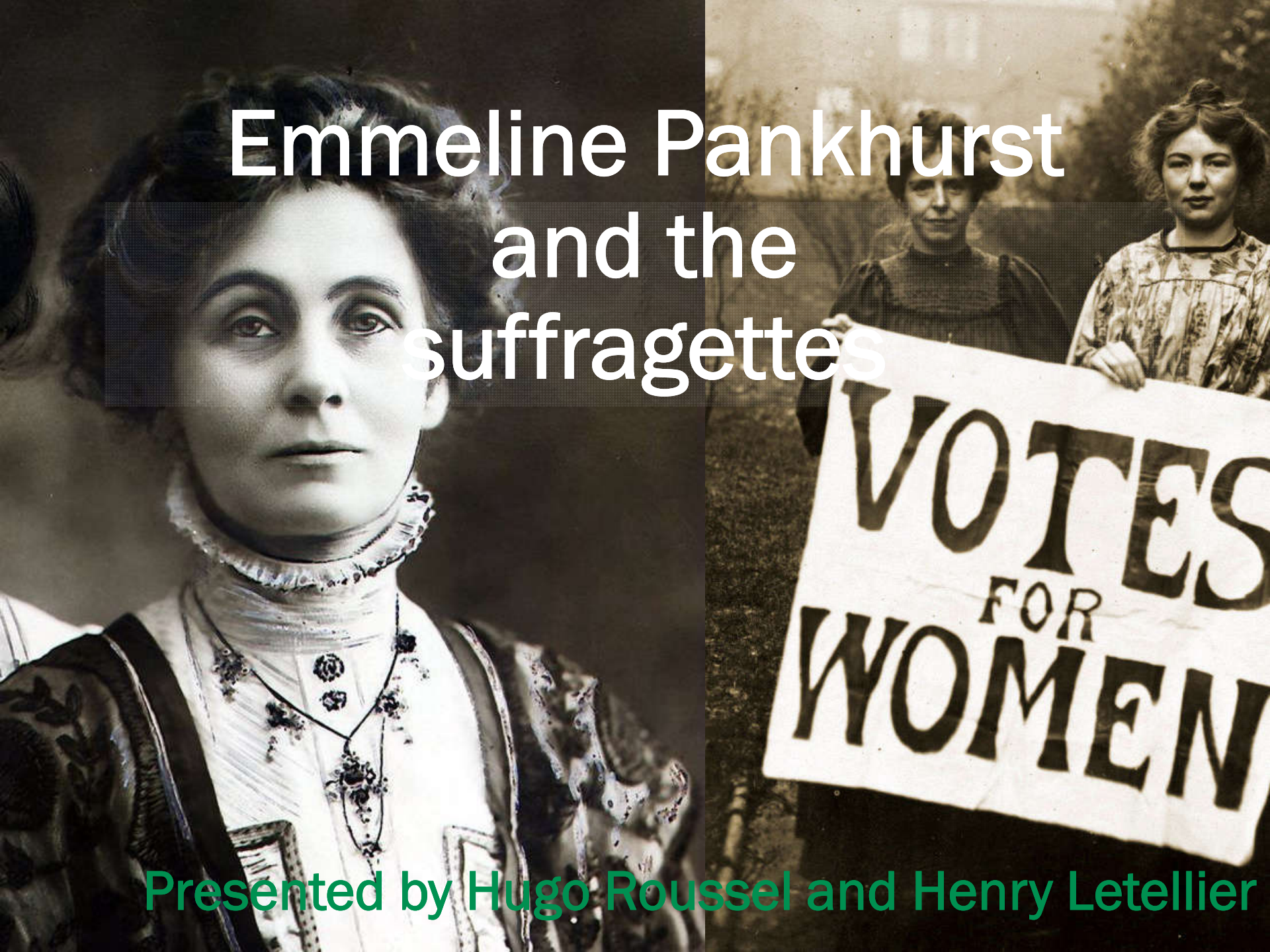


Emmeline Pankhurst and the suffragettes



Presented by Hugo Roussel and Henry Letellier

Summary

- Emmeline Pankurst
 - *Who was she?*
 - *What did she do?*
 - *Her overall life*
 - *Her personal life*
- The suffragettes
 - *A bit of context*
 - *Who were the suffragettes?*
 - *How did they do it?*
- King horse at the Derby
 - *Accident or intentional?*
 - *The impact of world war I*
 - *Key dates*
 - *Lessor known facts*
 - *When did women get the right to vote in France?*
- Source



Emmeline Pankhurst
'Deeds not words'

Who was she?

- Date of birth: 15 July 1858 in Manchester
- Date of death: 14 June 1928
- Maiden name: Emmeline Goulden
- Leading British women's rights activist

Her background

- Early life
 - *One of 10 children*
 - *Grew up in a politically active family*
 - *Her Parents were:*
 - Abolitionists
 - Supporters of women's rights

Her personal life

Marriage:

- 1878 To Dr. Richard Pankhurst, a Lawyer
 - She helped her husband with his political career
 - Supported a lot of radical causes for women's suffrage
 - Had five children
 - Three girls: Christabel, Sylvia, Adela
 - Two boys: Frank, Harry



The suffragettes

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S
SOCIAL
AND
POLITICAL**

J. K.
1908

Who were the suffragettes?



- Generally Educated women from middle and upper classes but also included women from working class backgrounds.
- The women-only WSPU, became the most notorious of the various groupings campaigning for the vote

What did she do?

- Pankhurst campaigned to get the right for all woman to vote
- 1903 she wanted things to happen faster so she founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)
- The 'Daily Mail' named WSPU the suffragettes as a derogatory term in 1906
- The WSPU movement adopted the colours **purple, white and green** for use in their campaign

A bit of Context

- “suffrage” means right to vote in political elections.
- 1867 Reform Act extended the right for all men over 21 to vote.
- Many people did not believe it was right for women to have the vote.
- Queen Victoria described women’s suffrage as ‘a mad, wicked folly’.

How did they do it?

Emmeline realised - more active approach was needed to win women the vote:

- Women deliberately broke the law to gain publicity: disrupted meetings, chained themselves to the railings of Buckingham Palace, smashed windows and set post boxes alight.
- Many were arrested and put in prison - went on hunger strike as they wanted to be treated as political prisoners and not criminals
- The police responded by force feeding them. This was degrading and injured women's health - a public outcry. The **Cat and Mouse Act of 1913** enabled the police to release women in poor health from prison and then re-arrest them when they recovered.





King's horse at the Derby

Accident or intentional?

- The Movement acquired first martyr in 1913:
Emily Wilding-Davison threw herself under the King's horse during the Derby.
- Recent research reveals that she had intended to attach a flag to the horse and not be killed by it
- Her death focused public attention on the Suffrage Movement

The impact of world war I

- 1914, Emmeline suspended the campaign and instructed the suffragettes to focus their help on the war effort
- Result: the crucial role played by women during the First World War, many of whom entered the workforce, fundamentally changed the perception of women in society
- This persuaded the Prime Minister David Lloyd George to grant female householders over thirty the vote in 1918

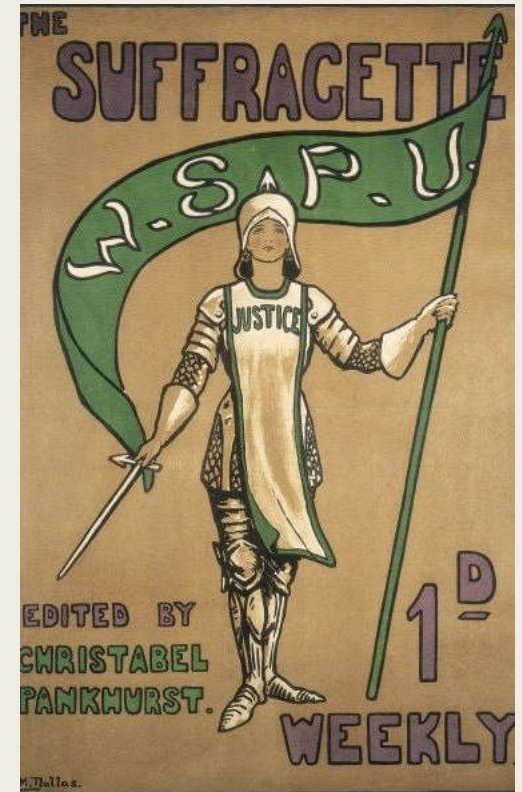
Key dates



- 1918 women householders over 30 get the vote and all men over 21
- 1919, Nancy Astor becomes first female Member of Parliament
- After the WWI Pankhurst transformed the WSPU to the Women's Party, with the aim to promote women's equality in public life
- Pankhurst, concerned about Bolshevism, joined the Conservative Party
- 1927 She was selected as a Conservative candidate
- She died on 14 June 1928, only weeks before Representation of the People Act (1928) which finally gave all women over the age of 21 the right to vote

Lessor known facts

- Men played a key role too, despite the most famous faces of the Suffragette movement being women, there were also several men, who fought alongside them to secure a woman's right to vote.



When did women get the right to vote in France?

- In April 21, 1944 after the second WWII
- Well after the English.



Source

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- The suffragettes:
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 - <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/suffragettes-facts/>
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 - **3rd Slide image 2:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmeline_Pankhurst#/media/File:Batal%C3%B3n-muerte-rusia-insiderussianrev00dorrriich.png
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