

Profiles of Women Voter Registrants Wayland 1920

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
52	2	Lillian M. Loker		38	Framingham			Homemaker	
53	2	Clara E. Lupien		47	North Brook			nurse	
54	2	Martha F. Lewis		62	New York City, New York			Homemaker	
55	2	Flora B. Lewis		33	Wayland			shoemaker	
56	2	Maria Loker		66	Wayland			dressmaker	
57	2	Mary E. Loker		25	Brookfield			housekeeper	
58	2	Marion Leap		23	Colorado			teacher	
59	2	Flora A. Loker		61	Ashtand			Homemaker	
60	2	Irene O. Levitre		32	Wayland			shoemaker	
61	2	Maria A. Levitre		34	Wayland			housekeeper	
62	2	Adeline Levitre		61	Canada			Homemaker	
63	2	Ernestine M. Levitre		30	Wayland			shoemaker	
64	2	Rose Anna Lizotte		34	Wayland			Homemaker	

registered to vote in Wayland, MA in 1920

Profiles of Women Voter Registrants Wayland 1920

In 2020 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which availed women in Massachusetts full voting privileges. Who were these feisty women who confidently walked into the Town Clerk's office and registered to vote in 1920? What do we know about them?

Town Clerk Anna Ludwig and Wayland Historical Commission chair Kay Gardner-Westcott carefully transcribed the names of those who registered to vote in 1920 to provide this interesting demographic profile of these women.

As you'll see from these profiles, a complex social stratum appears in Wayland in 1920 that crosses layers of ages, occupations and economic backgrounds. But please note, the following information is only as complete as these women provided when they registered.

For more details about this data, please refer to the Excel spreadsheets posted on the website.

How old were they?

All age groups are represented among these early registrants:

Age group	Number of women
20's	43
30's	66
40's	54
50's	28
60's	16
70's	5
80's	4

The two youngest women were 21 and were from Cochituate. Both of these women worked outside of the home. One was a typist in Cambridge, and the other was simply "employed."

The oldest four included: Abbie Fiske - **80**, Ellen Sawyer – **80**, Catherine Patterson – **81**, and Mary Adams Heard who was - **87**.

Where were these women born?

These early registrants were both locals and from other states and countries.

Of the over 200 registrants, **49 were born in Wayland**. The remainder were from:

Other New England states	15
New York	7
Pennsylvania	4
Colorado	3
Illinois	2

Non-native born women were from:

Canada	15
Ireland	9
England	2
Sweden	2
South America	1
Spain	1

What did they do?

The largest number of women – **155, identified themselves as caring for the home and family**. While 3 specified they were “employed,” 2 were retired, another 14 did not list their occupation.

The remaining numbers include a large range of jobs:

Teachers	8
Stenographers	6
Bookkeepers	6
Shoemakers	6
Nurses	3
Mill workers	3
Clerk	2
Actress	1
Dressmaker	1
Assistant	1
Telephone operator	1
Farmer	1
Colorist of photographs	1
Decorator	1
Jewelry maker	1

Although the local newspaper, *The Natick Bulletin*, promoted the cause, Wayland did not vote for the 19th Amendment.

September 10, 1920

“Special attention is called to the registration dates of the Board of Registrars. It makes no difference what your feelings may have been toward “suffrage” for women, it is now the duty of every woman to register. Go to it, ladies, and go early, so as not to be disbarred from the voting privilege.”

October 15, 1920

“IT IS DUTY OF WOMEN to Register, But Not Wait Until the Last Day The final opportunity is Saturday October 23, from 12 to 10pm. It is not safe to wait until the last hour for you may be shut out as was the case in Boston when 10,000 women lost their chance being in waiting when 10 pm arrived. If you are one of the many who have failed to do your duty and register, do it before Saturday, or if you are compelled to wait until the last day, go early or you too may be shut out.”

What more do we know about some of these women?



Jane Adams Patterson

1871-1950

She was a widow who lived on Glezen Lane and was a descendent of John Quincy Adams

She was 50 years old in 1920.

Myrta Wight

1881-1958

Married with three children, ages 1,8, and 10, she lived on Cochituate Road.

She was 39 in 1920.



Beatrice Herford Hayward

Ca 1869-1952

Originally from England, she lived on Boston Post Road where she founded the Volks Theatre.



And finally, our oldest registrant:

Mary Adams Heard

1833-1924

An unmarried resident of Pelham Island Road, she died before she could vote in another presidential election.

She was 87 in 1920.

One final and very important note:

By registering to vote, these Wayland women wanted their voices to be heard. They struggled for over 75 to make the right to vote theirs – and ours.

It is a right that needs to be cherished, protected and used. Every time there is a chance to vote, exercise your Constitutional right and vote!