



**"THE WOMEN OF 1916" EXHIBITION  
AT THE HISTORIC HAWKEN HOUSE MUSEUM  
CELEBRATES SUFFRAGISTS**

*The new exhibit displays authentic women's garments from 1916 and details the women's suffrage movement during the U.S. presidential campaign of 100 years ago*

**Webster Groves, MO** -- June 6, 2016 -- There's no debate about it! The Webster Groves Historical Society has perfectly timed their new exhibition, "The Women of 1916," to coincide with the 2016 presidential campaign season. The exhibit is on view at the Historic Hawken House Museum, 1155 South Rock Hill Road in Webster Groves, Missouri.

Running (no pun, intended) now through November, the exhibit showcases more than a dozen authentic 1916 dresses and garments worn by St. Louis-area women. Several of the outfits are adorned with sashes featuring the suffragist slogan, "Votes for Women." All clothing items on display are part of the Webster Groves Historical Society's textile collection.

Informational placards describe the status of the suffragist movement in the United States and Missouri leading up to and following the U.S. presidential campaign of 1916. The year is significant: women were not allowed to vote in many states, including Missouri, and the National Democratic Convention was being held in St. Louis. On June 14, 1916, the opening day of the convention, more than 2,000 suffragists staged a gigantic, silent demonstration. Wearing white dresses and carrying yellow parasols, the women lined the dozen blocks of Locust Street in Downtown St. Louis leading from the headquarters hotel to the convention hall, creating "The Golden Lane" of protest. The delegates could not reach the convention floor without receiving the suffragists' message. The women's silent protest was heard: the convention adopted a general plank urging states to address women's suffrage.

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## HAWKEN HOUSE SUFFRAGIST CLOTHING EXHIBITION

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A unique collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century political buttons and campaign memorabilia, on loan from a private collection, also is being presented as part of the election-themed exhibition.

Admission to “The Women of 1916” exhibition, which includes a tour of the 1857 Hawken House, is \$4.00 per person. Hours are from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment by calling 314-968-1857.

Built in 1857, the Historic Hawken House is one of the oldest homes in Webster Groves and is on the National Historic Register. In 1970, the Webster Groves Historical Society purchased the Federal/Greek Revival-style farmhouse, originally located near what is now Big Bend and Grant roads, and moved it to its present location within Southwest Park for preservation purposes. It was home to Christopher Hawken, son and nephew of the gunsmiths who crafted the fabled Hawken rifle which is known as the “gun that settled the American West.”

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For additional information, contact Judy Seltzer, Manager, Hawken House Museum at 314-968-1857 or [hawkenhouse@att.net](mailto:hawkenhouse@att.net) Media also may contact Mary Hendron, Insight PR St. Louis at 314-962-6400 or [mary@insightrocks.com](mailto:mary@insightrocks.com).