

WILPF and The Clapham Film Unit present

These Dangerous Women

A Heritage Lottery Funded project

Gulielma Crosfield
1851-1945
By Roslyn Cook

“relieve the suffering of the refugees from Belgium and France”

Gulielma Crosland (maiden name Wallis) was born in Brighton on 29 April 1851. Her family were Quakers, a religion famous for its pacifist views and string stance on truth and justice. Gulielma was a leader among the young Quakers of Brighton in the 1870s before marrying into another Quaker family in 1880. She and her husband Albert J Crosfield devoted their lives to the service of God through the Society of Friends for the next 51 years.

The Crosfield’s travelled extensively on religious visits to Norway, India and California amongst other places. They shared a missionary-like zeal to improve the lives of others and later in life Albert took on the challenge of such work in China, although Gulielma did nto go with him.

In 1904, with her son as an undergraduate at Cambridge University and Albert away travelling, Gulielma move from Reigate to Cambridge. Here, she and Albert, when he returned, became active members of the Cambridge Quakers. Gulielma was an excellent hostess and kept an open house for visiting Quaker Friends.

In 1914, Gulielma was on the committee for the relief of War Victims and in November of that year visited Holland with Albert. Here, they were involved with the work predominantly done by Quakers to relieve the suffering of the refugees from Belgium and France at the beginning of the war.

One of the first reports of the committee describes how badly affected people were with no possessions homes or food. The Quakers built houses as well as providing food and clothing. It was noted that a maternity hospital was urgently needed and the committee had much to do with the building of one in Chalons sur Marne, opened in November 1914.

Gulielma was also active with the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and the British Women’s Temperance Society. as a Quaker, the relief of others’ suffering and the



need to work actively for peace meant that Gulielma would have made a huge effort to get to Holland for the International Women's Congress in 1915.

She died on 7 March 1945, ten years after publishing a memoir of Albert, who had died in 1931.

