



The extension of suffrage

A virtual museum by
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Welcome to my Extension Of Suffrage Museum!

Ready to travel back to a
monumental moment in British
history?

Then let's start travelling back
in time and learn about the
time when women fought for
the right to vote!



What was a suffragette?

A suffragette was a member of an activist women's organisations in the early 20th century who, under the banner "Votes for Women", fought for the right to vote in public elections, known as women's suffrage.

The term refers in particular to members of the British Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), a women-only movement founded in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst, which engaged in direct action and civil disobedience.



How the suffragettes used fashion to further their cause

Dress is a powerful form of communication. No-one knew this better than the media-savvy leadership of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The suffragettes wanted to avoid accusations of eccentricity or spinsterish masculinity. They recognised their best chance of winning the vote was to align themselves, at least outwardly, with Edwardian ideals of femininity, even if they were engaging in defiantly unladylike activities under the radar.

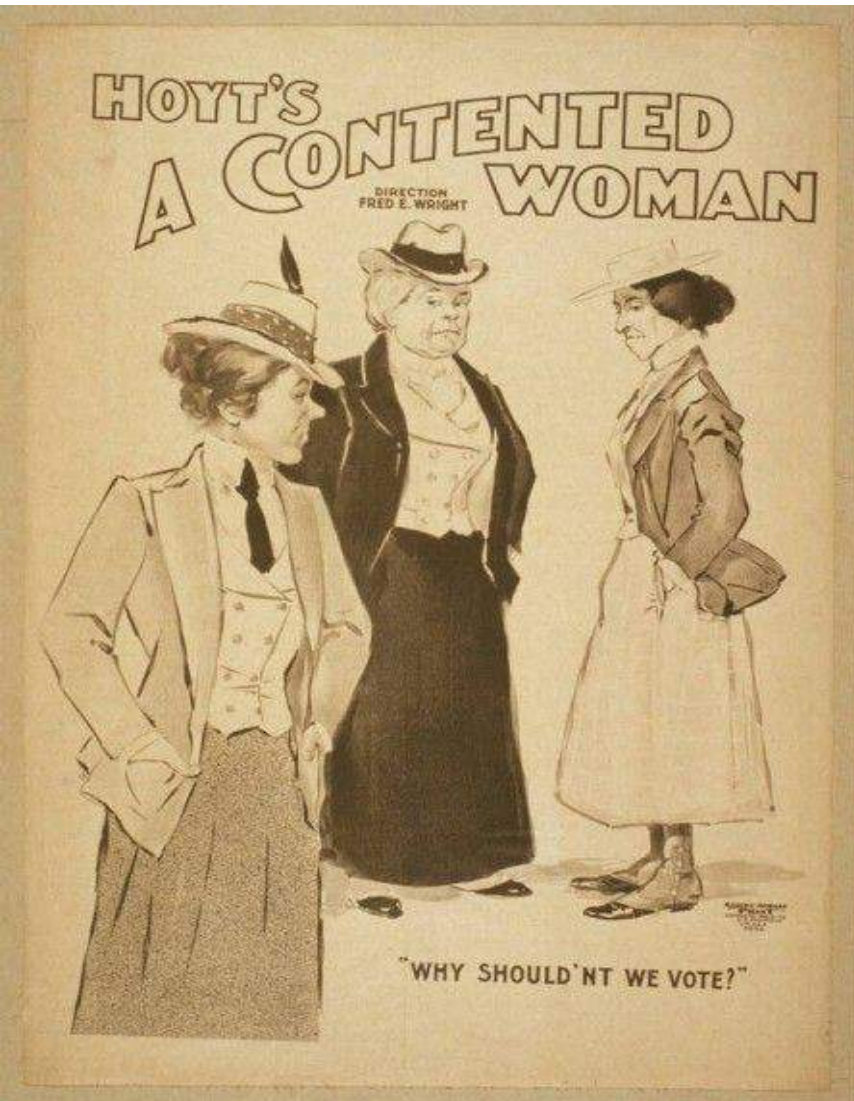
The WSPU was also canny enough to learn from the mistakes of previous generations. The fight for female emancipation had been going on for decades. In the 19th century, the drive for equality became closely associated with the dress reform movement, which sought to free women from the constriction of a Victorian silhouette, with its attendant corsetry and crinolines. The suffragettes deliberately chose conventional and classically feminine styles.



<https://youtu.be/YcBEywxurQA>

Getting Dressed in 1910s

London (click on this link to see the video)





Emmeline Pankhurst

(Emmeline Goulden; 15 July 1858 – 14 June 1928)

- ★ *Born in the Moss Side district of Manchester to politically active parents*
- ★ *British political activist*
- ★ *Introduced at the age of 14 to the **Women's Suffrage Movement**. She founded and became involved with the **Women's Franchise League**, which advocated suffrage for both married and unmarried women*
- ★ *Best remembered for organizing the UK suffragette movement and helping women win the right to vote.*



More information!

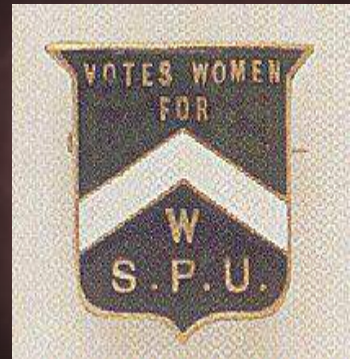
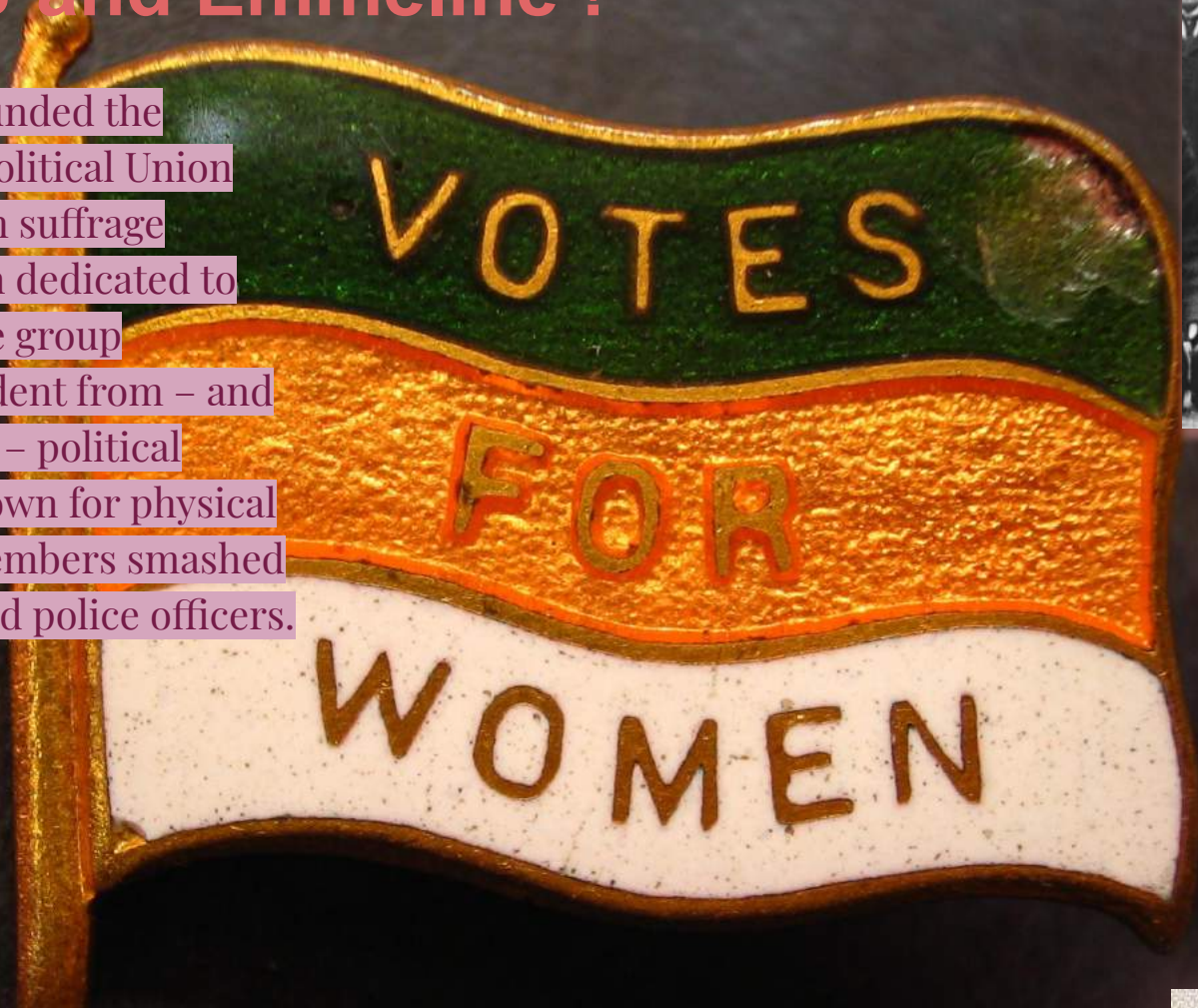
When the Women's Franchise League broke apart, she tried to join the left-leaning Independent Labour Party through her friendship with socialist Keir Hardie but was initially refused membership by the local branch on account of her sex. While working as a Poor Law Guardian, she was shocked at the harsh conditions she encountered in Manchester's workhouses.



The WSPU and Emmeline !

In 1903, Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), an all-women suffrage advocacy organisation dedicated to "deeds, not words". The group identified as independent from – and often in opposition to – political parties. It became known for physical confrontations: its members smashed windows and assaulted police officers.

Pankhurst, her daughters, and other WSPU activists received repeated prison sentences, where they staged hunger strikes to secure better conditions, and were often force-fed. As Pankhurst's eldest daughter Christabel took leadership of the WSPU, antagonism between the group and the government grew. Eventually the group adopted arson as a tactic, and more moderate organisations spoke out against the Pankhurst family.





★ When by 1903 women in Britain had not been enfranchised, Pankhurst decided that women had to "do the work ourselves"; the WSPU motto became "deeds, not words". The suffragettes heckled politicians, tried to storm parliament, were attacked and sexually assaulted during battles with the police, chained themselves to railings, smashed windows, set fire to postboxes and empty buildings, set bombs in order to damage churches and property, and faced anger and ridicule in the media. When imprisoned they went on hunger strike, to which the government responded by force-feeding them.

★ The first suffragette to be force fed was Evaline Hilda Burkitt.

★ The death of one suffragette, Emily Davison, when she ran in front of the king's horse at the 1913 Epsom Derby, made headlines around the world.

★ The WSPU campaign had varying levels of support from within the suffragette movement; breakaway groups formed, and within the WSPU itself not all members supported the direct action.

The Militants' March to Buckingham Palace Fully Illustrated.

The Daily Mirror

LATEST CERTIFIED CIRCULATION MORE THAN 340,000 COPIES PER DAY

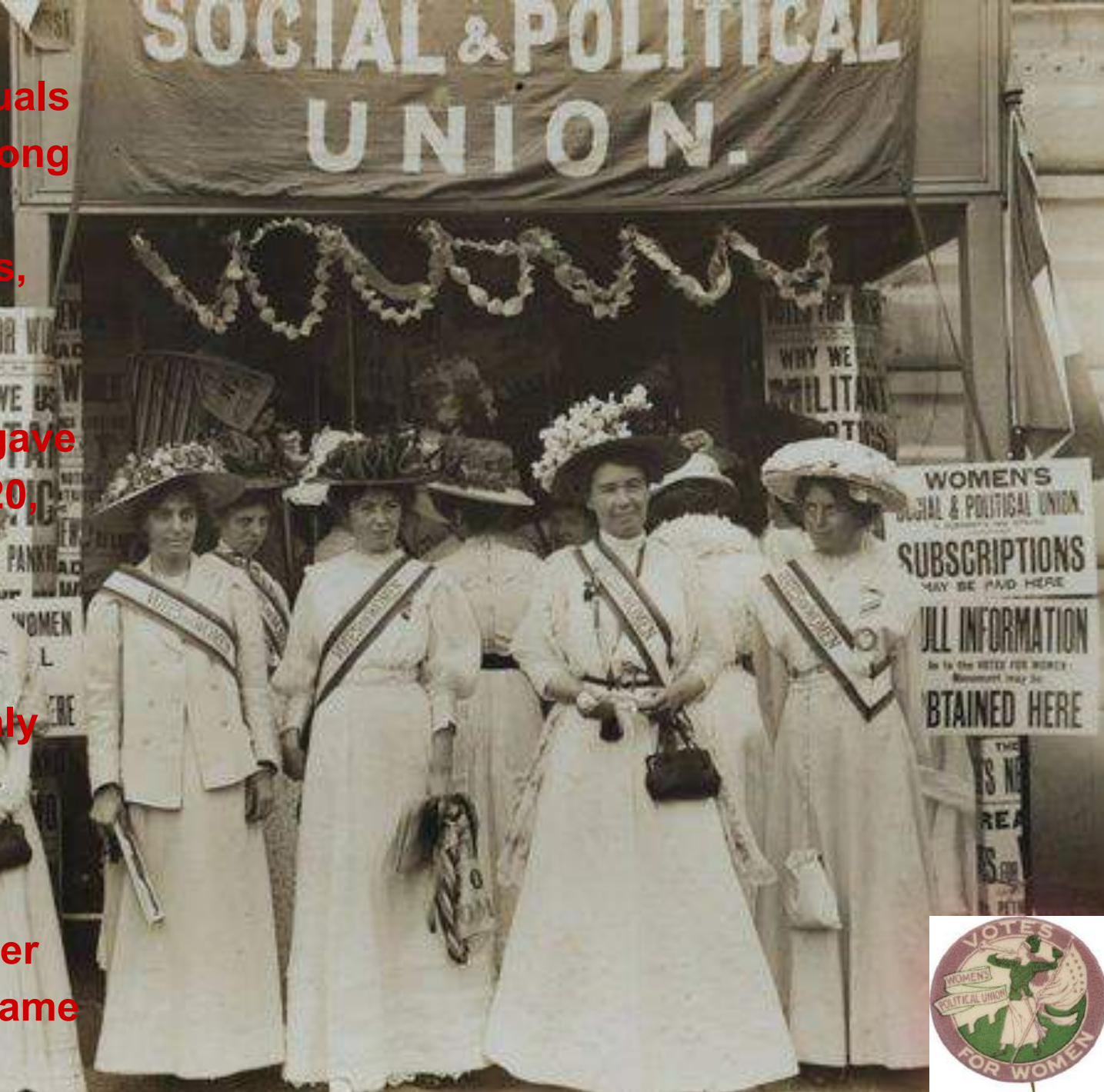
No. 1318 FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1911 One Shilling

MRS. PANKHURST ARRESTED AT THE GATES OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE IN TRYING TO PRESENT A PETITION TO THE KING.



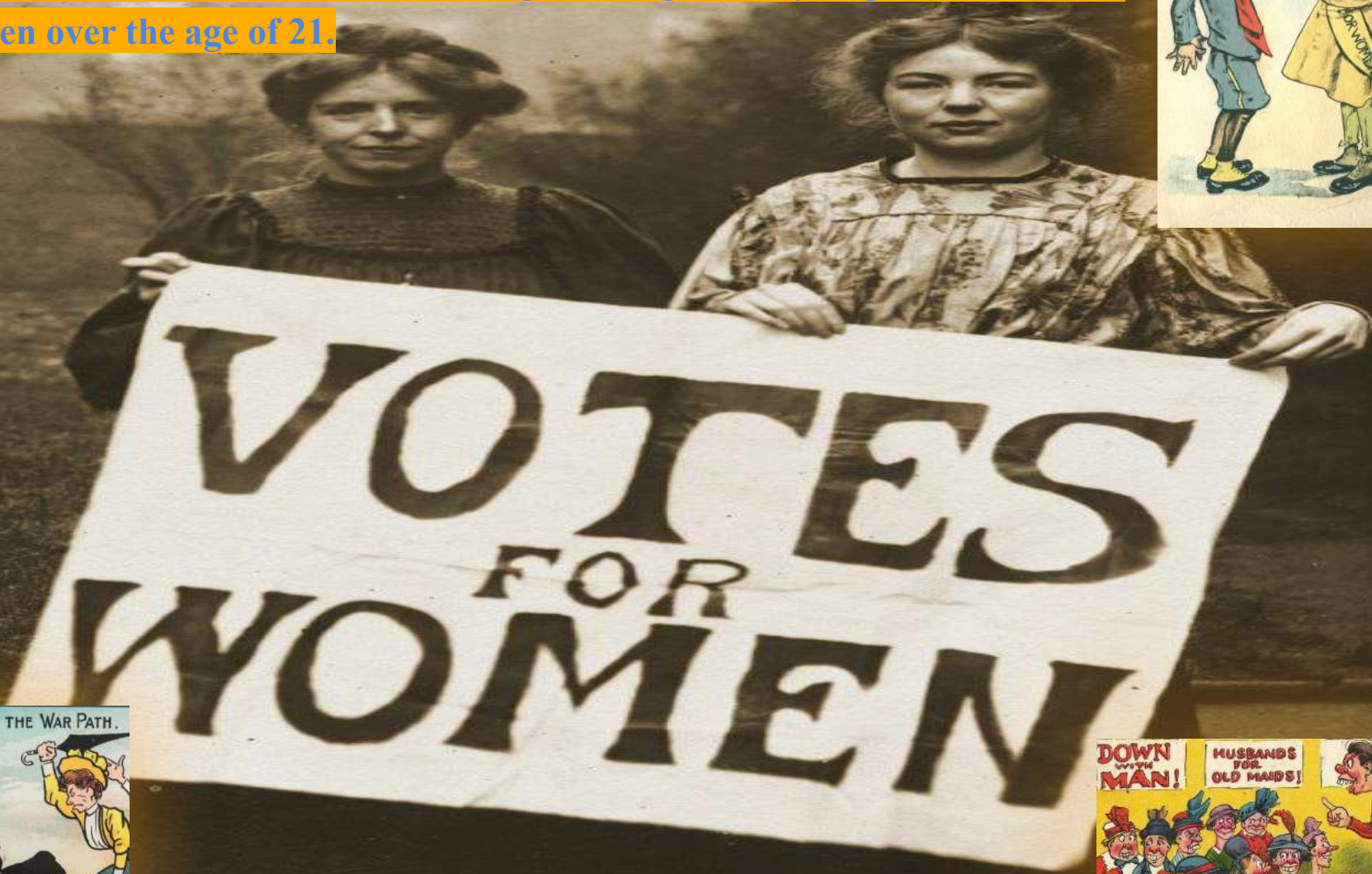
During the last week to break through the ranks of the police, who are armed and full of force. The women are running across the field, and the police are trying to stop them. The women are running across the field, and the police are trying to stop them. The women are running across the field, and the police are trying to stop them.

In 1913 several prominent individuals left the WSPU, among them Pankhurst's younger daughters, Adela and Sylvia. Emmeline was so furious that she "gave [Adela] a ticket, £20, and a letter of introduction to a suffragette in Australia, and firmly insisted that she emigrate". Adela complied and the family rift was never healed. Sylvia became a socialist.



Women had won the right to vote in several countries by the end of the 19th century

1893, New Zealand became the first self-governing country to grant the vote to all women over the age of 21.

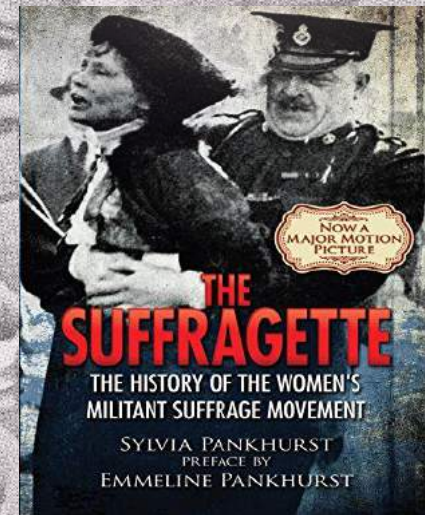




Emmeline Pankhurst



1999, *Time* named her as one of the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century, stating that "she shaped an idea of women for our time" and "shook society into a new pattern from which there could be no going back". She was widely criticised for her militant tactics, and historians disagree about their effectiveness, but her work is recognised as a crucial element in achieving women's suffrage in the United Kingdom.



The Guardian

"A FEARLESS INDOMITABLE
WOMANHOOD
A FEARLESS INDOMITABLE
RACE."

WILLIAM ROONEY.

The most famous
suffragette of all time
were...



★ Christabel Pankhurst
★ Emily Davison
★ Constance Markievicz

★ Constance Lytton
★ Millicent Fawcett
★ Ethel Smyth

Christabel Pankhurst



Daughter of Emmeline, Christabel was nicknamed **"The Queen of the Mob"**.

She directed the WSPU's most aggressive activities and also edited the movement's newspaper *The Suffragette*.

Emily Davison

A black and white portrait of Emily Davison. She is wearing a wide-brimmed hat with a dark band and a small circular emblem. Her hair is styled in a bob. She is wearing a dark, high-collared coat with several medals pinned to her left breast. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

Renowned for giving her life for the suffrage movement, Emily Wilding Davison was fatally wounded when she stepped in front of the King's horse at the 1913 Epsom Derby.

We've also uncovered her hiding in Parliament's crypt in the 1911 census.

https://youtu.be/8qkU_imbFoE

Click on the link to watch the video!



Constance Lytton

Lady Constance Lytton was the daughter of Viceroy Robert Bulwer-Lytton but refused to use her privileged background as a means for special treatment when she was arrested. In fact, she often disguised herself as Jane Warton, an 'ugly London seamstress', to avoid any benefits her family connections might bring.

Millicent Fawcett

A moderate suffragist rather than a militant suffragette, Millicent Fawcett concentrated much of her efforts on improving women's education.

Nonetheless, she was instrumental in winning the women's vote, an accolade that has made her the first woman to have a statue in London's Parliament Square.





THE SUFFRAGETTE THAT KNEW JIU-JITSU.

THE ARREST.

Ethel Smyth



Dame Ethel Mary Smyth attained prominence as one of the most accomplished female composers in a male dominated environment, and as one of the main representatives of the suffragette movement.

From 1911 to 1913 Smyth was closely involved with the English suffragette movement. One of her compositions, *The March of Women*, was adopted as the anthem to The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU).

She was one of more than 100 feminists arrested for breaking windows in March 1912, for which she served two months in Holloway Prison. When her friend Thomas Beecham paid her a visit, he found her directing a memorable performance of *The March of the Women*, sung by fellow suffragettes.

Leonora Cohen



Emmeline Pankhurst's personal bodyguard, Leonora Cohen gained the moniker "Tower Suffragette" when she smashed the display case for the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. Cohen lived until she was 105 and contributed to the second wave of feminism in the 1970s.



Constance Markievicz



Countess Constance Markievicz was an Irish nationalist who followed her sister Eva Gore-Booth into the suffrage movement. She played a prominent role in ensuring Winston Churchill was defeated in a Manchester by-election in 1908 and went on to be a leading figure in the Irish rebellion of 1916.

Markievicz blazed a trail for women in politics. She was the first ever woman elected to the British House of Commons (although she refused to take her seat) and the second woman in the world to hold a cabinet position as Minister for Labour in the Irish government.

From that moment on women have the right to vote thanks to all these brave ladies! Some of them lost their lives for us so let's be grateful and use our right to VOTE!



