

GREENWICH VILLAGE, 1913

Visitor to Polly's

Maud Malone

Library clerk, suffragette; 41 years old

"Maud Malone has never flung a brick or whacked anybody over the head with an umbrella, and yet she has been howled at, booed at, insulted, ridiculed, punched, "pinched", and given free rides in a patrol wagon . . ."

Personal glimpses: The Literary Digest (December 1912)

You were born into a close-knit Irish Roman Catholic family in Brooklyn, New York in 1872 and come from "fighting stock." Your parents, siblings and uncle are all social reformers who campaign tirelessly to right social wrongs.

Your father, Dr. Edward Malone, was a popular local doctor who worked to eradicate poverty in his community. When he died in 1890, "Anti-Povertyites" attended his funeral *en masse*. Your mother, Annie L. Malone, was active during the Civil War in "charitable" activities and continues to be interested in "public issues" while raising you and your four siblings in a comfortable brick home on 4th Avenue in Brooklyn. Your uncle, Father Sylvester Malone, is a well-known priest at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Brooklyn. "An ardent abolitionist" and patriot, his was the first church in the country to fly the stars and stripes at the end of the Civil War. During the anniversary of his jubilee year as a priest, he goes on record in the local newspaper as being a firm believer in "woman suffrage."

You are educated, along with your sister and brothers, and after completing school, you spend some time working for socially progressive causes. For example, you have been a resident work at Upton Sinclair's Helicon Home Colony in New Jersey and then the single-tax colony in Arden, New Jersey in order to gain a better understanding of remedies for poverty, the great ill of capitalist society. You love to walk the streets of Manhattan, both for the fresh air and the opportunity to observe your fellow citizens and embrace the freedom available to a young woman with a good job and ardent political interests.

By the early 1900s, however, you turn your attention to the fight for women's suffrage. In 1907, you become the president of the Harlem Equal Rights League and embark on

your career as “Militant Maud Malone”—you clearly admire the British suffragettes and their militant, public tactics that bring unprecedented attention to their causes and often land many of them in jail. You are the first to plan and hold a large street parade, and you are fearless in engaging in other forms of direct social action including:

- open air meetings
- women’s polling stations
- questioning political candidates at public meetings (which can mean standing on chairs)
- writing letters to the editor of local newspapers
- being jailed and fined if necessary (in fact, you insist on being fined)

From 1907 to 1913, you are featured in numerous events (and newspaper reports) and are branded as both a fighter and a “willful and malicious” agitator. You are perhaps most famous for your interactions with anarchist Emma Goldman and presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson. In 1909, you and your Flying Bank of Street Suffragettes debate Emma Goldman before an audience of 300 listeners.ⁱ And in 1912, you put the suffrage question to Woodrow Wilson at a political rally during the 1912 presidential campaign—both these incidents really make the news!

Overall, you believe in equal rights: for women, for men, for workers, for socialists, for all. You believe in supporting more than one suffrage organization but leave the Progressive Women’s Suffrage Union in 1908 because you object to the elitism and tactics of a group that seeks to exclude all those who are not well dressed and who hold different political views. You align yourself with socialists, arguing that you too are a working woman who deserves to work for equal pay and decent hours. Ultimately, you believe that for the suffrage movement to be truly progressive, it “should recognize no prejudices of race, color, difference in clothes or creed, whether religious or economic.” Speaking out against some of your fellow suffragists, you state that “this contentious by reason of petty spite and prejudice is to you not only undemocratic but nauseating.”

You are supported in these views by your older sister Marcella, who has obtained a law degree, and your brothers Sylvester and Lawrence, who will accompany you to meetings--when you let them.

However, for all those who admire your passion, commitment and fearlessness, you also have detractors who do not support your militant approach to social issues. During your participation in the suffrage movement, you and your sister Marcella are also working in the New York City Library. There, the two of you begin to agitate for better working conditions and campaign for a union, the Library Employees’ Union of Greater

New York. These activities get you into trouble ... big trouble. You are so unpopular that the other employees at the Washington Street Branch where you work write a letter to the head of the library board, pleading that your employment should be terminated.

This would be a disaster for you. Not only would your union activities cease, but so would your pay cheque.

OBJECTIVES

- *To support factions and other visitors to Polly's by providing research support.*
- *To participate in open discussions at key events.*
- *To keep your job at the New York Public Library.*

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Do public demonstrations of searches for primary sources
 - One presentation on finding primary sources in local newspapers
 - The New York Historical Papers database (accessible online: <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>)
 - New York Times Archives (university library)
 - One presentation on citation chaining
- Create an online module that includes searching activities for students and a graded reflection. This module can be embedded in a number of learning management systems.
- Ask questions during public debates.
- Assist inquiring minds who wish to gain inside information on themselves and their opponents.
- If anyone tries to recruit you to suffrage, labour or bohemians, decline.
- Every time a suffragist, an IWW member or a bohemian consults you for research assistance, you take note to demonstrate to the New York Public library the value of your skills and the importance of your research help. If enough people call upon you for research help, you are confident this will enable you to keep your job.

CHALLENGE

You gain PIPS by consulting with members of all factions as well as other determinants—you are, after all, committed to open access.

For every individual player who consults you outside of official class time for research support, your influence will grow by 10 PIPs. If you can work with ten students, you can gain 100 PIPs and keep your job for a six-month probationary period.

And each of those students gains 10 PIPS for consulting you. You can award all your PIPs to any faction who you think did the most thorough and creative research for the game. This should not be disclosed until just before the vote.

Summary of your individual victory objectives

- *To support factions and other visitors to Polly's by providing research support to at least 10 participants.*
- *To participate in open discussions at key events.*
- *To keep your job at the New York Public Library.*

ⁱ New York Times, December 13, 1909, p.16