

MISSOURI SUFFRAGE AND STATECRAFT LEADERS: 1900s-1920s



Florence Wyman Richardson (1855-1920)

Born in St. Louis, Florence Wyman became active in the women's suffrage movement as a teenager. In 1882 she joined the Woman Suffrage Association of Missouri, founded by Virginia Minor in 1867. In 1910 Richardson co-founded the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis and served as the group's first president. (Image courtesy of Missouri History Museum.)

Emily Newell Blair (1877-1951)

Born in Joplin, Missouri, Emily Newell Blair attended the University of Missouri after graduating from Carthage Senior High School in 1894. In 1914 she became publicity chair for the Missouri Equal Suffrage Association and the first editor of its monthly publication, *Missouri Woman*. Blair actively worked to elect women to public office as National Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic Party from 1922 to 1928. (Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.)



Edna Fischel Gellhorn (1878-1970)

Born in St. Louis, Edna Gellhorn was former president of the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League, twice president of the Missouri Woman Suffrage Association, and first vice-president of the League of Women Voters formed in 1920. Gellhorn was instrumental in organizing the 1916 Golden Lane in St. Louis and the 1920 registration rally and parade in St. Louis. (Image courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri.)



Helen Guthrie Miller (1861-1949)

As chairman of the Pure food Commission in Missouri, Helen Guthrie Miller completed work at the University of Missouri alongside her husband, MU professor Walter McNab Miller. Twice president of the Missouri Woman Suffrage Association, Helen Guthrie Miller helped form the Columbia Equal Suffrage League and became vice-president of the National Woman Suffrage Association under Carrie Chapman Catt. (Image courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri.)



Kate Richards O'Hare (1876-1948)

Growing up in Kansas City slums strongly influenced Kate Richards's future activism and decision to join the Socialist Party and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. An outspoken suffragist, O'Hare was one of the first women to run for Congress in 1910 and 1916. She was also an editor of the *National Rip-Saw*, a major socialist publication in St. Louis, which she used to promote many causes including women's suffrage. (Image courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri.)



Barbara Blackman O'Neil (1880-1963)

Born in St. Louis, Barbara Blackman attended Washington University Art School. As the second President of the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League (1912-16), O'Neil staged a voting tableau as part of the Golden Lane during the 1916 National Democratic Convention in St. Louis. In 1919 she became the first woman appointed National Democratic Committeewoman for Missouri. (Image courtesy of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)



Phoebe Jane Ess (1850-1934)

Regarded as one of Kansas City's most influential leaders, Phoebe Ess was an outspoken suffragist and a dean of Missouri women's clubs. Ess was the first president of the Kansas City Woman Suffrage Association (1911). She travelled to many women's clubs throughout the state to promote support for the 19th Amendment. Owing largely to her efforts, Jackson County was one of the first Missouri counties to adopt women's suffrage. (Image courtesy of Jackson County Historical Society.)



Luella Wilcox St. Clair Moss (1865-1947)

A founding member of the Columbia Equal Suffrage League, Luella St. Clair was former President of Christian Female College (now Columbia College), one of the first female university presidents in the country. In 1922 she became President of Columbia's League of Women Voters. That same year, she won the democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first female candidate from Missouri to be nominated for national office. (Image courtesy of Columbia College.)

