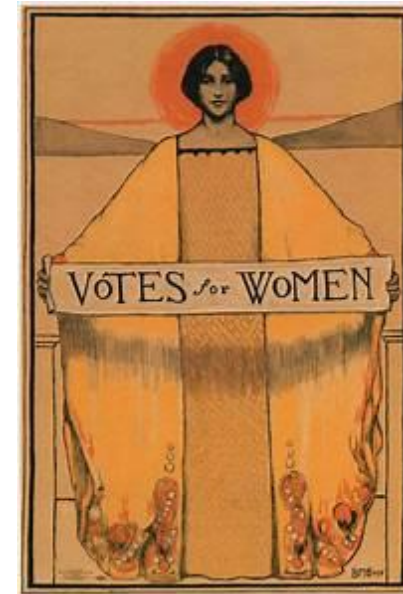


California Sixth State to Grant Vote

SF most populous city in which
women could vote!



Close race -won by 3800 votes



State Level Won- Now On to National!

Moving Suffrage Forward

- ▶ Served as Vice President of the La Follette California Progressives
- ▶ When La Follette dropped out she became a member of the Executive Committee of the Roosevelt Progressive Republican League
- ▶ Nominated as delegate to the National Republican Convention

Continuing the Fight



Continuing the Fight

- ▶ Taft won the party's nomination and Blaney and the other Roosevelt delegates left to form a new Progressive Party
- ▶ Blaney along with Jane Addams, Frances Kellor were the first women to serve on the executive board of a major political party– The Progressive National Committee



Getting the Vote

- ▶ Blaney joined the National Women's party to be present when the state legislature ratified the national amendment
- ▶ 19th Amendment was finally approved August 26, 1920– a date now officially recognized as Equality Day
- ▶ 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act removed ballot tax and other acts of suppression for helping Black, Latina, and Indigenous people to vote
- ▶ 1975 extension of the Voting Rights Act required ballots to be printed in Spanish and other languages



Don't Forget to Vote in 2020--

