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Mrs Harriett M^{rs} ILQUHAM

The first married woman
Poor Law Guardian in
England, elected at a
Poll in 1881.

She was a friend of Mrs
Wolstenholme Elmy, whose
efforts obtained the passing
of the "Married Women's
Property Act", in the House
of Commons where she was
spoken of as the "Little
Lord Chancellor". Her letters
to my mother, have been con-
sidered of such ^{public} interest, they
have been accepted by the
British Museum. Mrs Fulford

has taken the keen interest to
write a book on Votes for
Women, so hope the enclosed
photographs will be espe-
cially interesting

Mary M. Elgukham

Mrs Harriet McElanham

Personalities

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Member W.F.L. - pioneer - worker in social & philanthropic causes - (born 1837) -

In 1881 became candidate for Poor Law Guardians (first in Cheltenham) - Her return objected to because she was a married woman - luckily in vain. A little later appointed one of the Overseers for Parish of Stavertin - then unique post for woman.

Became first chairman Stavertin Parish Council under new Act - & Returning Officer at the second P.C. Election - Rural District Councillor for Boddyknin & sat for some years on Bd of Star School Bd. - later five year on Bd of Management under Education Act of 1902.

During the years she was member (active) of Women's Emancipation Union -

N.U.W.S.S.

N.U. of Women Workers

W.F.L. - Sept 1906 -

(She recollects that day it was exactly 50 years since her first W.S. meeting addressed by George Jacob Holyoake - also she remembered being in the H of C when

The W. Saffray Bill was blocked by members who
talked out the time on the Verminous Persons Bill.
Her support by pen or voice. greatly helped the
Cheltenham young militant movement.
(She also managed with success a farm and
estate at Staverton for 40 years)

Press - 1910 - Gen Election -

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Even Modern Society! suggested that women could spoil the Gen Elec. by keeping their husbands trousers hidden & themselves going out for the day.

Liverpool Daily Courier

"One could not but admire the courage with which the band of Suffragettes faced the heavy rain as they stood at the doors of the various polling booths on the day of the Liverpool elections inviting signatures from every voter who passed them."

(N.B. These were Suffragists (N.U.W.S.S))

Western Daily Mercury -

"Here is a notice displayed in the window of a large house in Lower Berkeley St. -

"Here live three ladies who pay rates and Taxes but have no votes. Canvassers therefore need not call."

Common Cause (outside Polling Booths)

"We think that everyone who has done much of this work will agree that you get more signatures from working men and by far the best manners."

Quotations

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Keri Hardie - Feb 1910 (Daily Telegraph)

"When a Woman's Franchise Bill was before the H. of C a great deal was heard about woman's proper place being home. If that were so what were they doing in factories, behind shop counters, and in brickfields? Why was it that an Act of Parliament was needed to free them from the darkness of the pit? If women were fit to take their place in the various spheres of industry in which they were now engaged they were fit to take their place in politics on terms of equality with men.

When the New Reform Bill comes to be introduced to the House members who have more sense than the P.M. will insist that whatever the franchise is to be for men the same franchise qualifications shall apply to women."

"The forces that are fighting for progress should not be fighting each other, as will be the case if women are left out of the Reform Bill in the H. of C."

See Record of Keri Hardie's Active Assistance, within the T.L.P. & in the early days of militancy
