

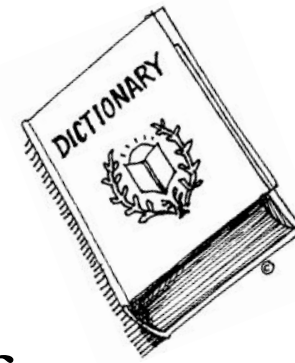
THE PEOPLES' SUFFRAGE: VIRTUAL MUSEUM

By Grace West, 7Z.



Definitions

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- Women's Suffrage:

Some supported women's suffrage. This meant arguing that women should be granted the vote on the same terms as men. Before 1918, however, this meant that a property qualification would be applied to them in the same way as men, meaning that only women who owned a certain amount of property would be able to vote. Under this system, a lot of working women would still be unable to vote.

- Adult Suffrage:

Others supported adult suffrage. This meant arguing that all adults, men and women, should be given the vote without any property qualifications. Working-class campaigners argued that this would be fairer, as otherwise only wealthy men and women would have a voice. However, many worried that this would be much harder to achieve.

August 16th, 1819. Peterloo.



The events of 16th August 1819 were in newspapers across the country. Many were horrified. You wonder why, eh? Well. On this notable day in history, people from all over England gathered in Saint Peter's Field, Manchester to peacefully protest about having rights. They were all extremely excited, because a very famous speaker, named Henry Hunt, was coming to this very city to speak to the citizens about why they should have the right to vote. At the start of the day, everybody was very excited. But, this deadly day soon started fading from good to bad. The magistrates had ordered the yeomanry come and break up the protest, since they suspected the protestors may start getting violent.

A fight broke out.

Many people fled from the crowds, bonnets and coats flying off. Children got separated from their parents and wives' from husbands. They were fledging because the yeomanry had arrived on horseback, the blades of their swords sharpened. They were ordered to disrupt the crowd. Many people fled from the scene by hiding in basements, and exiting through short alleyways. As a result of this, Henry Hunt was sentenced to two and a half years in prison and 15 people died that day, many injured.



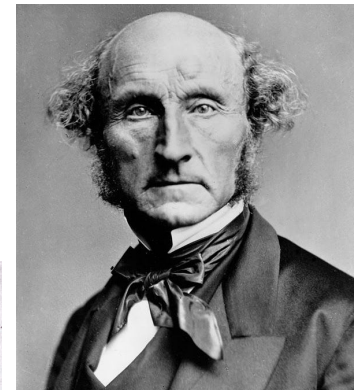
First Women's' Campaign

In 1851, in the Westminster Review, Harriett Taylor Mill wrote (anonymously) an essay called 'The Enfranchisement of Women'. She argued that women who paid taxes should be represented. She wrote that Britain could not celebrate its success in some areas, such as banning slavery in the British Empire, whilst one half of the population was still under the control of the other. Her ideas were very radical as she emphasised that women should have equality in all areas of life, but that this could not happen unless they could vote. Her husband, John Stuart Mill, was an MP. Mill worked with the Langham Place Group to put together a petition asking for women's suffrage to be added to the Bill. They managed to collect 1,521 names in two weeks. When Mill presented his petition during the debate, however, it was met with laughter from the male MPs.

In 1868, Mill tried again, this time with a larger petition containing more signatures, including Florence Nightingale's, and, though it wasn't laughed at this time, it still had little

Campaigners: Notable Women.

- Harriet Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill;
- The Langham Place Group
- Lydia Becker and the Manchester Suffrage Society





Later Womens' Campaigns.



- In 1867 and 1884, Parliament passed two Acts, extending the franchise to larger numbers of men expanding the number of men who could vote. Women were not included in either of these petitions.

- Millicent Fawcett was born in 1846 to a wealthy, middle-class family. She was the sister of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. When she was 19 years old, she heard a speech by John Stuart Mill, which made a big impression on her. She became actively involved in his campaign.

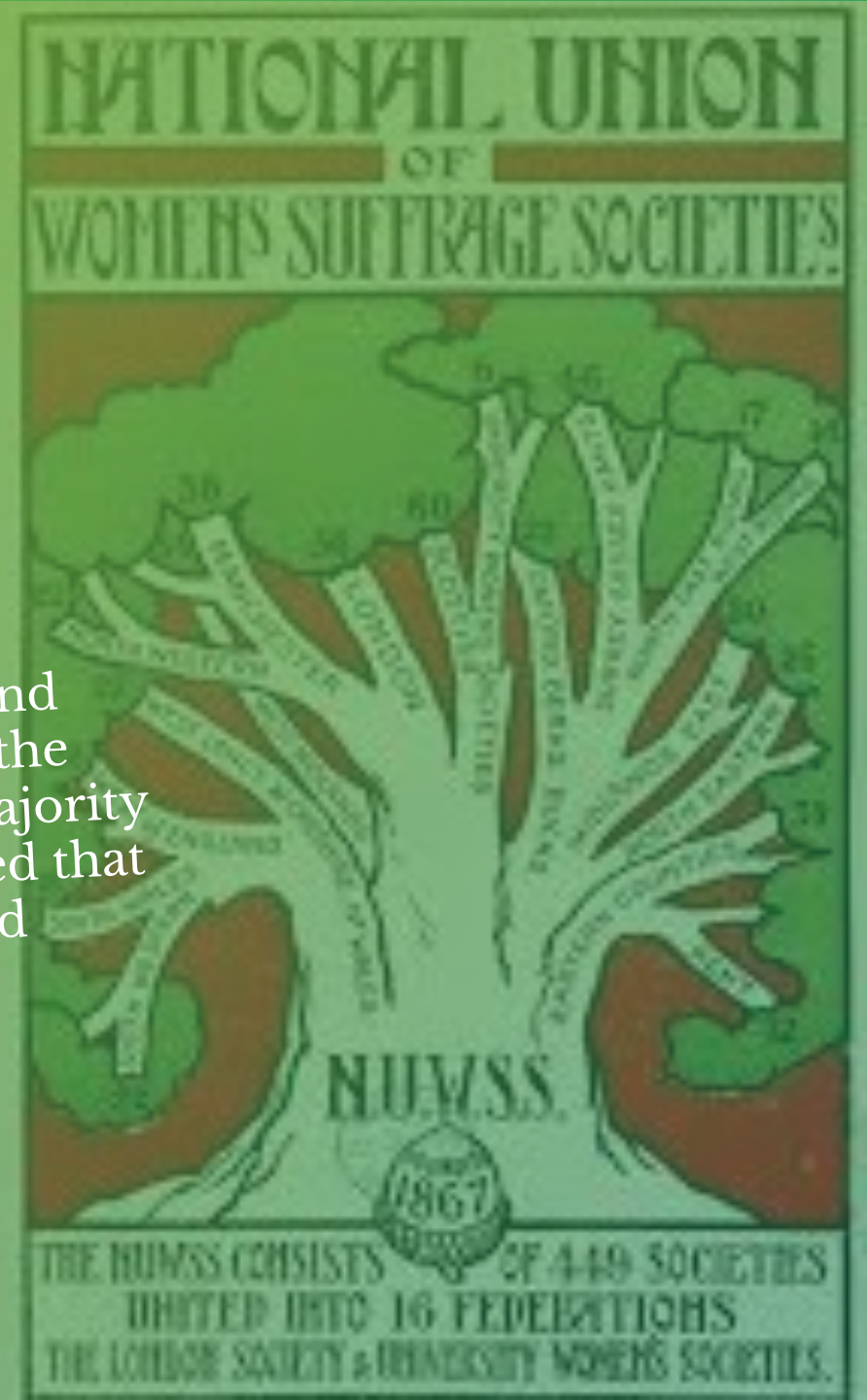
- Millicent became well known as a speaker and lecturer. She supported women's education and in 1870 she played a key role in the founding of Newnham College, Cambridge. She became involved in the Personal Rights Association. This was a group dedicated to protecting vulnerable women. In 1890, she was elected President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) which was the largest group campaigning for women to receive the vote.

PERSONAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION & NUWSS



MILLCENT BECAME INVOLVED IN THE PERSONAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION. THIS WAS A GROUP DEDICATED TO PROTECTING VULNERABLE WOMEN. IN 1890, SHE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES (NUWSS) WHICH WAS THE LARGEST GROUP CAMPAIGNING FOR WOMEN TO RECEIVE THE VOTE. THE NUWSS HAD LINKS TO THE EARLIER LANGHAM PLACE GROUP. IT WAS INITIALLY DOMINATED BY MIDDLE-CLASS WOMEN WHO HAD BEGUN TO MAKE ADVANCES AT THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. LEADING MEMBERS INCLUDED ELIZABETH GARETT ANDERSON AND EMILY DAVIES, WHO HAD WORKED ON GETTING WOMEN INTO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

The NUWSS campaigned through peaceful protest and persuasion. They were known as suffragists. By 1914, the NUWSS had approximately 54,000 members, the majority being middle class, respectable citizens. They believed that continuing with peaceful tactics, such as petitions and debates in Parliament, would gradually persuade the government that women deserved the vote.



The Suffragettes



MANY PEOPLE KNOW OF THE SUFFRAGETTES. THEY WERE PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHTS FOR WOMEN TO VOTE. THEIR NAME WAS THE WSPU – LEADER EMMELINE PANKHURST. MS. PANKHURST WAS A WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST. SHE FOUNDED THE WSPU IN 1903, AN ALL-WOMEN SUFFRAGE ADVOCACY ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO "DEEDS, NOT WORDS". THE SUFFRAGETTES GOT UP TO ALL KINDS OF TRICKS. THEY THREW BRICKS AND STONES AT THE WINDOWS OF 10 DOWNING STREET. WHEN THEY GOT ARRESTED FOR THEIR CRIMES, THESE WOMEN REFUSED TO EAT UNLESS THEY GOT THE RIGHT TO VOTE. THIS WAS WHEN FORCE FEEDING WAS INTRODUCED.



THERE ARE MANY VIDEOS AND FILMS ABOUT THE SUFFRAGETTES. IN MARY POPPINS, (1964), MRS BANKS WAS A SUFFRAGETTE. BY 1964, HOWEVER, WOMEN WERE GRANTED SOME RIGHTS OF VOTING.



THE MAIN PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT FOR THESE RIGHTS WERE EMMELINE PANKHURST, MILLICENT FAWCET, SYLVIA PANKHURST, CHRISTABEL PANKHURST, AND EDITH GARRUD.



THEIR HARD WORK PAYED OFF, BECAUSE BY 1918, (AFTER THE 1ST WORLD WAR), WOMEN WERE PARTIALLY ALLOWED TO VOTE. BY 1928, HOWEVER, WOMEN WERE FULLY ALLOWED TO VOTE.





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