

= Rachel Barrett =

Rachel Barrett (12 November 1874 ? 26 August 1953) was a suffragette and newspaper editor born in Carmarthen , Wales . After attending the University College of Wales in Aberystwyth she became a science teacher . In 1906 she quit her job after hearing Nellie Martel speak on women 's suffrage ; she then became a member of the Women 's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and moved to London . In 1907 she became an organiser for the WSPU and after Christabel Pankhurst fled to Paris , Barrett was asked to be the joint organiser of the national WSPU campaign . In 1912 , despite having no journalistic background , she was put in charge of the newly formed newspaper The Suffragette . Barrett was arrested on more than one occasion for activities linked to the suffrage movement and between 1913 and 1914 she spent time incognito avoiding re @-@ arrest .

In her later life she was in a relationship with the Australian author I. A. R. Wylie ; the two of them supported Radclyffe Hall during the obscenity trial of Hall 's book , The Well of Loneliness .

= = Early life = =

Barrett was born in Carmarthen in 1874 to Rees Barrett , a land and road surveyor , and his second wife Anne Jones , both Welsh @-@ speakers . She grew up in the town of Llandeilo with her elder brother Rees and a younger sister , Janette . By the 1881 Census , her mother Anne was the lone adult living at their address on Alan Road , her father having died in 1878 . Barrett was educated at a boarding school in Stroud , along with her sister , and won a scholarship to the University College of Wales , Aberystwyth . She graduated in 1904 with an external London BSc degree and became a science teacher . She taught in Llangefni , Carmarthen and Penarth .

= = Life as a suffragette = =

= = = Early activism with the WSPU = = =

Towards the end of 1906 Barrett attended a suffrage rally in Cardiff and was inspired by a speech from Nellie Martel to join the Women 's Social and Political Union (WSPU) at the end of the meeting . By the following year Barrett was active as a WSPU activist and helped organise Adela Pankhurst 's meetings in Cardiff and Barry that year , sharing the stage with her as one of the speakers . Barrett spoke on behalf of the WSPU at many meetings , often in Welsh , which conflicted with her role as a schoolteacher as her headmistress disapproved of the publicity , especially after news of Barrett being flour @-@ bombed at a rally in Cardiff Docks made the local papers . In July 1907 Barrett resigned as a teacher and enrolled at the London School of Economics , intending to study economics and sociology and to work towards her DSc . That August she was heavily active for the WSPU , campaigning at the Bury St Edmunds by @-@ election with Gladice Keevil , Nellie Martel , Emmeline Pankhurst , Aeta Lamb and Elsa Gye . Barrett was also active with Adela Pankhurst at Bradford . With her campaign activities over Barrett was free to attend the LSE , which proved useful for attending WSPU activities in nearby Clement 's Inn . Over the Christmas period Barrett was again busy campaigning for the WSPU , this time in the lead up to the Ashburton by @-@ election . Shortly afterwards she was asked by Christabel Pankhurst to become a full @-@ time organiser of the WSPU , an offer which would see her leave her course at the LSE . Barrett regretted giving up her studies but accepted the position stating , " It was a definite call and I obeyed . "

Barrett spent 1908 first organising a campaign in Nottingham and then working on the by @-@ elections in both Dewsbury and Dundee . In June of that year she was the chairman of one of the platforms at the Hyde Park rally , but the work took its toll on her health and shortly afterwards she was forced to temporarily step down from her position to recuperate , which included a period of time at a sanatorium . After recovering she moved closer to home , volunteering for Annie Kenney in Bristol . She soon agreed to resume her role as a paid organiser for the WSPU and was sent to

Newport in south @-@ east Wales to continue her duties . In 1910 Barrett was chosen to lead a group of women to talk to the Chancellor of the Exchequer , David Lloyd George , regarding the Liberal Party 's role in supporting the first Conciliation Bill . The meeting lasted two and a half hours , and by its end she was convinced that Lloyd George had been insincere over his support for equal voting rights and believed him to be against women 's suffrage . By the end of the year her post was changed to organising all WSPU activities in Wales and she was relocated to the country 's headquarters in Cardiff . According to Ryland Wallace , writing in 2009 , " No individual worked harder than Rachel Barrett to promote the campaign in Wales . "

= = = Editor of The Suffragette = = =

In 1912 Barrett was selected by Kenney to help run the WPSU national campaign , following the raid by police on Clement 's Inn and Christabel Pankhurst 's subsequent flight to Paris . Barrett moved back to London and within a few months she was given the role of assistant editor of the WSPU newspaper , The Suffragette , on its launch in October 1912 . Writing in her autobiography Barrett described becoming an editor as " an appalling task as I knew nothing whatever of journalism " . By taking on the job she also took on the risks connected with the increasingly militant WSPU . She travelled under cover to Paris to meet with Christabel Pankhurst , and when speaking to her on the phone she recalled how she " could always hear the click of Scotland Yard listening in . "

Over the next two years Barrett was a key figure in keeping the newspaper in print despite the Home Secretary 's efforts to suppress it . In April 1913 the offices of The Suffragette were raided by the police and the staff were arrested on charges of conspiring to damage property . Barrett was sentenced to nine months ' imprisonment at Holloway . She immediately went on hunger strike , was transferred to Canterbury Prison , and after five days she was released under the " Cat and Mouse Act " . She moved into " Mouse Castle " , 2 Campden Hill Square , home of the Brackenbury family who were sympathetic suffragists . After three weeks at the house , Barrett emerged and was re @-@ arrested . She went back on hunger strike and after four days was again released to " Mouse Castle " . This time she was smuggled out of the house in disguise to allow her to speak at meetings , before being re @-@ arrested for a second time . For the third time Barrett was released after a hunger strike , but this time she successfully eluded the authorities and fled to a nursing home in Edinburgh where she remained until December 2013 . On leaving Scotland she returned in secret to London ; she hid at Lincoln 's Inn House where she lived in a bedsit . Barrett continued to edit The Suffragette , but she travelled to Paris to discuss the future of the newspaper with Christabel Pankhurst after its offices were raided in May 1914 . The result of their meeting was the relocation of The Suffragette to Edinburgh where the printers were at less risk of arrest . Barrett moved to Edinburgh and assumed the pseudonym " Miss Ashworth " . Barrett continued to publish the paper until its final edition on the week after the First World War was declared . During the war Barrett was a vocal supporter of British military action , as were the majority of the suffragette movement . She was a contributor to the WSPU ' Victory Fund ' which was launched in 1916 to sponsor campaigns against " a compromise peace " and industrial strikes .

After the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918 , in which some women within the United Kingdom were first given the right to vote , Barrett busied herself in continuing the fight for full emancipation . When full voting rights were won in 1928 she helped raise funds for commemorations and was an important figure in raising the money needed to erect a statue of Emmeline Pankhurst in Victoria Tower Gardens , near the Palace of Westminster in London . Barrett understood the international connections of suffrage and contacted important Canadian and American campaigners for financial support . In Barrett 's obituary in the Women 's Bulletin it read that the raising of the statue " ... stands as a permanent memorial to Rachel 's organising ability . " In 1929 Barrett was appointed secretary of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee , an organisation that sought equality between men and women in all political spheres .

= = Relationship with I. A. R. Wylie = =

During her time editing *The Suffragette* , Barrett struck up a friendship with the Australian author I. A. R. Wylie , who contributed to the paper in 1913 . The two of them started a relationship and became lovers . In 1919 both Barrett and Wylie travelled to the United States , where they bought a car and spent over a year travelling the country . They stayed in New York and San Francisco and were recorded in the 1920 census as living in Carmel @-@ By @-@ The @-@ Sea in California , where Wylie is classed as the head of the household and Barrett her friend .

The two women remained close for some time , and in 1928 were supporters of their close friend Radclyffe Hall , during the trial of *The Well of Loneliness* . When Barrett died she left the residue of her estate to Wylie .

= = Later life = =

In her later life Barrett joined the Suffragette Fellowship and was particularly close to Kitty Marshall who lived near by . She attempted to publish a memoir of Marshall in the late 1940s , but it was turned down for publication . Barrett moved to Sible Hedingham in Essex in the early 1930s and joined the Sible Hedingham Women 's Institute in 1934 , remaining a member until 1948 . There she lived at Lamb Cottage .

Barrett died of a cerebral haemorrhage on 26 August 1953 at the Carylls Nursing Home in Faygate , Sussex . She was seventy @-@ eight years old . She left Lamb Cottage to her niece Gwyneth Anderson , who lived there with her husband , the British poet , J. Redwood Anderson .

= = Further Reading = =

Cline , Sally (1999) . *Radclyffe Hall : A Woman Called John* . The Overlook Press . ISBN 978 @-@ 0879517083 .

Wylie , I. A. R. (2010) . *My Life with George : An Unconventional Autobiography* . Kessinger Publishing . ISBN 978 @-@ 1163188477 .