### BELVA LOCKWOOD IN WASHINGTON

We're not sure how long we will continue our campaign to draw more attention to Belva Lockwood, lawyer extraordinaire, mostlly because we don't know when we will run out of material. This interesting and entertaining excerpt from *American Court Gossip*, an 1887 book about life in Washington, DC, probably does not mark the end:

Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, the Supreme Court lawyer has a pleasant residence in a little way from the Interior Department on F street toward the new Pension office. Her house is a four-story brick — office in the basement — the parlors nicely furnished with several good paintings to add their tribute to the lady's taste. Her first husband was Col. McNall of Rochester, N.Y., who died twenty years ago, and she married soon after, Mr. Lockwood, an invalid, who is dead. Mrs. Lockwood gives elegant receptions where many distinguished people appear — she is an officer of the International Peace society, and Good Templar's lodge.

As a lawyer, Mrs. Lockwood has not won great success like Butler or Conkling, and is not considered authority like Myra Bradwell of Chicago, but she is careful and painstaking in the interest of her clients. She has been retained by the Mormons as their attorney at the capital, and has helped defeat adverse legislation to their church, for she reasons that "Mormons should not be prosecuted more than a Methodist." Certainly not, only when they break laws, for if polygamy is punishable in Ohio, it is also punishable in Utah, by right. Mrs. Lockwood is a woman of kind impulses and finished grace upon the lecture platform. Her ratification meeting in September 1884, was an unique affair. It occurred at Wilson's Landing, a little station on the B.&P.R.R., three miles from the city, and about fifty persons were present, some of them farmers living in Maryland, newspaper reporters from the different local journals, and enthusiastic suffragists of the coterie, known as "The District of Columbia Equal Rights association." There had been no teams provided for the guests, and ladies as well as men waded through the sand for a mile of old Maryland, "my Maryland." We sat down to an excellent picnic dinner provided by Mrs. Amanda Davis Best, our hostess, who was made presidential elector on the Equal Rights ticket, for the Fifth Maryland district in 1884. The candidate, Mrs. Lockwood, made a speech on the political issues of the day, and toasts were drank in a good cup of coffee. Flags

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Locke Harry M, janitor, 475 N Y av nw
Locke John H, upholsterer, 121 E Capitol
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Locke Lody P, 1736 6th nw
Locke Mary A, dressmkr, 420 E Capitol
Locke William, wood turner, 906 10th se
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Lofton William H S, waiter, 1211 16th nw

Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia 501 (1881).

and mottoes adorned the trees, and shouts rent the air given by the gentlemen, of course. The only wonder after this affair, was the fact, that Mrs. Lockwood was beaten in 1884.

"She lacked votes," said an old worker in the cause of woman suffrage, for as a rule, the reformers were bitterly opposed to Mrs. Lockwood's candidacy, declaring it was an advertising scheme for the lady's business. Year after year, the National Woman Suffrage association met at the capital with varying success, until several late conventions, they had larger and more influential audiences. This is due to the gradual melting away of the popular prejudice, and among the patrons of the reform, were Mrs. Senator Teller, Mrs. Senator Blair, and at one time, Mrs. Hatton, the lovely wife of Arthur's Postmaster General, had a good word for Mother Stanton and Miss Anthony.

The convention was found to contain sensible, highly intelligent women – instead, of the traditional costume, the handsome toilettes and diamonds of the speakers – the social influence of Mrs. Spofford of the Riggs House, Mrs. Lockwood of the Strathmore Arms, and all such excellent people, had a tendency to inquiry, and the efforts of the temperance people in the direction of equal suffrage to help carry on teetotalism, has combined to melt away old prejudices, so that people of the highest standing at the capital, treat the subject with careful respect and consideration. Miss Rose Cleveland is a suffragist, it is claimed by the friends of equal rights. "Women property holders are taxed," why not representation? This is unanswerable, for no man can accurately represent another's business as well as one's self, if that self be a woman.

See Elizabeth Moore ("Mrs. E.N.") Chapin, American Court Gossip or Life at the National Capital 32-34 (1887).

## WEST LAW PLAYING CARDS

In the preface to our whist-themed 2018 *Green Bag Almanac & Reader* we acknowledge that our "Founders Whist" playing cards (see the back cover of this issue for a few examples) probably are not unprecedented:

We know that the use of architectural imagery on playing cards is not unprecedented. We even know that the use of architectural imagery of the workplaces of Congress, the President, and the Judiciary on playing cards is not unprecedented. . . . And it may be that someone, once upon a time — maybe even during the Founding — made playing

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