Sarah Chandler
COATES
(1829–1897)
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A progressive social leader known as the Queen of Quality Hill, Sarah Chandler Coates was one of Kansas City’s earliest suffragists. Originally from Pennsylvania, she moved to Kansas City with her husband Kersey in 1856. Sarah ran charities out of their home, promoted the arts and sciences, supported anti-slavery organizations, and founded the ’81 Club. In 1892, she organized and led the Equal Suffrage Association of Kansas City as a tireless advocate for women’s rights. She was also instrumental in bringing the Missouri Suffrage Association’s annual convention to Kansas City in 1896.

After Sarah’s death, friend Susan B. Anthony wrote,

“Our good cause of justice to woman [is left] without its best and truest champion. All of us are the poorer for the loss of her presence with us, but the richer, the better and the nobler because of her heroic life, if we but strive to emulate her many virtues.”