

Suffrage Timeline

By Smith Goodfellow

Suffrage societies formed

MP John Stuart Mill presented a petition for women's suffrage in the House of Commons. It failed but gave good reason for Edinburgh, London and Manchester to start suffrage societies.



Isle of Man give all women the vote

In 1881, Tynwald (parliament for the Isle of Man) became the first national parliament to give women the vote in a general election.

Emmeline Pankhurst set up the WSPU

1903 was the turning point for women as this was the year, frustrated, Emmeline Pankhurst set up the Women's Social and Political Union or WSPU. She did so with her daughters Christabel and Sylvia in Manchester. Members of Emmeline's militant movement were first the first to be called 'Suffragettes'.



NUWSS: Mud March

NUWSS organised a March in London which more than 3,000 took part, the weather was so bad it later got titled the Mud March. A year later 300,000 to 500,000 activists attended a mass rally in Hyde Park to gain the attention of the then Liberal Prime Minister Herbert Asquith.

Davison disrupts Epsom Derby

A Suffragette by the name of Emily Wilding Davison was arrested nine times and force-fed 49 times, she stepped out in front of the King's speeding horse Anmer trying to attach a WSPU banner to its bridle. Four days later she died from a fractured skull and other internal injuries. Thousands of women and tens of thousands lined the streets of London to pay their respects as her coffin passed by.

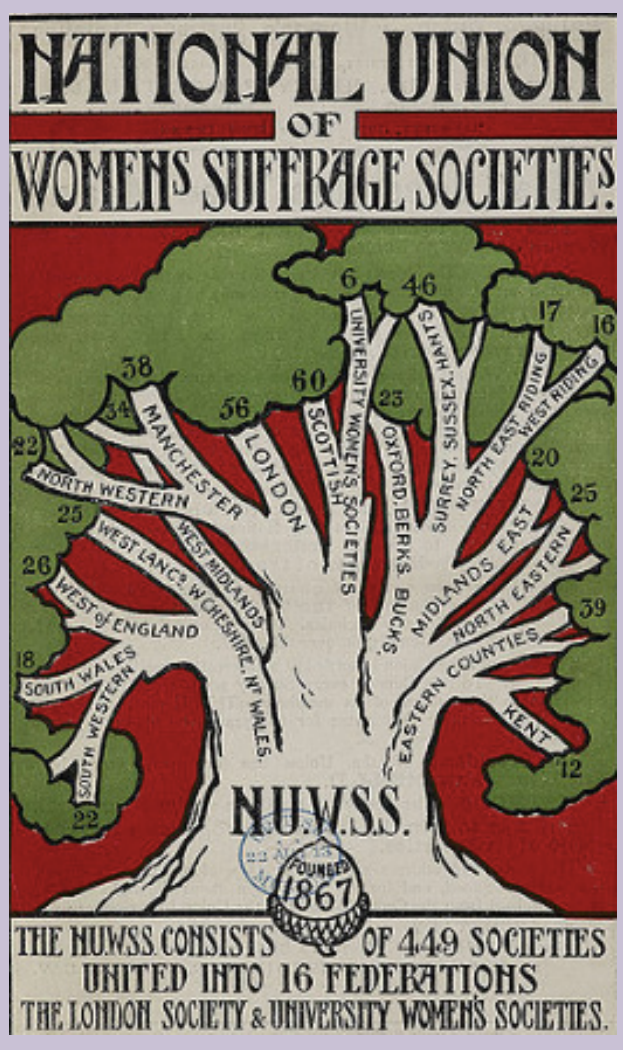


Victory: Some Women Get the Vote

It's in 1918 when change started with the passing of the Peoples Act which allowed men over 21 and women over 30 to vote. Just a year later Nancy Astor the first female MP walked into the Commons and in 1928 everyone above the age of 21 was given the right to vote.

First petition

Henry Hunt MP presented the first women's suffrage petition from a woman, Mary Smith, to Parliament.



NSWS is formed

A second petition is put to the Commons by Mill, but this once again fails. Following this The National Society for Women's Suffrage is formed.

NUWSS formed by Fawcett

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies or NUWSS was formed with more than 20 national societies in support.



Votes for Women becomes a slogan

Just two years later in 1905 Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney are arrested for disrupting a meeting of the Liberal Party. When they shouted 'Votes for Women' as the speakers were on stage addressing the party. Christabel refused to pay the fine and was imprisoned.

Hunger Strikes

1909 marked the start of those members of the WSPU who were informed to go on the hunger strikes, in a non-violent protest of being treated as criminals rather than political prisoners. They later introduce the Cat & Mouse Act which releases strikers until they become healthy.

War postpones campaigning

In 1914 Suffragettes try to force their way into Buckingham Palace to petition the king but was stopped. The First World War began in August and all Suffrage prisoners are set free and radical campaigning stops. The WSPU and Pankhurst's family urge women to join the war effort.



1832

1866

1867

1881

1897

1903

1905

1907

1909

1913

1914

1918