

Nellie Taylor (1863-1937)



Mary Ellen Taylor - always known as Nellie - was the daughter of John Bennet, a prominent corn merchant in Leicester. She was the younger sister of Elizabeth Wilks and the sisters remained close throughout their lives, united in their commitment to the cause of women's suffrage.

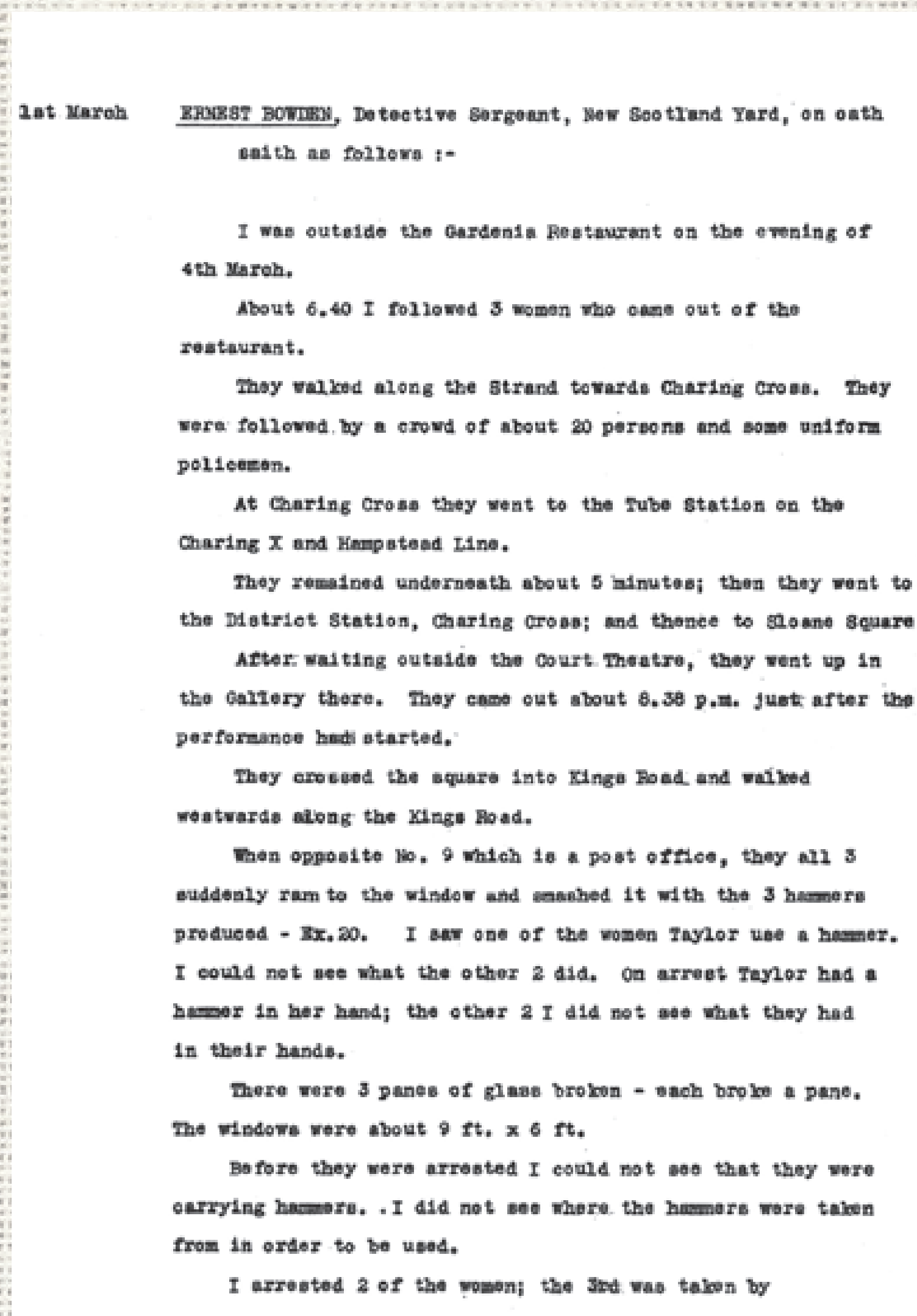
Nellie was imprisoned in Holloway in March 1912 after smashing a Post Office window with a hammer. She was imprisoned there again in July 1913 after trying to prevent Mrs Pankhurst from being arrested. This time she used the false name of 'Mary Wyan' and went on hunger and thirst strike. She came close to death before her husband, Thomas, persuaded her to stop.

Nellie's letters and accounts of her arrests were preserved by her daughter and donated to the Women's History Library in London.

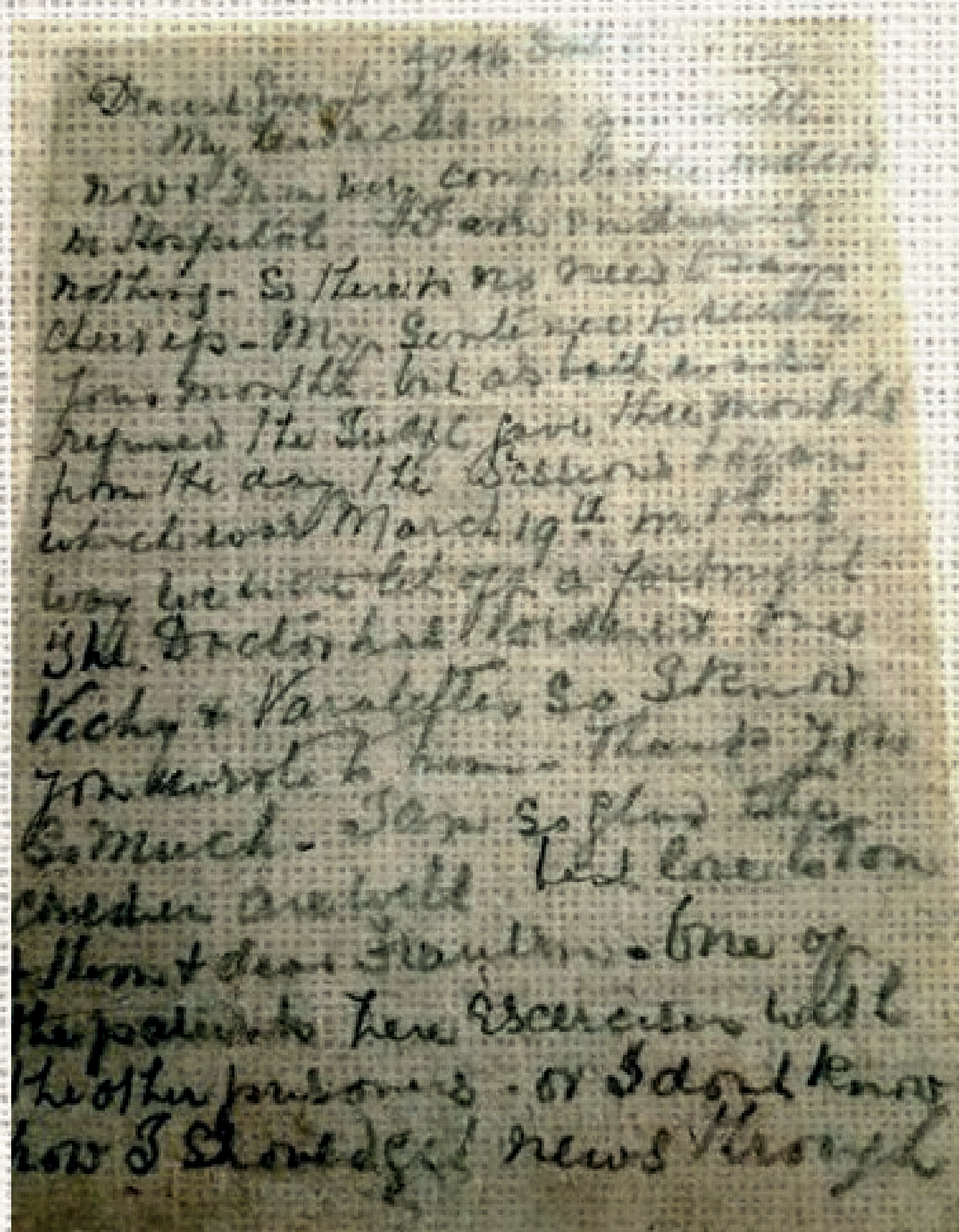
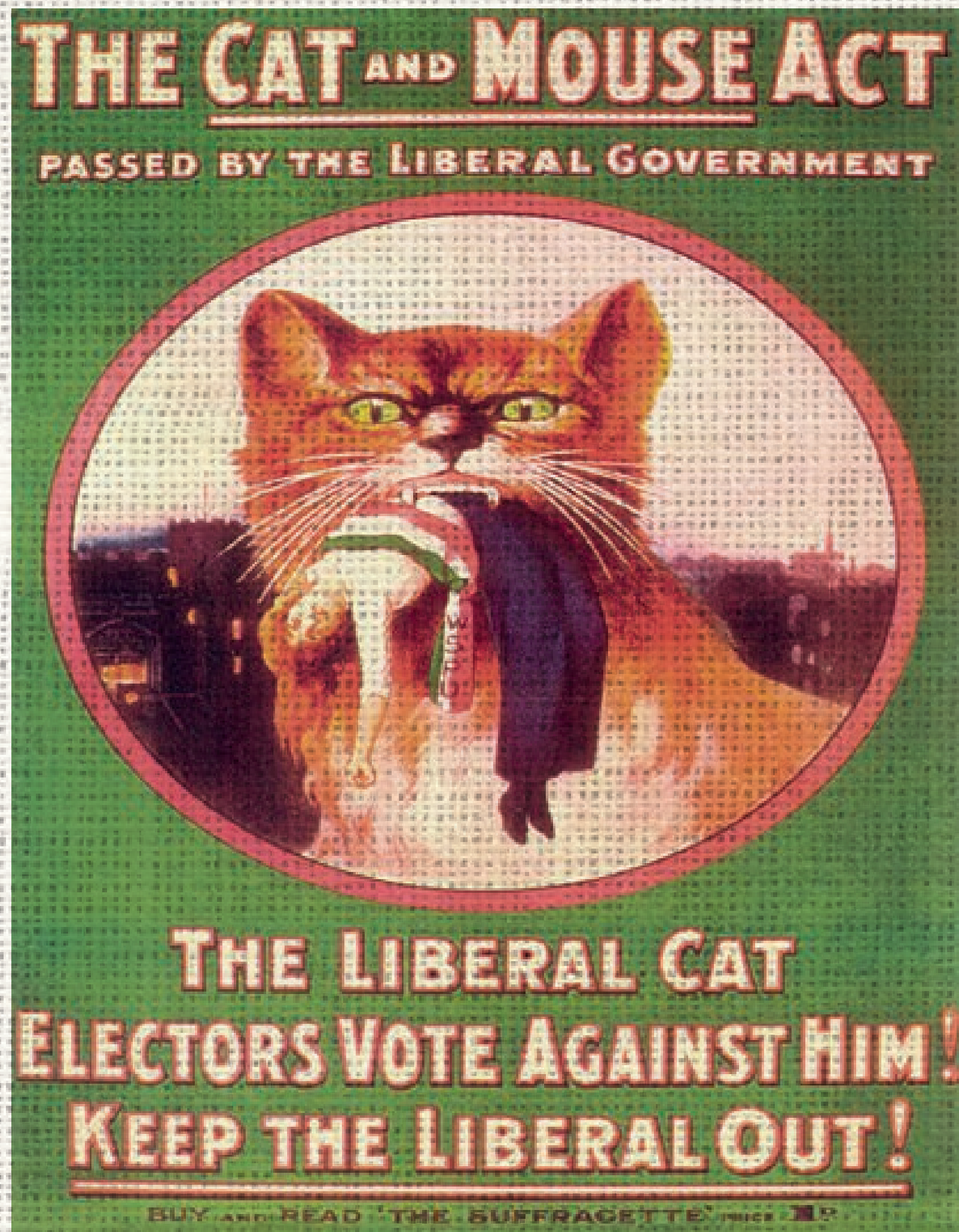


The Bennett Family, c1890

Nellie, in black, is seated beside her father, John Bennett. Her father was Mayor of Leicester in 1879 and 1880. Behind him stands her sister, Elizabeth, also in black, later known as Dr Elizabeth Wilks.



Report by the Police Officer who followed Nellie on 4th March 1912.
(Courtesy of The National Archives)



Letter from Nellie in Holloway, 5th April 1912

Many of Nellie's letters like this one, were written on lavatory paper and smuggled out of prison.

Nellie found the hardest thing about being in prison was being alone in a cell. She worried a lot about her children and family but also told her sister: 'Remember I feel it is a privilege to fight for this cause. Remember how much the movement has brought into my life...'

Iris Singleton on the Taylors

"Learning about the Taylors made me realise the lengths people went to fight for women's rights and how important it was."



Nellie & Thomas Taylor

Facts

- Thomas and Nellie Taylor were married with three children.
- The married couple were both for women's rights, and attended many protests, such as window smashing.
- Nellie Taylor organised a WSPU (The Women's Social and Political Union) meeting, when the audience, consisting mainly of women, listened to two famous suffragettes. This happened on March 5th 1910.
- Nellie Taylor was sentenced to prison for window smashing in 1912, and wrote a letter to her husband and children:
'Dearest Tom and Dearest children, I was arrested last night with Miss Crocker and Miss Roberts for breaking the windows of Knightsbridge Post Office. I understand we are to receive fairly heavy sentences, so that I think you must be prepared for me to get a months sentence.
Goodbye my darlings, your Loving mother.'

Instagram



17 108 93
POSTS FOLLOWERS FOLLOWING

Nellie Taylor

❤️ Thomas ❤️
#Suffragetteandproud



Womens rights



May or may not be smashing windows abnt's

@N-Taylor13

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