

The Artist

Artist Kate Gridley is a graduate of Philips Exeter Academy and Williams College, and has studied in Japan, Italy, and New York City. Known for her insights into human character, the quality of light in her work, and her painting technique, Gridley maintains a studio in Middlebury, Vermont, where she has lived and painted full time since 1991.

Gridley completed the official state portrait of the Honorable Governor Jim Douglas of Vermont in 2010, which hangs in the Vermont State House, and the official portrait of the Honorable William K. Sessions III in 2012, which hangs in the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, Washington D.C. Her exhibit "Passing Through: Portraits of Emerging Adults," 17 larger than life-sized painted portraits paired with sound portraits, is touring New England and will come to Exeter in September 2015. Gridley is excited by the prospect of bringing the remarkable Marilla Ricker to life for the NH State House.

Donations

Donations for the painting and installation of this portrait in the State House are tax deductible. The League of Women Voters NH Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization and will serve as the fiscal agent for this project. Donations should be mailed to

**LWVNH Education Fund
Ricker Portrait
4 Park St Suite 200
Concord NH 03301**

"Start the ball a'rolling" for Marilla Ricker

Nearly 100 years after the death of Marilla Marks Young Ricker, the time for public recognition of this remarkable New Hampshire native is long overdue.

Join with us to raise the needed funds to install a portrait of this remarkable suffragist, attorney, and would-be governor in the NH State House.

Marilla said she was doing what needed to be done "to start the ball a'rolling" for women's rights and an expanded role for women in government and law. Help us keep Marilla Ricker's legacy alive by contributing to the creation and installation of her portrait in the State House.

Send your tax-deductible donation now.

This is a joint project of the League of Women Voters New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Women's Bar Association, with the LWVNH Education Fund acting as the fiscal agent.



**Marilla Marks
Young Ricker**

1840-1920

Suffragist, Attorney, First Woman Candidate for New Hampshire Governor



Born in New Durham NH in 1840, Marilla Marks Young Ricker was the daughter of a religious mother and a free-thinker father. Marilla followed in her father's footsteps, challenging the status-quo. She married and was widowed in her twenties, but her husband's wealth allowed her the luxury of travel, study and work without consideration of expenses.

She studied law in Washington DC, passed the bar exam (with higher scores than the 17 male candidates) and was admitted to practice law there in 1882. In 1889 she petitioned the state of New Hampshire to allow her

to practice law. When she was denied, she brought suit and won, thus opening the NH Bar to women attorneys. The following year she was admitted to the US Supreme Court Bar, though she never did present a case before that august body. Instead Ricker's law practice was primarily pro-bono work on behalf of the indigent and incarcerated.

Marilla Ricker first attempted to vote in Dover NH in 1870, arguing that her willingness to pay her property taxes afforded her the right to vote as well. Using the "taxation without representation" argument didn't get her a ballot, but each year she continued to ask for one. She died in Dover in November 1920, just ten days after the first federal election in which women were entitled to vote thanks to passage of the 19th Amendment. (It is not clear whether she was well enough to actually cast a ballot in that election.)

Marilla Ricker also made history in 1910 when she tried to become the first woman to file for the Governor's office. She was denied filing papers because a candidate for governor must be a registered voter, and allowing her to file would be tantamount to admitting her right to register to vote. Ricker wrote, "I'm running for Governor in order to get people in the habit of thinking of women as Governors...People have to think about a thing for several centuries before they can get acclimated to the idea. I want to start the ball a'rolling."



The State House Portrait

In 2013, NH passed legislation authorizing the acquisition and installation of a portrait of Marilla Marks Young Ricker in the State House. Funds are to be raised privately (no state money was, nor will be, allocated). The League of Women Voters NH and the NH Women's Bar Association are working in partnership to raise the funds for this project. As we picture the NH fourth graders who tour the State House each year, we like to imagine the little girls looking at Marilla Ricker's portrait and asking, "What did that lady do?" Ah, what she did indeed!