



Lucetta Jeanette Solloway

(1865-1928)

Lucetta Solloway was born in New Hampshire, USA. She and her first husband, Harry Brown French, and their toddler daughter, Marion, came to Mission in 1893. A woman of strong convictions and principles, she soon became actively involved in the community.

She operated Albion House, one of the earliest local boarding houses, and played a leading role in many of the women's groups, including: the Agricultural and Arts Society of Mission, the local branch of Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), and the Mission City Women's Institute (WI). Through her zeal as a member of the WCTU, she received a miniature "saloon smashing hatchet", of which she was always very proud.

In 1915, the WI selected Lucetta to be a candidate in the upcoming elections for the school board and in February she became the "first lady" elected to public office in Mission.

As a school trustee, she became a strong advocate of the school gardens program which was an initiative of the Department of Education and Agriculture, and played a leading role in advancing the quality of education.

Lucetta was also an early proponent of women's rights. In 1916, she lead a successful movement to have a second woman elected to the school board and in the following year, was appointed a commissioner for taking affidavits when the franchise was first extended to women. She frequently hosted women's groups meetings in her home and appeared as a guest speaker on women's issues of her day.

Lucetta was one of Mission's most prominent and spirited early women pioneers.

Copyright © 1999 by Mission District Historical Society

All rights reserved. No part o this work covered by copyright may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the prior written permission from the Mission District Historical Society.

