

## Anna Elizabeth Hendley

( - 5 Oct 1945)

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*The Evening Star, June 4, 1918, p. 17*

### **Head of the Knitting Army Here**

Mrs. Anna E. Hendley, president of the Anthony League of the District of Columbia. The Anthony League has done a wonderful work the past winter knitting for the soldiers, especially for the engineer department of the Army Emergency Committee and through them for the Overseas Rest Homes for American Soldiers in France on furlough and other associations "over there" conducted for enlisted men. Mrs. Hendley will leave Washington shortly for Atlantic City, where she will do service work at the chautauqua established there.

*The Evening Star, January 23, 1938, p. A13*

### **Mrs. Anna E. Hendley, Suffrage Leader, Hopeful for D.C. Vote Believes She Will See Realization of Her Long-Held Hope**

*By Jessie Fant Evans*

Serene at the age of 73 in her home at 1733 Twentieth street N.W., Mrs. Anna E. Hendley, native Washingtonian, and as an early suffrage leader, the founder of the Anthony League, forerunner of the Susan B. Anthony Foundation has no other wish so dear to her heart as the hope that District of Columbia residents may soon be given the right to vote.

Has she lost confidence that her span of years may not be sufficient to witness the realization of this hope? "Not by any manner of means," she definitely tells you. "You see I have seen so many seemingly impossible suffrage hopes and desires come true in my life-time that my faith is as great as my hope."

As little Anna Elizabeth Mills, Mrs. Hendley remembers being present at the Capitol hearings when Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, early pioneers for women's suffrage, were pouring out their very souls in their pleadings for the ballot for their sex before a bored, thumb-twiddling committee. She then and there became so much interested in their cause, particularly in Miss Anthony's personality and single purposed motivation of her life for it, that for many years afterward her family teased her by nick-naming her "Susan B., the second."

### *Prizes Historic Gavel*

Today, Mrs. Hendley's most prized possession is Miss Anthony's historic gavel, presented to her by Miss Lucy Anthony at the Victory Convention in Chicago in 1920, in token of Mrs. Hendley's efforts to carry on, and memorialize the work of her distinguished kinswoman. Inscribed upon it, is the quotation, "Order is Heaven's First Law." Miss Belle Sherwin, distinguished national leader in the League of Women Voters, had this famous symbol of Miss Anthony's efforts enclosed in a silver-banding. An engraved inscription briefly describes its history and the circumstances of its presentation to Mrs. Hendley.

"We have come a long way from those early efforts of Miss Anthony and her cohorts," said Mrs. Hendley. "Indeed, with suffrage an accepted matter of fact for women everywhere, except in the District of Columbia, where neither men nor women exercise the right to use the ballot, it seems almost unbelievable that within the scope of my lifetime equal rights for women should have been a great reform movement agitating the Nation into opposing camps. I am of the earnest conviction, too, that suffrage for District citizens and their representation in the Congress of the United States will someday be quite as much a matter of course as is the case in all other parts of the United States."

“Failure s impossible” was one of the tenets by which Susan B. Anthony and her associates charted their indomitable course for women’s suffrage, Mrs. Hendley reiterated. “It must be the continuing watchword of those who are working for suffrage for residents of the District.”

Born in Southwest Washington at Thirteenth and B streets, upon a part of the site of one of the buildings housing our United States Department of Agriculture, Mrs. Hendley attended Central High School and was married at 17 to Julian Paul Hendley. Not only has she lived continuously in this city of her birth, butt, as she added with a bit of humor, “I have lived continuously and happily with my husband in the bonds of matrimony for 56 years.” She and her husband, a retired employe of the United States Government, represent four living generations of their family, little Peter Loftus, III, son of a granddaughter, being their great-grandchild.

With Jesse C. Suter, Mrs. Hendley was one of the founders of Washington’s Society of Natives, in which she is intensely interested.

Mrs. Hendley was actively brought into suffrage work by Mrs. Helen R. Tindall, wife of Dr. William Tindall, for many years secretary to the Board of Commissioners of the District government and author of one of the most authoritative histories of Washington extant.

Among Mrs. Hendley’s most precious memories are those having to do with her association with such prominent women leaders in the cause for suffrage as Miss Anthony, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Belva Lockwood, Mrs. Nannette B. Paul, Mrs. Helen Gardiner, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, and Mrs. Ida Husted Harper. Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Gardiner, afterwards appointed first woman Civil Service Commissioner; Mrs. Mussey and Mrs. Harper, biographer of Miss Anthony, eventually became residents of the District. Dr. Kate Waller Barrett continued to maintain her home in Alexandria.

It was through Dr. Anna Howard Shaw that Mrs. Hendley was introduced to Miss Anthony, and came to be one of her associates in her cause. With a small group of earnest Washington women, Mrs. Hendley founded the Anthony League, which by observing the birthday anniversary of Miss Anthony on February 15 each year became the forerunner of the Susan B. Anthony Foundation. Among the honorary members of the Anthony League was the late Mrs. Theodore W. Noyes, wife of the editor of The Evening Star.

“The purpose of the Anthony League,” Mrs. Hendley, who was for 14 years its president, went on, “was at first to establish headquarters for the suffrage workers of this city. From the beginning, however, we emphasized the educational work of preparing to use the ballot, and classes in parliamentary law and other important subjects were formed almost immediately after we took up our headquarters in the Portner Apartment.

Then for eight years came the centering of the Anthony League’s activities at 2007 Columbia road, the home of Mrs. Paul. The work of its 13 committees extended in many directions and exerted a potent influence in the educational and social affairs of forward-looking women in the District of Columbia and beyond its borders.

Among those whom we find included on an old roster of the Advisory Board of the Anthony League are the names of Mrs. John R. Sherman, then president of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, in whose headquarters on N street the league held its meetings after Mrs. Paul’s death; Mrs. Emily Newell Blair, then chairman of the Women’s National Democratic Club; Senator Owen of Oklahoma, Miss Janet Richards, Mrs. John Allan Dougherty, Representative Addison T. Smith of Idaho; Mrs. William H. Herron, president of the Twentieth Century Club and vice president of the Board of Education, and Isaac Gans, president of the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

To Mrs. Hendley also belongs the distinction of having been the first president of the District Women’s Suffrage Association, which she claims was the first incorporated women’s club in the city of Washington. She likewise served as treasurer of this organization for eight years, during which term of office Miss Anthony in referring to her upon one occasion before the organization said, “Your treasurer,

Mrs. Hendley, looks as if she could take good care of all the money you can collect for the cause of suffrage.”

An honorary member of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Hendley has not only served on the Board of Directors of the American Women’s Suffrage Association, but was a member of its honor roll at its convention in Chicago, in 1920, when she paid a tribute to Carrie Chapman Catt.

With Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Hendley was also one of the first women who started the Chautauqua for Women, formerly held in Atlantic City, and it was she who induced John Philip Sousa, also a native-born Washingtonian and then at the height of his fame as the world’s march king, to give a guest concert with his band before their women’s groups.

A past president of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and greatly interested for many years in the subject of prison reform, Mrs. Hendley is one of the first women in Washington ever to speak over a Nation-wide radio hook-up. Continuously since 1912, on February 15, the anniversary of Miss Anthony’s birth, through the courtesy of The Star, Mrs. Hendley has given a talk on the life service of Miss Anthony too the women of America, and she expects to follow this annual procedure this coming February.

For many years, too, Mrs. Hendley was the only woman member of the Citizens’ Joint Committee working for national representation for the District of Columbia. With pride she produces from her businesslike desk a scroll bearing the signatures of over 1,000 local groups and organizations whose indorsement for this project she has herself obtained.

With regard to her abiding faith that the District is some day to have representation in the Congress of the United States, which sits in its midst, Mrs. Hendley said in conclusion: “I can only say to you what Miss Anthony said to a representative of the press two years before she died, “I have never lost faith, not for one moment, in 50 years. In every cause there must be infinite patience, supreme philosophy. Bloodless revolutions require a longer time for their consummation than those that are attended by bloodshed.”

**Hendley, Anna E.** On Friday, October 5, 1945, Anna E. Hendley of 1733 20th st. n.w., beloved wife of the late Julian Paul Hendley and mother of Albert J. Hendley, sr. Friends may call at the Lee funeral home, 4th st. and Mass. Ave. n.e., where services will be held on Tuesday, October 9, at 2 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, October 9, 1945, p. B1*

**June Traffic Accident Causes Death of Mrs. Anna Hendley, 81  
Prominent Suffrage Leader Was Friend of Susan B. Anthony**

Mrs. Anna E. Hendley, 81, who made women's suffrage her goal and after that fight was won continued the battle for District suffrage, died Friday in Gallinger Hospital from injuries received when struck by an automobile last June.

Her death was listed as a traffic fatality after an autopsy performed by Dr. A. Magruder McDonald, District coroner, yesterday afternoon. According to police, she was struck by an automobile as she was crossing the street when the vehicle, waiting for a traffic light to change, coasted backwards, knocking her down. The accident occurred June 11 at the corner of Connecticut avenue and K street, N.W.

Drier of the automobile was listed by police as Maude H. Schnopp, 49, Rockville, Md. The operator will be required to appear later at a coroner's inquest, authorities said. Mrs. Hendley's death brings the number of traffic fatalities this year to 64, one less than for the same period last year.

*Founder of Anthony League*

Mrs. Hendley was founder and president of the District Anthony League, forerunner of the Susan B. Anthony Foundation, and opened the first women's suffrage headquarters in Washington. As little Anna Elizabeth Mills, she remembered being present at Capitol hearings when Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, early pioneers for women's suffrage, were pleading before bored committees for the right of women to vote.

She "then and there," she said when interviewed on her 73d birthday, became so much interested in their cause, particularly in Miss Anthony's personality and singled-purpose motivation of her life, that for many years her family teased her by calling her "Susan B., the second."

Within the scope of her life Mrs. Handley saw women's suffrage become a reality throughout the Nation and she had an abiding faith that someday the right to vote would be extended to District citizens. "Failure is impossible" -- Susan B. Anthony's watchword -- "must be the continuing watchword of those who are working for the suffrage for residents of the District," she once said.

#### *Appeared Before Congress*

With Mrs. Nanette B. Paul, she was the first woman to speak over the radio on Susan B. Anthony and for national representation for the District. She also appeared before Congress for the Citizens' Joint Committee Working for National Representation, on one occasion presenting more than 1,000 signatures from every State in the Union requesting representation for the District.

A personal friend of Susan B. Anthony, she prized Miss Anthony's historic gavel which Miss Lucy Anthony gave to her at the victory convention in Chicago in 1920 in token of Mrs. Hendley's, efforts to carry on and memorialize the work of Miss Anthony's distinguished kinswoman.

In 1943, Mrs. Hendley gave to the National Museum the gavel banners carried in suffrage parades and other mementos fo the battle for women's suffrage.

Mrs. Hendley was actively brought into suffrage work by Mrs. Helen R. Tindall, wife of Dr. William Tindall, for many years secretary to the Board of Commissioners of the District Government and author of a history of Washington.

With a small group of Washington women, Mrs. Hendley founded the Anthony League, which by observing the birthday anniversary of Miss Anthony on February 15, each year, became the forerunner of the of the Susan B. Anthony Foundation. Among the honorary members of the Anthony League was the late Mrs. Theodore W. Noyes, wife of the editor of The Evening Star.

Mrs. Hendley was the first president of the District Women's Suffrage Association and was treasurer for eight years. An honorary member of the Veterans District of Columbia League of Women Voters, she served on the board of directors of the American Women's Suffrage Association and was a member of its honor roll at its convention in 1920.

#### *Helped Found Society of Natives*

A past president of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, a member of Chapter No. 10 of the Order of the Eastern Star, she also was interested in prison reform. With Jesse C. Suter, she was one of the founders of Washington's Society of Natives.

Born in Southwest Washington at Thirteenth and B streets, she lived in Washington all her life. She married Julian Paul Hendley when she was 17. An employe in the Interior Department for 54 years, he died in December, 1943. Mrs. Hendley died on the 64th anniversary of her marriage.

She is survived by a son, Albert J. Hendley, sr., 1620 Fuller street N.W.; two grandsons, Corpl. A.J. Hendley, jr., now stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., after service in France and Germany and Pfc. James Mills Hendley, who returned a week ago from Germany; two granddaughters, Mrs. Peter J. Loftus and Miss Audrey Alexander of Washington; two great-grandsons, A.J. Hendley, III, and Peter J. Loftus, III, Washington.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Lee funeral home, Fourth street and Massachusetts avenue N.E. Dr. H.S. Anderson of the First Congregational Church will officiate. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.