

Kentuckians and Civic Action



Madeline Breckinridge, Library of Congress

Madeline McDowell Breckinridge

Madeline McDowell Breckinridge was one of Kentucky's leading suffragists and social reformers.

A descendant of Henry Clay, Breckinridge grew up at Ashland, Clay's estate in **Lexington**. She suffered from tuberculosis when she was young and had to have a leg amputated. This led to her lifelong quest to fight tuberculosis.

Madeline was involved in a number of civic organizations and charities. Through her work she fought for child labor laws, advocated for the construction of playgrounds, and pushed for educational reform and juvenile courts.

She also fought for the right to vote. A member of the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs and the Fayette Equal Rights Association, she was also vice president of the National American Women Suffrage Association. Through these organizations, she was one of the most active Kentuckians who worked for women's suffrage.