

# Museum about suffrage

By Beth Unwin

Welcome

Welcome to my museum. Today you will learn about suffrage and the amazing people who fought for adult suffrage, and women's suffrage in England.

*Welcome*

## The Peterloo Massacre

The Peterloo Massacre, was on the 16th August 1819. 60,000 men, women and children went to St Peter's field. Many of them were workers and carried home made flags, which showed their support for adult suffrage. Henry Hunter Hunt ,was known as the champion of the people because of his leading role in the campaign.

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He demanded the right for all men and women to vote. Many ordinary people were frustrated because they had no say in government, at St Peter's field demonstrators hoped that the government would take a turn for the better. Sadly what should have been a peaceful meeting turned into a bloody massacre. Some wealthy people feared that the demonstration could turn into a rebellion.

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The Manchester Magistrates were supporters of Lord Liverpool's Tory government. They were strongly opposed to granting voting rights. They firmly believed that democracy was dangerous. The government requested the support of the Manchester Remy Cave and the 15th regiment of Dragoons professional soldiers to arrest Hunt.

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15 people were killed and 600 were injured. Lord Liverpool made the acts, which forbid the carrying of flags, limited the circulation of cheap newspapers and banned all mass meetings. Henry Hunt was jailed for 2 years after being arrested at the meeting along with 7 other reform leaders.



# The Peterloo banner

This banner was carried by protesters from Middleton to St Peter's field and was made from blue silk.

The words “Liberty and Fraternity” mean “Freedom and brotherhood” and were used as a slogan in the French revolution. On the other side of the banner there are the words “unity and strength.”



Why the working people were frustrated with the situation and the Government.

Before the power looms were invented weavers were recognised and well paid. To the weavers the new power looms were a disaster. The weavers now just assisted the machines. They felt like they had become slaves to the machines. There was a huge wage cut or massive unemployment. Thousands were kicked out of their work.



What was wrong with the great reform act?

The MPs who made it were nasty and small minded and were trying to block democracy.

Who were the chartists and what they wanted: The Chartists were people who demanded for political change. They were mostly working class people. They wanted people to have a say in government.

## William Cuffay

He was the chartists leader. He was also not very successful. He was sentenced to be transported to Tasmania, which is where outlaws were sent.



## Harriet Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill

They wanted women to be able to vote as women who pay taxes should be able to represent. They collected signatures for two petitions both of which the government frowned upon.



## Langham palace group

They wanted women to be able to vote because they believed successful middle class women should be able to. To raise awareness they published a book.



# Lydia Backer and the Manchester suffrage society

She wanted the vote for women as she believed in education for both women and girls. To persuade government to allow women to vote she took a young woman to vote and persuaded them to let the vote count.



Why women did not get the vote in the 19th century.

Women did not get the vote in the 19th century because society pigeon holed men and women.

Women were seen as more emotional than political.

Finally all married women had a husband to vote on behalf of them and parliament believed that one vote per household was enough.

## Radical suffragists

Unlike all the other groups they wanted adult suffrage because they believed that it would improve working conditions.



# Seliana Cooper

She wanted women to be able to vote to help people in poverty. She got people to sign petitions and then presented them to parliament.





# Eva Gore-Booth and Esther Roper

They wanted women to have the vote because they thought that it would give women more power in the workplace. Their method of campaigning for votes for women was petitions.



Eva Gore-Booth (1870-1905)

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-11000

Esther Roper (1868-1920)

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-11000

# What women achieved in 1928

Thanks to the effort women put into the war the government decided to let women have the vote.

Then all men and women age 21 and over could vote. That does not mean the fight was over though as there were still changes to fight for.



Thank you for coming.

Thank you for looking around my virtual museum. I hope you had enjoyed learning about the battle for the vote and the people who played a part in it. Remember without those brave people standing up for what they believed in life would be very different today.

*Good bye !*