

Claiborne Catlin moved to Massachusetts to work on suffrage with the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NASWA). An experienced advocate for laboring women in New York City, she went to Pittsfield to organize local suffrage groups. Catlin found the men of Berkshire County open to her ideas about suffrage especially when she spoke with them in small groups.

Catlin, a skilled horsewoman, thought travel by horseback with open air speeches would resonate with men in small, rural communities. After 1910, suffragists were moving their campaigns to the streets and mobile campaigning was effective. Julia O'Connor, president of the Women's Trade Union League, led an auto tour across Massachu-

setts, and Margaret Foley successfully used car tours to defeat anti-suffrage political candidates.

Catlin returned to Boston and announced that she would travel around the Commonwealth by horse in the summer of 1914 speaking on behalf of suffrage.



After former governor Foss declined to fund her ride, Catlin decided to

travel without funds and with only the clothing on her back and in her saddlebags. Catlin argued, "When the men see that we are willing to give up comfort and pleasure for the vote they will become interested...Gameness always counts."

Catlin's suffrage message was delivered "in her beautiful voice" giving "a good straight suffrage argument... Truly, she was thrilling...like a Jeanne d'Arc." wrote one West Dennis resident. She traveled 530 miles to 39 towns and gave 57 speeches. In spite of being pelted by apples and drowned out by brass bands, Catlin observed, "It has been worth every speck of tiredness, every minute of loneliness, every throb of fright."

"I do recognize...that what I was really struggling for all along that lonely road, was the removal of one more barrier from the upward journey of half the human race."