

HISTORY WORKSHOP

The Department of History

Tuesdays ~ 12:30-1:30 pm ~ 203 Munroe Hall

Delaware's African American Suffragists in the Struggle for the Vote

Anne Boylan

University of Delaware

March 10, 2020

12:30-1:30 pm

203 Munroe Hall



Taking its inspiration from historian Rosalyn Terborg-Penn's 1998 book, *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*, this talk recounts the voting rights advocacy of Delaware's African American suffragists during the decades before and after the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920. In addition to providing a new account of Delaware's suffrage story, it offers a new perspective on the women's suffrage movement as a whole, particularly on the movement's racial and class politics.

Anne M. Boylan taught at the University of Delaware for 30 years before retiring in 2016. She is now Professor Emerita of History and Women and Gender Studies at UD. A social historian of the United States, she does research and writes on women's history, social and cultural history, voluntary associations, and religion. She is the author of scholarly articles and four books: *Sunday School: The Formation of An American Institution, 1790-1880* (Yale University Press 1988); *The Origins of Women's Activism: New York and Boston, 1797-1840* (University of North Carolina Press 2002); *Women's Rights in the United States: A History in Documents* (Oxford University Press 2016); and *Votes for Delaware Women* (forthcoming from the University of Delaware Press). Boylan has been the recipient of fellowships and grants from, among others, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. She was recently inducted into the Society of American Historians. She currently serves as the contract historian for the Congressional Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and state coordinator for the Delaware suffragists included in the online *Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States*. She is the guest curator for the UD Library's Special Collections exhibit "Votes for Delaware Women," February-June, 2020.