Pacifist Julia Grace Wales and the National Peace Movement

See a lesson plan related to this material on the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

Letter


Dear Friend:

We believe that the settlement of international disputes by war is fundamentally wrong, nevertheless we recognize that in an unorganized world force is sometimes necessary. Therefore, since our government is in a state of war, we consider it to be the first and chief duty of every citizen to be loyal and effective, supporting with good will the sovereignty under the care of which he lives.

We recommend that every member of our organization ally herself with the Red Cross, which is an international society founded on the principles for which we stand. We counsel frugality and economy, and that all who can, volunteer for service in the community and in the nation.

We believe as our chairman, Jane Addams, says, "that the time to begin to work for peace is when war begins." To this end we suggest that we endeavor to keep a pacific attitude towards all persons even when their views differ from our own; that we oppose all measures that tend to fasten on our country permanent militarism; and that we cherish the hope that a lasting and just peace and a world federation may be the outcome of the present crisis.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.