

# The extension of suffrage

A virtual museum by  
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Welcome to the Suffrage Museum. Within this museum you will learn about some of the key figures in history who played a big part in helping with the suffrage and helped influence the voting system of today.



# Millicent Fawcett



Millicent Fawcett was born in 1847 and had a career writing and speaking about many subjects which included women's education and suffrage. She became the suffrage movement's leader after Lydia Becker (leader of the early British Suffrage Movement who moved the resolution that women should be given voting rights in the same way as men) died. She presided over a committee that eventually became the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) in 1897. Millicent campaigned for the legal profession to be opened to women and she became well known for speeches and lectures. She became involved in the Personal Rights Association, this was a group dedicated to protecting vulnerable women.

# Emmeline Pankhurst



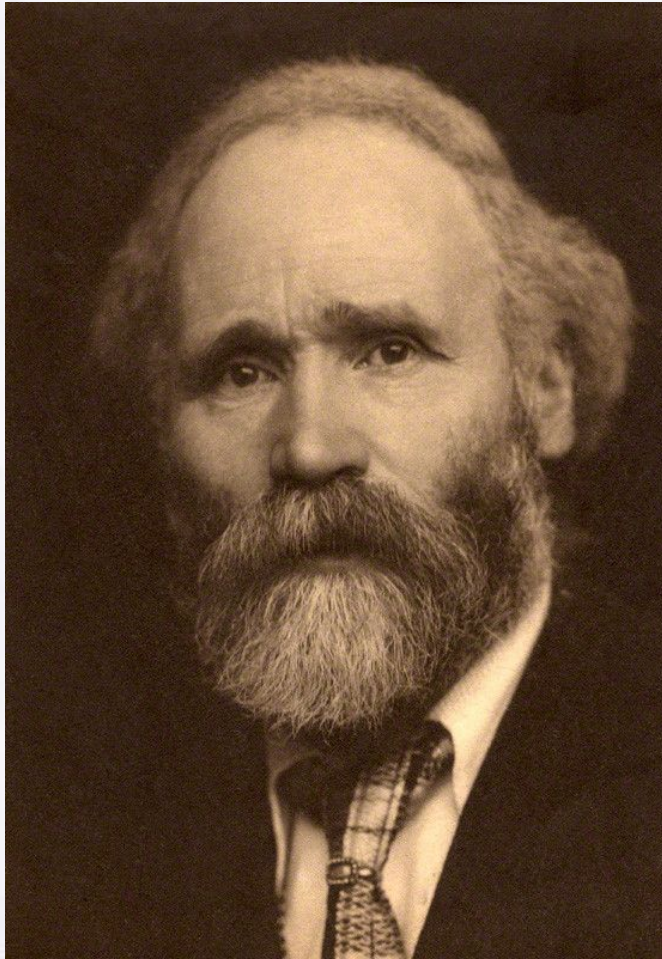
Emmeline Pankhurst was born in 1858 and both her parents were advocates of equal suffrage for men and women. In 1878, Emmeline began to work for the women's suffrage movement. When she was widowed, she began working as a registrar for births and deaths. This meant she learnt about many working-class women and she began to realise that if society was going to progress, women needed to move out of their subordinate position. In 1903, Emmeline founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The WSPU did carry out some militant campaigning which Emmeline was not involved in. She would travel all over the country and speak at many rallies for women's suffrage. When World War One began, the militant actions stopped and Emmeline and the WSPU supported the government and campaigned for women to participate in war work. She died in 1928 and the second Representation of the People Act became law in the same year.

# Christabel Pankhurst



Christabel Pankhurst was born in 1880. Her mother was Emmeline Pankhurst. Christabel became actively involved in the suffrage movement in 1902 and helped found the WSPU in 1903. She spoke in the beginning of the peaceful campaigning but began to feel confrontation would be necessary if women's suffrage was to be won. This resulted in the WSPU becoming militant and after 1912, arson and window breaking replaced the more peaceful campaigning. When World War One began all activities ended and instead the WSPU helped with the war work. Christabel was editor of The Suffragette newspaper and stood for election in 1918 as a candidate for the Women's Party. She died in 1958.

# Keir Hardie



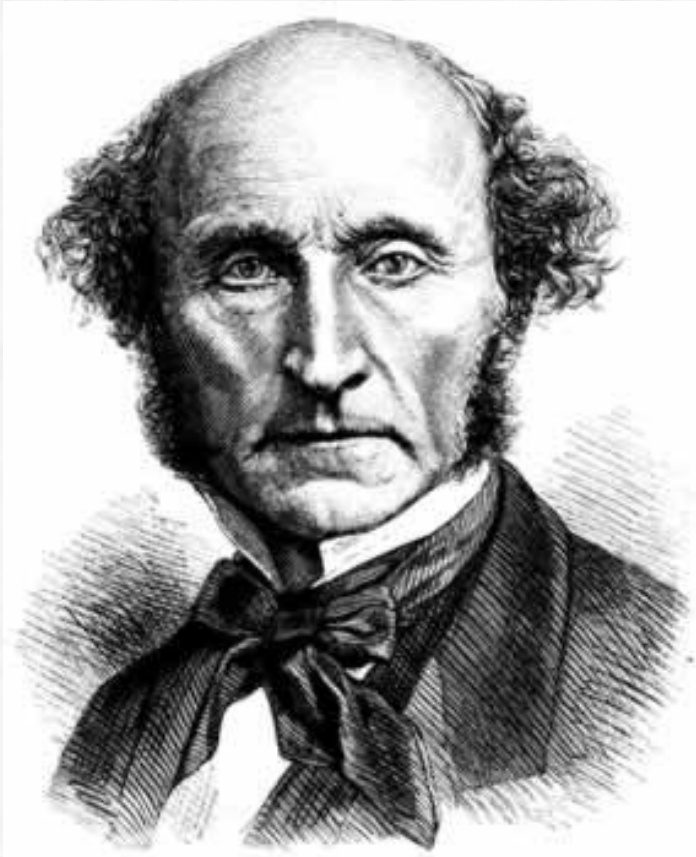
Keir Hardie was born in 1856 and started working in the mines at the age of 11. His early life led him to become a socialist and trade unionist and he founded the UK's Labour Party in 1900. From the early 1890's he advocated for women's right to vote. He openly supported the suffrage campaign and was a close friend of the Pankhurst family. Under the pseudonym Lily Bell, he wrote several articles about the position of women in society for the publication Labour Leader. He attended rallies and gave speeches at meetings and supported suffrage leaders until he died in 1915. In 1912, Labour became the first political party to incorporate female suffrage into their manifesto.

# William Cuffay



William Cuffay was a Chartist leader in early Victorian London in 1848. He was involved in planning the 1848 rally on Kennington Common, which attracted at least 20,000 participants, but it had to be abandoned. Cuffay was very frustrated by the lack of progress and allegedly began to plan a more violent protest. He was arrested along with several others, and sentenced to be transported to Tasmania. In 1856 Cuffay was pardoned and released from his punishment. He chose to stay in Tasmania. His wife joined him there and he worked as a tailor and continued to campaign for political rights for working people.

# John Stuart Mill



John Stuart Mill was born in 1806 and along with his wife Harriet, were dedicated campaigners for women's suffrage. He was a member of the Liberal Party and was the second member of Parliament to call for women's suffrage. He put together a petition asking for women's suffrage to be added to the new Reform Bill in 1866. When this was unsuccessful, he tried again two years later with a large petition holding more signatures (including Florence Nightingale's) but it still did not generate any change. However, this did lead to a new network of people campaigning to the government to give women the right to vote.



# End of my museum

Thank you for looking at my museum. As we can see from just looking at this small group of people, they played their part well in changing the laws to enable both men and women from all classes the right to give their vote.