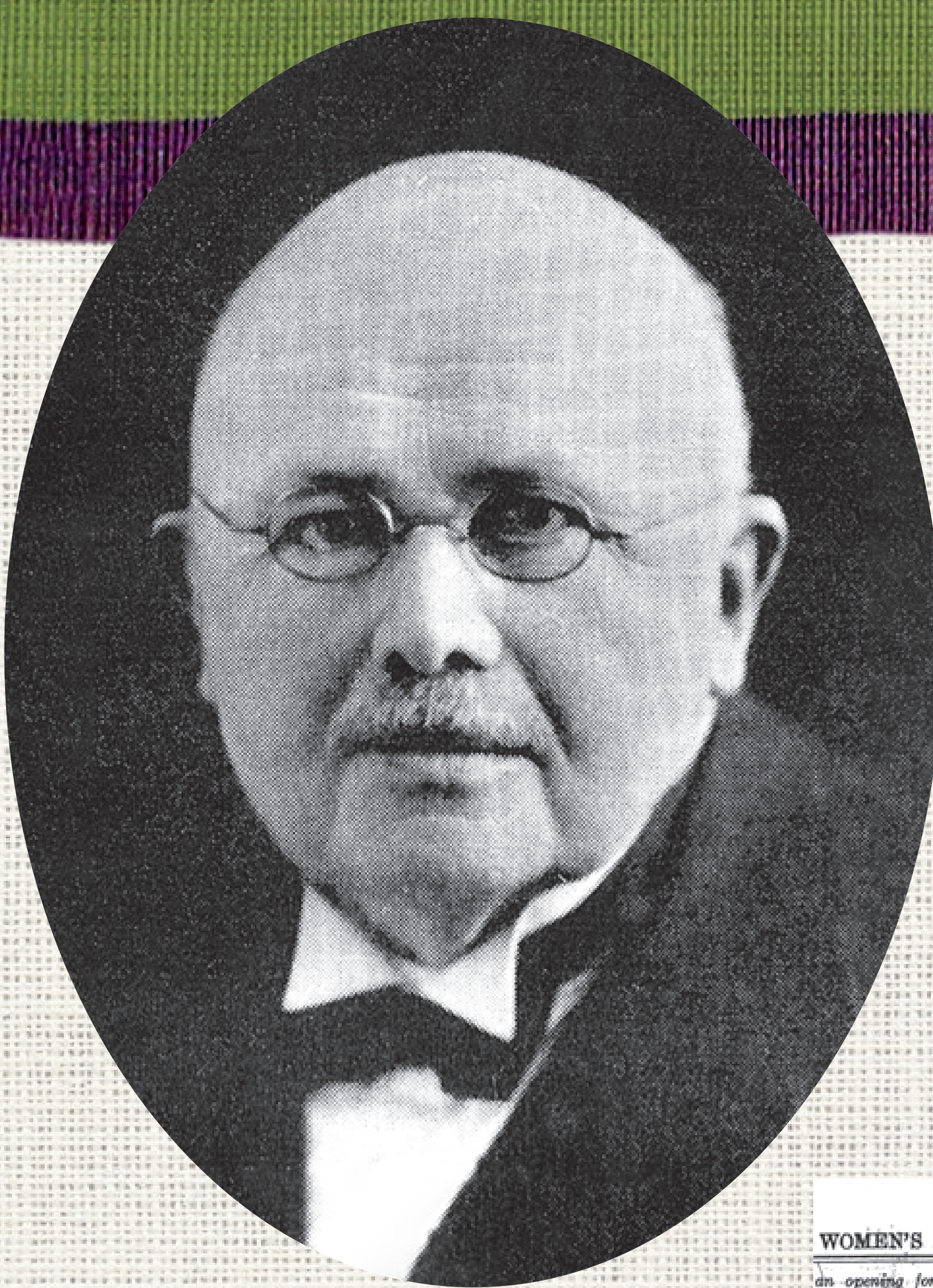


# Thomas Smithies Taylor

## (1863-1938)

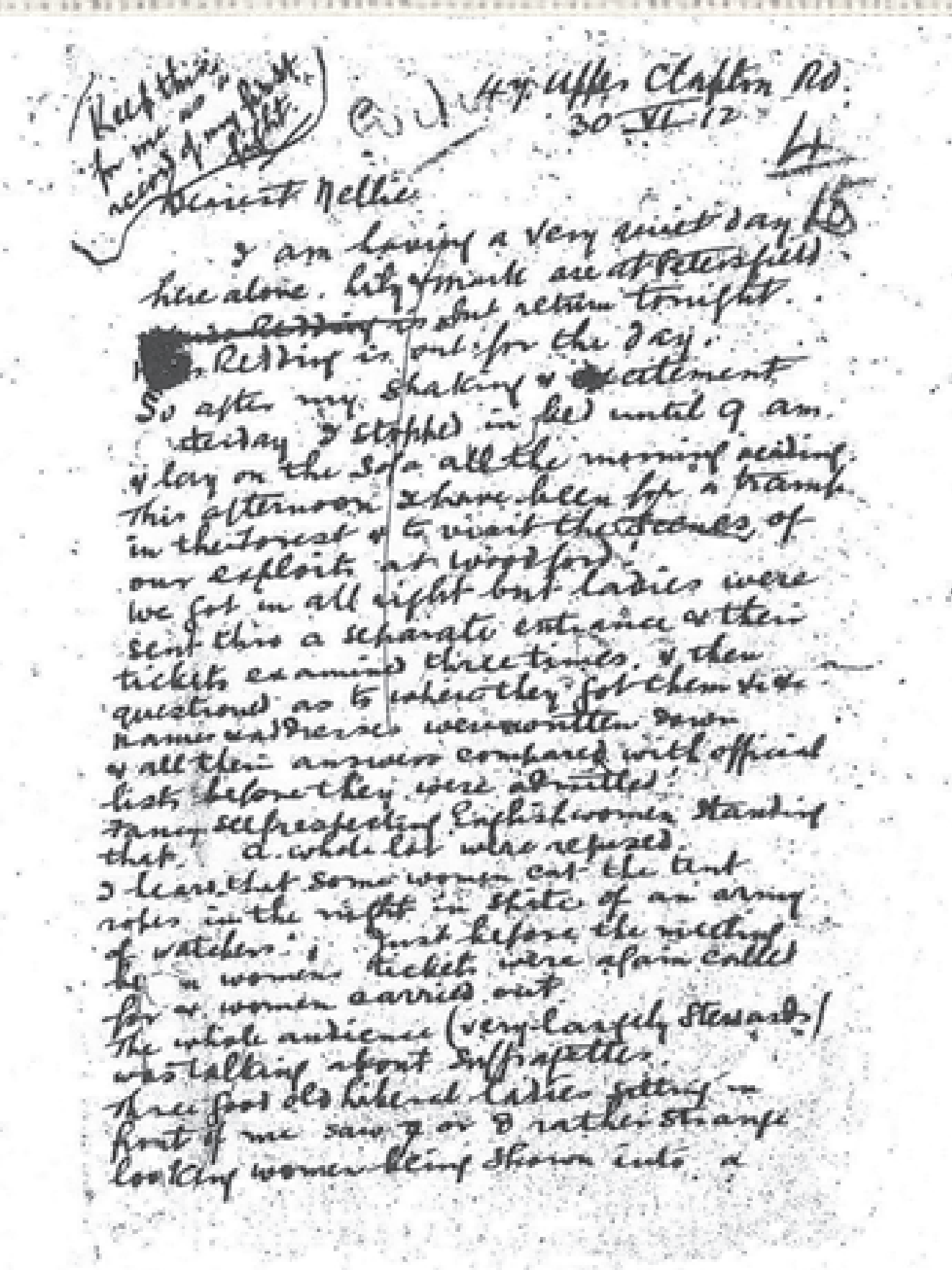


Thomas Smithies Taylor married Nellie Bennett at Narborough Independent Chapel in 1891. He was born in Holloway in London and from an early age showed a talent for wood and metal work. In 1886, after apprenticeship to a microscope manufacturer, he moved to Leicester to set up a business with his brother, William. The business they founded, Taylor, Taylor and Hobson, became scientific instrument makers of great renown and the business quickly flourished. As the fortunes of Nellie and Thomas improved, they moved out of Leicester to live at Smeeton Westerby near Kibworth.

**Thomas was a very supportive husband and shared his wife's commitment to the cause of women's suffrage.**

# Westerby House, Smeeton Westerby

The Taylor family lived at Westerby House from c1901 until 1912.



# Letter from Thomas to his Mother, 15th March 1912

Nellie's mother in law was clearly a little distressed to hear of her imprisonment. In this letter, Thomas, explained: 'Nellie has paid taxes in her own right for years past and has no vote. Women like her (taxpayers) have for nearly 50 years tried to get the vote by constitutional, proper and ladylike methods but being voteless, have been fooled... I admire her pluck. I wish I were in her place...'

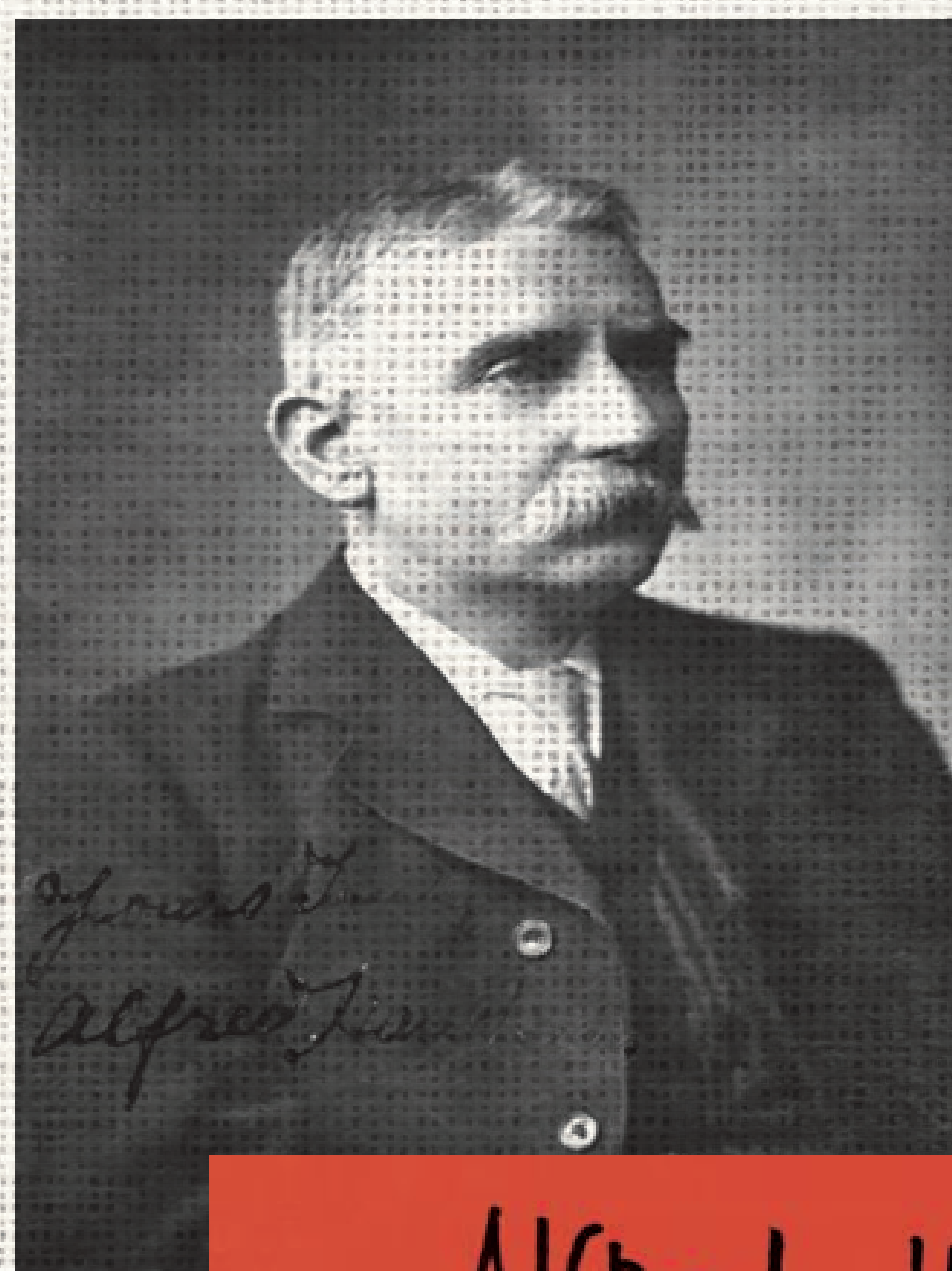
## Thomas joins the Men's Political Union in a protest, June 1912

Amongst the papers of Nellie Taylor at the Women's Library is Thomas' account of his 'first fight' for women's suffrage. At a Liberal meeting at which Lloyd George was speaking, he interrupted the speaker shouting 'I protest against listening to Lloyd George until he gives votes to all taxpayers'.

He was seized by stewards and thrown out, narrowly escaping a ducking in a horse trough. In the struggle his hat and glasses were destroyed.

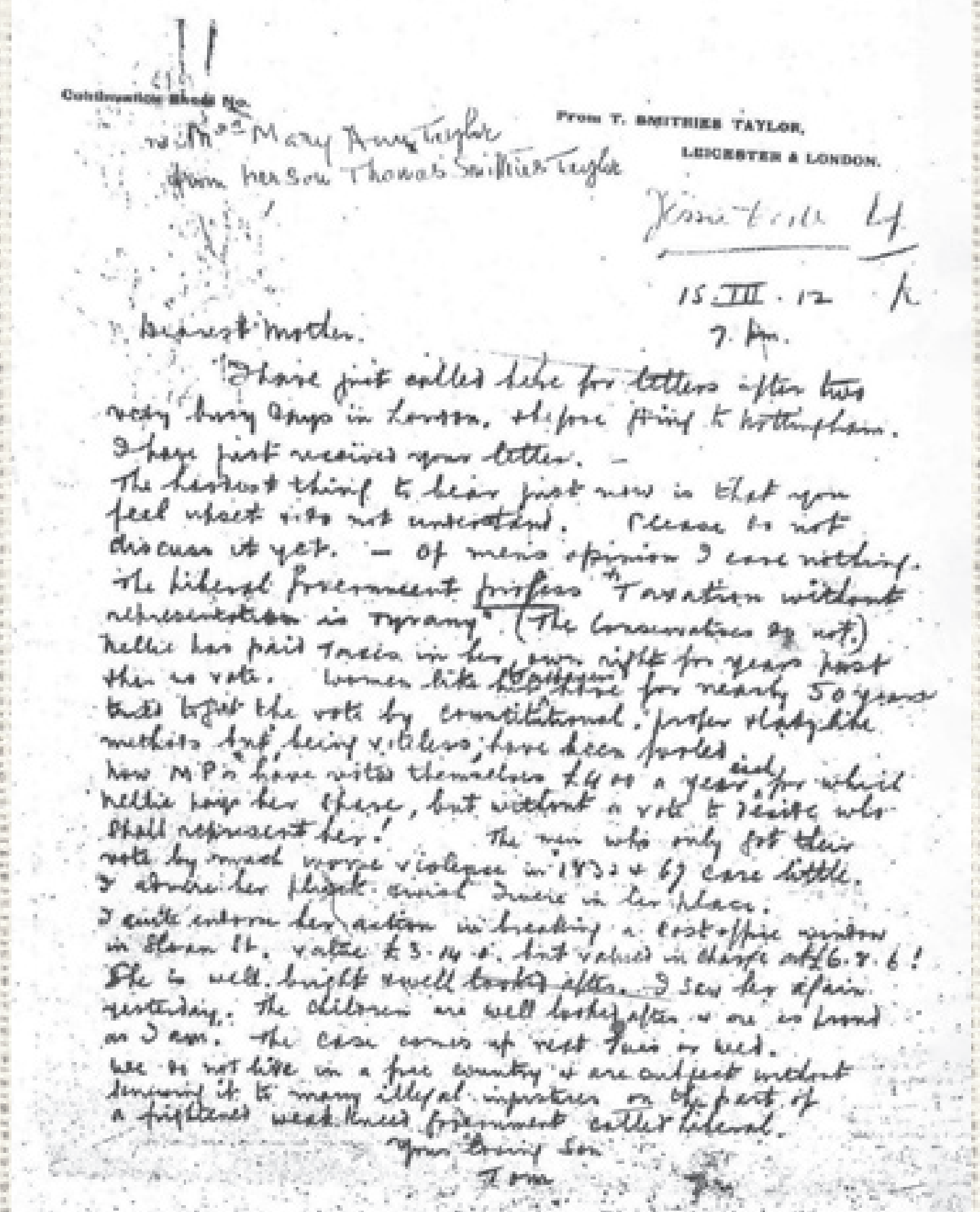
# Alfred Hawkins (1858-1928)

Another Leicester man, Alfred Hawkins, was Thomas' comrade in the Men's Political Union and the husband of the suffragette, Alice Hawkins. In 1911, he successfully brought a case against the Liberal stewards who had thrown him down a flight of stairs when he was protesting that women should have the vote. Alfred had broken his knee badly and was in hospital for months but his triumph in court was heralded as a landmark victory by all involved in the struggle for women's suffrage. His example inspired Thomas but is now largely forgotten...



## Damages awarded to Thomas, December 1912

Supported by a fund set up by his sister in law, Elizabeth Wilks, Thomas sued for damages of £3 16s for his hat and glasses and sought £50 special damages. In the end, he received only the cost of his damaged belongings.



SEQUEL TO A LLOYD  
GEORGE MEETING.  
TERRITORIAL CAPTAIN GETS  
DAMAGES

FOR BEING EVICTED FROM HALL.

Judge Smyly at Bow County Court yesterday, charged the grand jury with the case of Thomas Smith's case, of Leicester, came up in the Army Service Corps, Territorial, in an action arising out of Mr Lloyd George's speech at Worcester.

The Judge said he found that the stewards who took plaintiff from the meeting were guilty of assault, but that the jury must find that any of the defendants laid hands on plaintiff. The stewards conducted him no further than the door. The only person near him was Mr. Pollard, J. P. of Wales, who was not a party to the evidence he touched him. No case had, however, been proved against Mr. Pollard.

Regarding Messrs Britton, Liberal agent, Walter Jones, Recruiter, Washington, and Edward secretary; and J. Shepherd, Worcester, as members of the Organising Committee, the Judge found them liable for the acts of the stewards, and therefore an assault committed by the stewards in removing plaintiff from his seat quicker than he wished to go. Plaintiff was not injured, and small arm for his gun, umbrella, and other

# Alfred Hawkins

After Hainsy kicked out of a young Winston churchills public meeting for heckling him on womens rights. After Hawkins began to gain a reputation for being a critic in the Suffragette movement.

Afreda's wife Alice was also a Suffragette and quit a significant one as well. Being the head of the Leicester Suffragettes. She was often protesting and was often arrested and put in prison.



The next year Alfred again heckled the church on the issue of women rights. Right about the grounds cracked ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ him out and in the process threw him down some stairs and broke his leg. After bringing his case before the court of Justice he was given a compensation and the grounds were charged with illegal Ejection.

Alice was called arrested. Alfred later formed the mens political club along with Victor Duvall and others in support of the womens rights.



When Alfred and  
tried to re-enter  
meeting the police  
and they were both  
being a working man  
decided to pay a fine  
than spend 5 days in  
unlike Alice who, also  
the other women, spent



T-STAYLOR  
Taylor-T|2,969|9

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|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Bitmoji   | Achievements  | Share   |

About:  
Lives: Kibworth Born: 1861

Aim: Getting women the same rights as men.

Story:  
Wife @ N-Taylor! is in prison for her  
fight for women's rights!

## Sahara Butt on the Taylors

"I found it inspiring because it showed that all the little actions from the Taylors really helped to gain women's rights, especially in the smaller communities where less was going on about it."

