

**Guide to the Oral History of
HIMSTEAD, DOROTHY (1895–1988)**

Biographical/Historical Notes

Dorothy Himstead was a Montgomery County Council Member. She was born in 1895 in Baltimore, Maryland and spent her childhood in Evanston, Illinois. She earned her Bachelor's degree at Northwestern University and pursued graduate studies abroad. Prior to coming to Montgomery County, Himstead and her husband, Ralph Himstead, lived in Mt. Vernon, Iowa and Syracuse, New York. In 1934, Himstead joined the League of Women Voters, which she remained active in after moving to Montgomery County a few years later. She served as President of the League of Women Voters from 1946 to 1948. As a resident of Montgomery County, Himstead was actively involved in the Charter Movement. In 1949, she was elected to the first County Council; she was the first woman in the State of Maryland to serve in such a role. During her tenure, she was instrumental in establishing the county public library system. In 1957, Himstead moved to Connecticut, where she became the editor of a local newspaper.

Interview – Interviewed June 30, 1972 by Blossom Holland for MBL.

Subject

Equal Rights Amendment
League of Women Voters
Montgomery County (Md.) – Charter Movement
Montgomery County (Md.) – County Council
Montgomery County (Md.) – Politics and Government
Montgomery County (Md.) – Public Libraries
Montgomery County Civic Federation
Women – Montgomery County politics

Subject Names

Lee, Frederick

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