

= Anne Dallas Dudley =

Anne Dallas Dudley ( née Annie Willis Dallas ; November 13 , 1876 ? September 13 , 1955 ) was a prominent activist in the women 's suffrage movement in the United States . After founding the Nashville Equal Suffrage League and serving as its president , she moved up through the ranks of the movement , serving as President of the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association and then as Third Vice President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association , where she helped lead efforts to get the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution ratified . She is especially noted for her successful efforts to get the Nineteenth Amendment ratified in her home state of Tennessee , the final state necessary to bring the amendment into force .

= = Early life and family = =

Anne Dallas Dudley was born Annie Willis Dallas in Nashville , Tennessee , in 1876 to a distinguished upper @-@ class family . Her father , Trevanion B. Dallas , had moved to Nashville in 1869 and established himself as an entrepreneur in the textile industry . Her grandfather , Alexander J. Dallas , had been a commodore in the U.S. Navy , while his brother , George M. Dallas , served as Vice President of the United States under James K. Polk .

Annie Dallas was educated at Ward 's Seminary and Price 's College for Young Ladies , both in Nashville . In 1902 , she married Guilford Dudley ( 1854 ? 1945 ) , a banker and insurance broker . Together they had three children , Ida Dallas Dudley ( 1903 ? 1904 ) , who died in infancy , Trevania Dallas Dudley ( 1905 ? 1924 ) , and Guilford Dudley , Jr . ( 1907 ? 2002 ) .

= = Women 's suffrage movement = =

A few years after being married , Anne Dallas Dudley became involved in the temperance movement as a supporter of alcohol prohibition . Through her work in the temperance movement and her association with friends such as Maria Daviess and Ida Clyde Clark , Dudley became convinced that women 's place in society could only be improved if women were allowed to vote . At the time , however , almost all men and a majority of women opposed the idea of women participating in the political process .

In September 1911 , Dudley , Daviess , Clark , and several other women met in the back parlor of the Tulane Hotel and founded the Nashville Equal Suffrage League , an organization dedicated to building local support for women 's suffrage while " quietly and earnestly avoiding militant methods " . Dudley was selected as the organization 's first president . During her presidency , the league organized giant May Day suffrage parades , usually led by Dudley and her children . Dudley also helped bring the National Suffrage Convention to Nashville in 1914 . At the time , it was one of the largest conventions ever held in the city .

After serving as president of the local league for four years , Dudley was elected to head the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association in 1915 . During this time she helped to introduce and lobby for a suffrage amendment to the state constitution . Although the amendment was defeated , a later measure to give women the right to vote in presidential and municipal elections was eventually passed by the state legislature in 1919 .

In 1917 , Dudley became the Third Vice President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association , where she contributed significantly to advancing legislation on the issue of women 's suffrage . In 1920 , Dudley , along with Catherine Talty Kenny and Abby Crawford Milton , led the campaign in Tennessee to approve ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution . On August 18 , Tennessee became the 36th and deciding state to ratify the amendment , thereby giving women the right to vote throughout the country .

= = Later life = =

Following the success of the suffrage campaign , Dudley became the first woman associate

chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Committee . She was also selected as the first female delegate @-@ at @-@ large to the Democratic National Convention in 1920 . Dudley 's involvement in politics declined significantly in subsequent years , with her efforts being focused on civic and charitable causes during the remainder of her life . She was an active worker for the American Red Cross during World War II and later served as board chairman of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities .

Dudley died unexpectedly on September 13 , 1955 , of a coronary occlusion at her home in Belle Meade , Tennessee . She was 78 years old . She is buried with her family at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Nashville .

= = Legacy = =

Dudley 's legacy has been honored in numerous ways . She is one of three women featured in the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial in Knoxville , Tennessee , along with Lizzie Crozier French of Knoxville and Elizabeth Avery Meriwether of Memphis . She is featured along with ten other prominent Tennesseans in The Pride of Tennessee , the official Tennessee State Bicentennial Portrait which hangs in the Tennessee State Capitol . There is also a historical marker in Nashville 's Centennial Park dedicated to her . Dudley was inducted into the National Women 's Hall of Fame in 1995 .

An apartment building completed in 2015 on Elliston Place in Nashville is named " The Dallas " in honor of her .