

Jessica Eden
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Jane Addams was a dynamic individual who was in charge of her education. She's had an indescribable influence on today's education, often described as the mother of social work and the first public philosopher. We learn a lot about Addams and her history through her biography and online resources, as well as through her friends and colleagues. The Urban Experience in Chicago interactive timeline paints a picture of an individual with a discerning taste for friends from whom she can learn from and share intellectual exchanges.

Early on, Jane Addams "sought out like-minded friends with whom they shared knowledge and ideas." Addams was the first generation of women to attend college. There, Addams met Ellen Gates Starr began their long friendship. Addams' quest for like-minded people can be seen in her letters, in which she describes her "state of mind and doubts about whether she can find her life's purpose." After college, most women didn't have many opportunities or choices. Because of this lack of opportunities, she fell into a malaise for 10 years; Addams was searching for a purpose, a meaning for her life.

After soul-searching, a 10-year-long illness and traveling, she stumbled upon Toynbee Hall. Stanford's website describes Toynbee Hall as "a pioneering Christian settlement house in London." She used this settlement to discover how to address the needs of people who are in need. She wanted to recreate this type of settlement in the United States. After the experience, she and Starr joined together to create the Hull House as a refuge.

When the Hull house opened its doors, you see through the timeline the wide array of individuals who visited, stayed, and worked in the Hull House. The beautiful picture map showcased in the [website](#) shows the individuals connected to the Hull House. Through the House, Addams was able to interact, debate and learn from with a diverse array of people. According to Stanford's [website](#), "They also discussed and debated ethics, political theory, feminism, and culture while immersed in their tasks and stimulated by the many speakers and visitors to Hull House." One of these people was a student Peter Verburg. He goes on to have well known career as an arts and crafts designer and bookbinder." Addams allowed "the Hull House to become a site for community groups' meetings, trade union meetings and forums on controversial topics of the day."

A labor leader Mary Kenney (O'Sullivan) arrived in 1890 and began the cooperative boarding arrangements that would later be housed in a separate building called the Jane Club. Another visitor was reformer Florence Kelley, who arrived in Chicago and began her research on the wages and sweatshop conditions in the Hull House neighborhood. After both Kenney and Kelley's visits, they made the house more class conscious and thus making the members more

active in the labor movement. Another resident was Charlotte Perkins Gilman who worked on gender and economics “ her work likely influenced Addams.” Addams created an environment, embodied by her apartment, in which “she spent part of her time engaged with neighbors, but also sought out the company of other intellectually-curious and reform-minded friends.”

She spent time in the company of like-minded people, such as the suffragists. She worked with these women to fight for the right to vote and bringing prominence to the Progressive political party. The resources on Jane Addams provide a visual representation of all of the colleagues and acquaintances that allowed Addams to continue to grow, learn and work on issues that she believed in.

Jane Addams was a life-long learner, surrounding herself with people she found intellectually stimulating. As Cusick says in his pillars, “serous learning was not limited to institutions; it permeated all levels of our subjects’ associations.” The Hull House allowed Addams to engaged with a variety of people. While the website maps out a small segment of the people who Jane Addams came in contact with an array of Amazingly intellectual and thought provoking individuals. Addams made a choice to surround herself with like-minded individuals and created a “life of effort, ever set on excelling oneself.”

Online Resources:

<http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/urbanexp/timeline/timelinecontents.htm>

<http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/urbanexp/timeline/timeline.htm>

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/addams-jane/>