

F I N N L A N D

Landmarks on Finnishwomens road to Suffrage and Equal Citizenship

edited by Finlands Svenska Kvinnoförbund.

1929

(Finlands Swedish Womens Alliance).

- 1758 Widows and taxpaying unmarried women in Helsingfors were on the register and voted at the election of a pastor of the Lutheran Church.
- 1779 The first school for »young ladies».
- 1835 The first school for »young ladies» in Helsingfors.
- 1856 School for girls in several other towns with 2 to 4 classes.
- 1859 Women get the right to follow manual crafts in order to support themselves.
- 1863 The first Government Training College for Elementary Schoolteachers.
- 1864 Young girls at the age of 15 get the right to their own earnings.
- 1864 Women attain the age of majority at 25 and by special permission at 21, and also the right to marry without the consent of their guardian at the age of 21.

- 1865 Women are granted the vote in rural communities for the Parish Council. (The vote was based on property qualifications) Women were not eligible.
- 1865 Women admitted into the Telegraph Service.
- 1868 The first (private) Training Classes for women-teachers for secondary girlschools.
- 1868 Women on attaining their majority and in possession of real estate are entitled to take part in Church vestry meetings.
- 1868 Married women get the right to judicial separation in some cases and also the right to make marriage settlements.
- 1871 Women desiring to qualify as Doctors of medicine get the right to pass necessary examinations.
- 1871 The first woman passed examination as student in the University of Helsingfors.
- 1873 Taxpaying women in towns get suffrage for Municipal Councils (without eligibility).
- 1878 The first woman physician obtains the right to practice medicine.
- 1879 Equal inheritance law.
- 1879 Women obtain the right to carry on every kind of business and trade (Married women only under the condition that the husband undertakes responsibility for all debts and obligations incurred).
- 1881 First woman takes the degree of Magister of Philosophy in the University of Helsingfors.
- 1883 The first Coeducational School.

- 1884 Foundation of the first feminist organisation: Suomen Naisyhdistys — Finsk Kvinnoförening (Finnish Womens Association).
- 1884 Unmarried women over 21 and widows obtain the right to be postmistresses.
- 1886 Girlschools are organised on a new scale with 7 classes and Continuation classes so as to prepare pupils for entering into University.
- 1888 Unmarried women and widows are admitted to certain lower grades in the Central Post Office.
- 1889 Married women obtain right to their own earnings and also to make marriage settlements permitting them to dispose and manage their own property.
- 1889 Husband desiring to sell real estate which is joint property (if not inherited or bought before marriage) must have the Consent of his wife.
- 1889 Women obtain the right to be members of local Poor Law Boards.
- 1890 Some Secondary Boys schools of 4 classes allowed to receive girl pupils.
- 1892 Government Ordinance concerning the appointment of trained nurses in hospitals. (Up to that time women without any special training or education were employed as nurses).
- 1892 Foundation of second feminist organisation Kvinnosaksförbundet Unionen — Naisasialiitto Unioni (Women's right Union).
- 1894 Women admitted in the University of Helsingfors as teachers to train women teachers in Gymnastics.

- 1896 First Woman takes the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
- 1898 Women get the right to be appointed »lectors» (a higher post than ordinary teachers) in Training Colleges for Elementary School teachers.
- 1898 Unmarried women get the right to be appointed and promoted to certain posts within the Post Office Department.
- 1899 Women doctors get the right to be appointed to different official posts by special Government permission.
- 1899 Government Ordinance that in Training Colleges for women teachers one of the two superintendants should be a woman.
- 1900 Age of majority the same as for men, 21 years.
- 1900 Rural Communities are entitled to Government grants for the appointment of trained midwives.
- 1900 Foundation of Sosialidemokraattinen Työläisnaisliitto (Social Demöcrate Working Women Alliance).
- 1901 Women get the right to matriculate in the University on the same terms as men.
- 1901 Two Agricultural schools for men are entitled to receive women as students.
- 1902 Women obtain the right to pass examination in the University and practice as chemists on the same terms as men.
- 1903 Appointment of the first woman factory inspector.
- 1904 First public meeting for Womans Suffrage.

- 1906 *Constitutional Reform. Adult Suffrage and eligibility at 24 for men and women alike.*
- 1906 The first High School for girls in Helsingfors preparing for examination necessary to be admitted as student in the University.
- 1906 First woman appointed Docent in the University of Helsingfors.
- 1907 Foundation of feminist organisation for finnish speaking women Suomalainen Naisliitto (Finnish Women's Alliance).
- 1907 Foundation of feminist and political organisation for swedish speaking women Finlands Svenska Kvinnoförbund (Finland Swedish women's Alliance).
- 1907 Abolition of legalised prostitution.
- 1911 Marriage age for women raised from 15 to 17.
- 1914 Women doctors obtain the right to practice on the same terms as men.
- 1915 Government High Schools for girls (9 classes) are opened.
- 1916 Married women obtain the right to appointments in the Post Office on condition that the husband makes himself responsible for the money they handle in their capacity of Government employees.
- 1916 Both unmarried and married women teachers in Government Schools obtain absolutely equal rights and equal pay with men.
- 1917 Municipal Reform (Universal municipal Suffrage) giving men and women the vote and eligibility on the same terms.

- 1918 Women get the right to take part at Parochial meetings of the Lutheran Church.
- 1919 *Republican Constitution giving men and women the same rights and duties in their capacity of citizens.*
- 1919 Married women are entitled to enter trades and professions without the consent of their husbands.
- 1922 Law regarding the rights of the mother and the illegitimate child. The mother is the guardian of her illegitimate child. It inherits its mother as a legitimate child and also inherits on the maternal side. If the father acknowledges the child as his, the child has the same right to inheritance as legitimate children and also to inherit the fathers family. Obligation of aliment for the child up to the age of 17. Education of the child according to the status of the mother. If the mother keeps the child after its birth she is entitled to maintenance for 9 months so as to be able to nurse it. This law has been slightly amended in 1927 in regard to some practical details and also gives the Court the right to decide whether the mother is qualified to be the child's guardian.
- 1923 The greater part of women Government employees were put on the regular estimate and obtain the right to a Government pension.
- 1924 Government Ordinance that in Coeducational Schools either the Headmaster or Proheadmaster should be a woman.

- 1924 Salary of midwives considerably raised by Government grant and municipal free lodging and Government pension after 30 years of service.
- 1925 Married women's nationality. A Finnish woman national marrying a foreigner retains her nationality as long as she resides in Finland with her husband and also keeps it if she leaves her country until she has acquired the nationality of her husband.
- 1925 Women belonging to the Lutheran Church get Equal Rights with men, with one exception. They can not be ordained pastors of the Lutheran Church but they can be elected members of Church Councils and Church Convocations and be appointed »Churchholders».
- 1925 The age of Consent raised from 12 to 15.
- 1926 Women get the right to hold office and to be employed in Government service on the same terms as men. The Government Ordinance practically restricts the application of the principle involved in this law.
- 1927 First time a woman is appointed professor in the Academy (University) of Åbo.
- 1927 A new Government Ordinance gives women the right to be appointed Judges and also to enter Diplomatic and Consular service.
- 1929 New Marriage law based on equality between husband and wife. Guardianship of the husband over his wife abolished equal rights in regard to guardianship over their children. Separate pro-

erty instead of joint property. The husbands duty to provide for his family recognised, and also that the wives work within the home is regarded as a contribution to the maintenance of the family.

1929 The new Divorce Law applies equally to husband and wife.

The Finnish Parliament consists of 200 members.

The number of women elected:

in 1907	19
1908	25
1909	21
1910	17
1911	14
1913	21
1916	24
1917	17
1919	17
1922	20
1924	17
1927	17

Helsingfors May 31 1929.