

# OXFORD SUFFRAGE WOMEN

Kathleen Courtney  
Emily Wilding Davison  
Helena Deneke  
Grace Hadow  
Margaret Haig Thomas  
Winifred Haverfield  
Eleanor Lodge  
Hilda Lorimer  
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Jessie Payne Margoliouth  
Clara Evelyn Mordan  
Eleanor Rathbone  
Myfanwy & Olwen Rhys  
Margaret Robertson  
Annie Rogers  
Maude Royden

## Kathleen Courtney



(1878-1974)

Kathleen Courtney read Modern Languages at Lady Margaret Hall (1897-1900) and retained a connection with Oxford through her friendship with Maude Royden and her involvement in the Oxford Women's Suffrage Society (OWSS).

She also served as secretary of the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage and honorary secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). She was only one of three British delegates who attended the international peace conference at The Hague in 1915, and remained an active internationalist.

Courtney was one of the founders of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, serving as its chair for ten years.

## Emily Wilding Davison



(1872-1913)

Emily Wilding Davison studied at Royal Holloway College and St Hugh's Hall. She achieved first-class honours in English in the Oxford University exam for women, but could not graduate as Oxford degrees were closed to women.

She worked as a teacher and governess and became one of the most active members of the militant Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU).

She was involved in many forms of militancy for which she was imprisoned and force fed a number of times, but she is best known for the manner of her death at the Epsom Derby in 1913, where she was fatally injured by the King's horse.

Her funeral served as a powerful and mobilising representation of the suffrage movement and cemented her reputation as a suffrage martyr.

## Helena Deneke

(1878-1973)

Helena Deneke studied at St Hugh's Hall and was placed in the first class of the English language and literature honour school in 1903. She subsequently served as librarian and tutor in German at St Hugh's before taking up the posts of bursar and tutor in German at Lady Margaret Hall in 1913.

Deneke was a committed suffragist, becoming very active in the Oxford Women Students' Society for Women's Suffrage (OWSSWS). In 1913 she joined the Suffrage Pilgrimage, processing with many other Oxford students and dons from Summertown into the city centre.



(1895-1940)

Hadow was a committed campaigner for women's education and citizenship rights as well as an English scholar. She left Somerville in 1903 with first-class honours in English language and literature, and subsequently taught at Bryn Mawr and at Lady Margaret Hall.

She served as president of the OWSSWS, secretary of the Cirencester branch of the NUWSS and remained active in a number of other suffrage and feminist societies throughout her life. Hadow became Principal of the Society of Oxford Home-Students in 1929 (later St Anne's College).

## Grace Hadow



## Margaret Haig Thomas

(Viscountess Rhondda 1883-1958)  
Thomas studied history at Somerville before becoming an active supporter of the WSPU, and spearheading its Welsh campaign.

She remained committed to feminism for the rest of her life through her work in business, the Women's Industrial League, the Six Point Group, *Time and Tide*, a feminist magazine, and her own campaign to take her seat in the House of Lords.



(1879-1920)  
Haverfield read Maths at Somerville (1900-1903) and subsequently became a tutor at St Hugh's. She was a very active member of the OWSS, serving as secretary from 1913, as well as supporting the OWSSWS.

She hosted many OWSS meetings at Winshields, the home she shared with her suffragist husband, Francis Haverfield, Camden Professor of Ancient History.

## Winifred Haverfield



## Eleanor Lodge

(1869-1936)

Lodge read history at Lady Margaret Hall and subsequently became the College's librarian, vice-principal and history tutor (1899-1921). She was active in the campaign to persuade Oxford to grant degrees to women and was the first woman to obtain the degree of DLitt from the university in 1928.

She was an OWSS member from 1906 and, according to Helena Deneke, carried the banner of the OWSSWS during the 1913 Pilgrimage.

(Second from left, wearing a hat)



(1873-1954)

Educated at Girton College, Lorimer was appointed Fellow and Tutor in Classics at Somerville in 1896, where she spent the rest of her career.

She served on the committee of the OWSS and marched with Oxford suffrage pilgrims in 1913 before becoming actively involved with the Scottish Women's Hospital Service during the First World War.

## Hilda Lorimer



## Agnes Maitland

(1849-1906)

A women's education campaigner and author, Agnes Maitland was appointed Principal of Somerville Hall in 1889. As a committed suffragist, she allowed the Oxford Women's Suffrage Society to hold its first public meeting at Somerville and remained active in the Society.

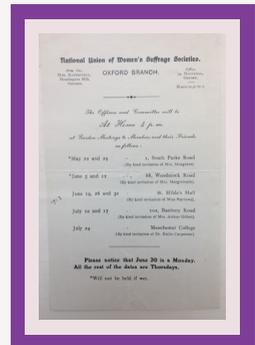


(1856-1933)

Margoliouth was a Syriac scholar and a founder member of the Oxford Women's Suffrage Society. The OWSS was launched from the home she shared with her suffragist husband, Prof. David Margoliouth, and 88 Woodstock Rd remained central to the Oxford movement.

Both were active in the Church League for Women's Suffrage and served on the executive committee of the OWSS. Jessie Margoliouth was a frequent suffrage speaker and chaired the OWSS from 1904-16.

## Jessie Payne Margoliouth



## Clara Evelyn Mordan



(1844-1915)

Despite having little formal education herself, Clara Evelyn Mordan became a major supporter of women's university education after reading a paper on the subject by Annie Rogers.

The endowment of a scholarship and her subsequent bequest to St Hugh's made her the most important female benefactor of women's education in the period.

A committed suffragette, she also contributed generously to the WSPU, helping to fund their large demonstrations and campaigns.

Mordan was also active in the Church League for Women's Suffrage and served on the executive committee of the Central Society for Women's Suffrage.

## Eleanor Rathbone



(1872-1946)

Eleanor Rathbone was a leading suffragist, social investigator and welfare activist.

A Somervillian (1893-96), she served on the executive of the NUWSS from 1896, and along with several Oxford graduates supported the establishment of a University League for Promoting the Political Education of Women which would train women to organise for citizenship and suffrage.

Rathbone became a city councillor in Liverpool in 1909, succeeded Millicent Fawcett as president of the (renamed) National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in 1919, was an independent MP from 1929 and was a pioneer of family allowances.

## Myfanwy & Olwen Rhys

The Rhys family was one of the most important and active in Oxford Liberal, women's education and suffrage circles.

OWSS meetings were frequently held in the Lodgings at Jesus College, where the suffragist Prof. John Rhys was Principal. Myfanwy and Olwen Rhys were educated at Cambridge and Oxford respectively, and both taught at various women's colleges as well as being active suffragists.

Myfanwy was the first president of the OWSS and in common with her parents, served in a number of roles within the organisation. She was one of the delegation who carried the OWSS banner to London in 1908, and presented a bouquet of irises to Millicent Fawcett at the Albert Hall.



Olwen Rhys is the first on the left in the back row, sitting in the chair.

## Margaret Robertson

(1882-1967)

A student at Somerville, Robertson left Oxford with first class honours in 1904, before becoming a teacher and a suffrage activist.

She was a permanent organiser for the NUWSS and a prolific public speaker for feminist, socialist and peace causes before becoming a local councillor.



(1856-1937)

Rogers was one of the leading lights of the women's education movement in Oxford, an early woman scholar and the University's first woman don.

She was secretary of the Society of Oxford Home-Students (later St Anne's College) and taught Classics at St Hugh's. Brought up in a liberal family, she was a member of the Women's Emancipation Union and the Oxford Women's Suffrage Society.

## Annie Rogers



## Maude Royden

(1876-1956)

A student at Lady Margaret Hall and later a teacher on the university's extension movement, Maude Royden became active in both the OWSS and the OWSSWS.

She subsequently served on the executive committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and was the editor of *Common Cause* from 1912-14 as well as a secretary of the Church League for Women's Suffrage.



She broke with Millicent Fawcett over her support for the war effort, joining instead with pacifist Christians to oppose it. Active in social and pacifist organisations, she became Britain's most prominent campaigner for the ordination of women.

## Further reading:

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# VOTES FOR WOMEN 1918~2018



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