

# Katharine Houghton Hepburn

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## VOTES FOR WOMEN

Joint HEARING before the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and the Committee on Woman Suffrage,  
State Capitol, Hartford, Hall of the House of Representatives, March 3rd and 4th, at 2 P. M.

### DUPLICATE OF SUFFRAGE HEARING

AT  
**HOTEL GARDE, HARTFORD**  
(dining room, second floor)  
**MARCH 3rd, at 2:15 P. M.**

MISS EMILY PEARSON  
State Organizer  
Connecticut Woman Suffrage Ass'n

MISS ROSE WINSLOW  
of New York

Members of the General Assembly and all others who are unable to attend seats at the Hearing at the Capitol are invited to go immediately to Hotel Garde. As soon as each speaker has finished at the Capitol she will go at once to the Hotel Garde to speak.

Coffee and sandwiches will be served. Cars and wait for your train.

Figure 1

MOTHER HAD A BOOTH AT THE CONNECTICUT FAIRGROUNDS, and we had a gas cylinder in the booth so that we could fill balloons. VOTES FOR WOMEN balloons, purple, white, and green. I was about eight. I used to fill the balloons, tie a six foot string onto them, go out into the street, pursue visitors to the fair, follow them until they were willing to accept one of our balloons, whether they wanted one or not. In what was rather an insistent voice I'd say, "Votes for Women - here, take it - Votes for Women," and they took it. When the men were voting about something the Suffragettes always had their own voting booth right next door. There was a large sign on it saying (one of Dad's gems): WOMEN, IDIOTS AND CRIMINALS VOTE HERE. Mother was one of their favorite debaters. She was quick-witted, lots of fun, and proof for your eyes and ears that women were not fools, they deserved the vote (18-20).

Hepburn, Katharine. *Me*. New York: Knopf, 1991.

Figure 2

## Activities

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### Reading/Problem Solving, Reasoning and Creative Thinking

- Read the excerpt from Katharine Hepburn's autobiography, *Me*. She is describing an early experience she had with her mother, Katharine Houghton Hepburn, who was a leader in the suffrage movement. Describe something you would like to change in your school. Develop a plan to convince people that the issue is important, and that they should work with you to make the change.

### Viewing/Problem Solving, Reasoning and Creative Thinking

- Study the "Votes for Women" poster. List three things about that poster that make it effective in sending a message about suffrage. List three things you would add to the poster to make it better at convincing people of the importance of women getting the vote.

### Working Independently/ Creative Thinking

- Design a poster convincing people of the importance of the issue you identified in the first exercise.

### Reasoning

- Katharine Hepburn was one of America's most famous actresses in the 20th century. Do you think that her childhood, as the daughter of very active, concerned parents, influenced her decision about what she would choose for a career? How?