

**UC SA Historical Society. 8 October 2017 at Brougham Place UC.  
Panel Conversation. Women's Suffrage Movement in SA.**

	Church Link	Organisations	Achievements	Key beliefs
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mary Lee</b> 1821-1909</p> <p>Married 1844 7 Children Migrated 1879. Middle aged Irish widow.</p>	<p>Influenced by ideals of Primitive Methodist Hugh Gilmore of Wellington Square</p>	<p>Secretary Social Purity Society. (SPS.) Secretary SA Women's Suffrage League July 1888-94. (WSL.) Working Women's Trade Union. Female Refuge.</p>	<p>The Constitution Amendment Act passed 18 Dec 1894. House of Assembly. 31 to 14. First vote took place on 25 April 1896</p>	<p>Worked for political and social reform. "To love is to serve." Female suffrage as pivot on which turns the whole question of the moral, social and industrial standards of women. "The active concern of such women for children arose from their firm commitment to Christian principles and humanitarian ideals." Page 44 Jones.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mary Colton</b> 1822-1898</p> <p>Born London. Migrated 1839 and married 1844.</p>	<p>Wesleyan Methodist Pirie St</p>	<p>President WSL 1892-94. More than 20 organisations, particularly for women.</p>	<p>Adelaide Children's hospital, YWCA, founding of about twenty charitable organisations including Dorcas Society at Pirie St. WSL and WCTU</p>	<p>Lifelong philanthropy based on ideals of Christian service.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Serena Lake</b> 1842-1902. Migrated 1865.</p> <p>Arrived SA to preach at the Town Hall 22 May 1870 Married Octavius Lake 2 March 1871. 7 children one survived.</p>	<p>Bible Christian Evangelist</p>	<p>WCTU. WSL. Bible Christian Women's Missionary Board.</p>	<p>Following disbandment of the SPS 1885 they continued to meet and decided in June 1888 that women's political enfranchisement was necessary.</p>	<p>Believed that sexual equality "to be the original design of the Creator." Confident that if women possessed the ballot it would curb the abominable liquor traffic.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Elizabeth Webb Nicholls</b> 1850-1943</p> <p>Born Adelaide. Mother died when 3. Married 1870.</p>	<p>Methodist</p>	<p>President of WCTU. 1889-1897. 1906-27. Hospital Board.</p>	<p>Founding member of WCTU. Platform of principles for women's work.</p>	<p>Proportional representation suffrage as access to employment &amp; professions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rosetta Jane Birks</b> 1856-1911</p> <p>Born Adelaide. Stepmother to 6 children</p>	<p>Baptist Flinders St</p>	<p>Treasurer WSL 1888-94. Hospital Board 1896.</p>	<p>Social Purity Society. 1882</p>	<p>Family that strongly supported public affairs, philanthropic and religious causes.</p>

<p><b>Catherine Helen Spence</b> 1825-1910 Born in Scotland</p>	<p>Unitarian from 1856 and preacher 1878.</p>	<p>Boarding Our Society 1872-1886. Australia's first female political candidate.</p>	<p>Campaigned against domestic violence. Writer, preacher, reform feminist and proportional representation.</p>	<p>Remedies for social ills lay in long term solutions backed by public opinion and based in the law. Jones xvii" Grand old woman of Australian education for girls."</p>
<p><b>Dr Edward Charles (Ted) Stirling MP</b> Lecturer and Prof. in medicine. 1848-1919</p>	<p>Influenced by John Stuart Mill</p>	<p>First President of WSL 1882-92</p>	<p>Raised issues in parliament.  Strong advocate for girl's education.</p>	<p>In 1884-87 Stirling was member for North Adelaide in the House of Assembly and in 1886 he introduced a bill to enfranchise women. The South Australian Museum became his major life's work.</p>
<p><b>Joseph Coles Kirby</b> 1837-1924  Born England Migrated to Sydney 1854 Joined Pitt St congregation.</p>	<p>Congregational  Went to Quaker boarding school in UK.</p>	<p>Minister Port Adelaide 1880-1908 Active in retirement!  Evangelical, educator, pastoral worker and social reformer  SPS  Co secretary WSL 20 July 1887</p>	<p>Formation of the Social Purity Society 1884 Secretary.  Act to protect women and children.  RI in State Schools. Later known as Mr Six O'clock. Prison reform etc.</p>	<p>Connection between liquor, prostitution and family violence.  July 1882 Three lectures at Pirie St on Social Purity. 14 Dec 1890. Sermon "Woman: A Queen Regnant." Gen 1:26-28.  1895 Amendments in the Laws needed to secure the Rights of Women and Children. Age of consent to 16 1899.</p>

“And now the colony is the first in Australia to rest the government of the people upon an adult suffrage. Memorable in the history of the southern continent must be the general election in South Australia of 1896 as the first in which women took part. Amongst the ladies who had the honour of being the first to vote for members of Parliament in Australia are; West Adelaide, Mrs Kingston, wife of the Premier; Glenelg, Mrs Charles Birks; Rose Park, Mrs Winifred Woods; North Adelaide, Miss Elsie Claxton; Port Adelaide, Mrs J.C. Kirby; Norwood, Mrs Thomas Gully; St Peters, Mrs Violet Gandlish Simon; Hindmarsh, Mrs T. Saunders; Goodwood, Mrs J.F. Cook; Unley, Misses A. and S. Winwood; Parkside, Mrs J.G. Jenkins. And the women have polled remarkably well as to both numbers and the intelligence displayed in fulfilling the requirements of the Act.”

[http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/women\\_and\\_politics/suffr3.htm](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/women_and_politics/suffr3.htm)