

Prepared by

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for the

COLLEGE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

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Foreword

 UCY STONE, the first Massachusetts woman to take a college degree (at Oberlin, Ohio, in 1847), was warmly interested in the promotion of good citizenship. In her own character and life she was a noble example of the qualities that go to make a good citizen. It is therefore fitting that this manual of citizenship should be published by the College Equal Suffrage League of Boston as a memorial to her.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.

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ABOUT ELECTIONS

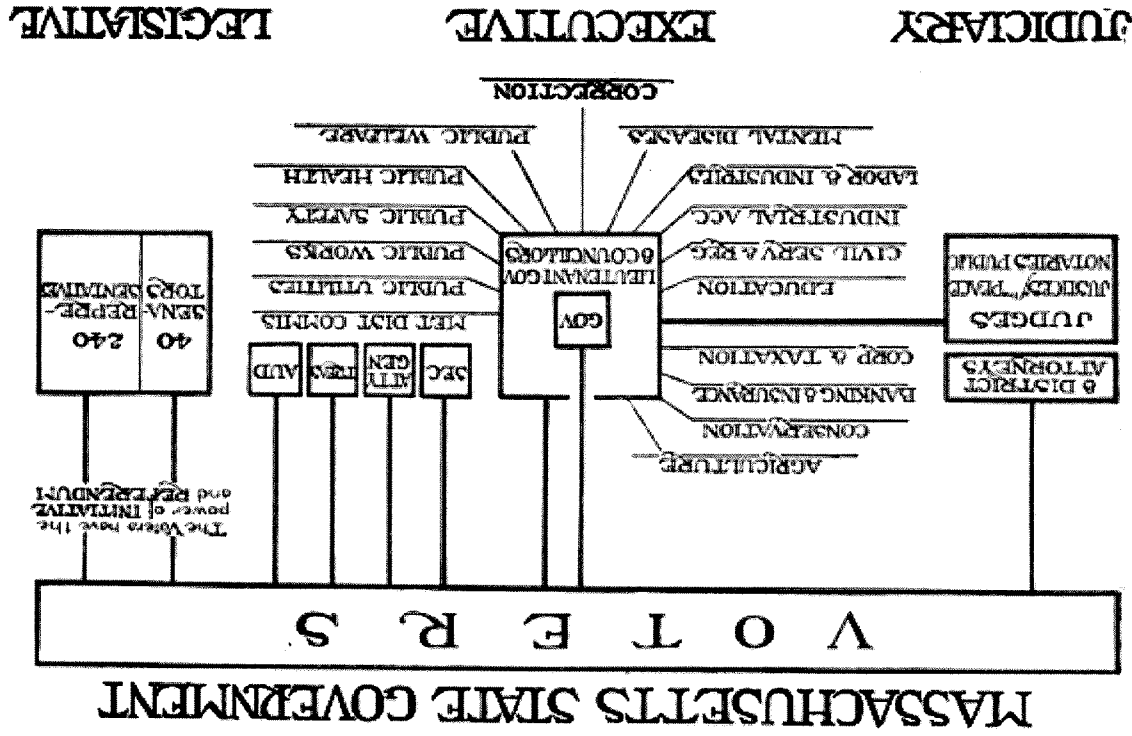
WHO MAY VOTE IN MASSACHUSETTS

To be allowed to vote one must be: (1) a citizen, (2) twenty-one years of age or over, (3) resident in the Commonwealth one year, (4) and in the city or town six months, and (5) must be able to read the State Constitution in English and to write his name, unless prevented by physical disability. In addition he must register in advance. If a voter moves from one place to another within the Commonwealth he may still vote in his old district until six months have elapsed, by which time he becomes entitled to vote in his new district. The law allows absentee voting by mail by persons away from their district on election day.

Those specifically debarred from voting are: (1) paupers,—except persons receiving aid who have served in the United States army or navy in time of war and have been honorably discharged,—(2) persons under guardianship, and (3) persons temporarily or permanently disfranchised by law for corrupt election practices.

NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

The *President* and *Vice President* are not elected directly by the voters, but by the members of the Electoral College. This Electoral College is composed of men elected from every State equal to the number of Representatives and Senators to which said States are entitled in Congress. Thus, as Massachusetts has sixteen Representatives and two Senators in Congress, she has eighteen Electors in the Electoral College, and each voter is therefore entitled to vote for eighteen Electoral Candidates.



NATURALIZATION

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads: "*All persons* born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

Citizens by birthright are, therefore, persons who are born in this country.

Citizens by naturalization are those who take out naturalization papers through the proper courts. Persons belonging to the white or black races are the only ones who may become naturalized. The yellow races are excluded. However, a Chinese or Japanese child *born* in the United States is a citizen, though his parents may not become naturalized.

Courts of Naturalization in Massachusetts are the United States District Court, and the Superior Court sitting in the several counties.

The procedure of naturalization for a man, unmarried woman, or a widow, is as follows: The person who intends to become a citizen must be over eighteen years of age. He goes before the Clerk of the Naturalization Court and declares his intention to become a citizen of the United States. He makes oath to this effect, and he does not need to sign his name, nor read nor speak English. The Clerk attests to the form which is now a certificate and it is given to the applicant. There is a fee of one dollar for this declaration.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all Purposes Seven Years after the Date Hereof.
 } In the Court.
 } ss:

I, of
 aged years, occupation
 do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color
 complexion height feet inches, weight

pounds, color of hair color of eyes other visible distinctive marks I was born in on the day of anno Domini 1.....; I now reside at..... I emigrated to the United States of America from..... on the vessel my last foreign residence was It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of in the State of on or about the day of anno Domini 1.....; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein; So HELP ME GOD.

..... (Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn before me this.....
 day of anno Domini 192.....

By Court.
 Clerk of the..... Clerk.

The second step in naturalization cannot be taken unless the applicant has lived in the United States for five years. The first papers may be obtained at any time—the day the immigrant lands, if he so desires, but the final papers call for a five-year residence. Also there must be an interval of two years between the first and last papers.

The first papers are good for seven years. If the declarant forgets or neglects to apply for second papers, within seven years, he must begin all over again, take out first papers, and wait two years more for his second papers.

husband need not, at present, meet the tests prescribed for him. The law says: "Any woman who is now, or may hereafter, be married to a citizen of the United States *and who might herself be lawfully naturalized*, shall be deemed a citizen." This has been interpreted to mean that a woman must belong to one of the *racas* which may be naturalized, and not be, for instance, a Chinese or Japanese woman.

A wife may become a citizen through her husband even though she has not reached the age of twenty-one, and has not been a resident here for five years. If the husband comes to this country and is naturalized, his wife becomes a citizen even though she never immigrates to the United States.

A married woman, at present, cannot apply for naturalization in her own right. If her husband refuses or neglects to become a citizen, she can do nothing. A deserted wife of an alien cannot be naturalized so long as her husband is alive, unless she is divorced.

If a husband has taken first steps toward naturalization, and dies, or becomes insane, before the process is completed, his widow may take up the matter where he left off and finish the application, and such procedure will make citizens of minor children.

An American woman who has married an alien, may resume her former citizenship when she becomes widowed or divorced.

CITIZENSHIP OF CHILDREN.

Children who are minors become citizens upon the naturalization of either parent, *provided said children come to this country before they are twenty-one years of age*. A stepfather who is a citizen confers that citizenship on the minor step-children.

Children born abroad, of United States citizens, are citizens also, provided the parent has been a resident of the United States.

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CITIZENSHIP OF WOMEN.

[Bills pending in Congress, 1920, provide

1. That no woman who is an American citizen shall lose her citizenship by marrying an alien, and that no alien woman shall acquire American citizenship by marrying an American citizen.

2. The wife of any alien hereafter naturalized shall be deemed a citizen of the United States upon taking the said oath of allegiance.

Minor children, after arriving at the age of eighteen years, shall take and subscribe to the oath of allegiance.]

Alien unmarried women or widows who wish to become naturalized must take the same method as has been outlined for men.

A married woman takes the citizenship of her husband.* An alien woman who thus becomes a citizen through her

* The Attorney-General of Massachusetts gave an opinion on October 13, 1920, to the effect that an American woman who had married an alien previous to the passage of the Naturalization Act of 1907 could retain her American citizenship.