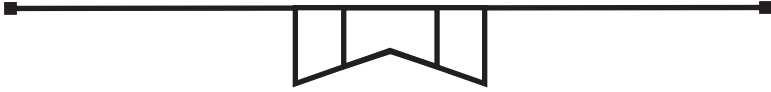




Phoebe Jane
ESS
(1850-1934)

Phoebe Jane ESS

(1850–1934)



Regarded as one of Kansas City's most influential leaders, Phoebe Jane Ess was an outspoken suffragist and a dean of Missouri women's clubs. Born in Kentucky, she moved to Kansas City at age 22 and taught at Washington School until she married. She then was involved in the establishment of the Kansas City Athenaeum, the Susan B. Anthony Civic Club, and the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs. She also served as president of the Equal Suffrage Association. With over 33 active affiliations, Phoebe Jane sought to protect the rights of women and children, supported Prohibition, and petitioned for disarmament. In 1932, the Athenaeum honored her for 50 years of exemplary service.



"To have followed her active trail through the years would have been to have seen the steady unfolding of women's suffrage and rights, the blossoming of countless charities, and the constant amelioration of humanity everywhere through her crusades against vice and injustice."

The Kansas City Star, April 10, 1934