

The extension of suffrage

A virtual museum by
Eloise Bundy

Welcome to my museum!

Welcome to my museum about the extension of suffrage, which includes key parts of the journey to votes for all: The Peterloo Massacre, The Great Reform Act Of 1832; The Chartist Movement; Early women's suffrage campaigns and Emmeline Pankhurst and The Suffragettes. We will explore the resistance of the wealthy to protect their influence over parliament and take a look at some of the courageous people who were willing to risk their lives to achieve equality.

I hope you enjoy learning about how you got your vote

The Peterloo Massacre ~ 1819



Banner carried by protestors.

On 16th August 1819 60,000 men, women and children gathered on St Peter's Field in Manchester to listen to Henry Hunt's speech calling for the reform of parliament and universal suffrage.

The wealthy locals were worried that the peaceful protest could turn into a rebellion like the French Revolution of 1789. They did not support universal suffrage and wanted to protect the conservative government.

Yeomanry on horseback attacked the protestors with swords, killing approximately 15 people and injuring over 600.

Following this event the government passed laws prohibiting similar protests and took journalists who criticised the yeomanry to court.

This made further protests very risky and the government ignored the protestors demands

The Great Reform Act ~ 1832



The Great Reform Act.

Although there were no significant changes after the events at St Peter's Field, the Great Reform Act of 1832 did bring small changes.

It doubled the number of voters and made Parliament seem more representative by allowing small landowners, tenant farmers, shopkeepers and men living in towns paying rent over £10 per year a vote.

This was an attempt by MPs to restrict the vote to property owners and it still excluded 6 out of 7 adult men and all women.

The Chartist Movement ~ 1836-1848

CHARTIST DEMONSTRATION!!

"PEACE and ORDER" is our MOTTO!

TO THE WORKING MEN OF LONDON.

Fellow Men,—The Press having misrepresented and vilified us and our intentions, the Demonstration Committee therefore consider it to be their duty to state that the grievances of us (the Working Classes) are deep and our demands just. We and our families are pining in misery, want, and starvation! We demand a fair day's wages for a fair day's work! We are the slaves of capital—we demand protection to our labour. We are political serfs—we demand to be free. We therefore invite all well disposed to join in our peaceful procession on

MONDAY NEXT, April 10,

As it is for the good of all that we seek to remove the evils under which we groan.

The following are the places of Meeting of THE CHARTISTS, THE TRADES, THE IRISH CONFEDERATE & REPEAL BODIES:

East Division on Stepney Green at 8 o'clock; City and Finsbury Division on Clerkenwell Green at 9 o'clock; West Division in Russell Square at 9 o'clock; and the South Division in Peckham Fields at 9 o'clock, and proceed from thence to Kennington Common.

Signed on behalf of the Committee, JOHN ARNOTT, Sec.

[See Charter, Part, 1, Edward Road, Hampstead Road.]

Chartist Demonstration newspaper.

Chartism was a working class movement which began peacefully by collecting signatures for a petition. They were aiming to achieve:

- Votes for all
- Secret ballots
- Regular Parliament
- Payment of MPs

In 1839 the petition was taken to Westminster, but it was laughed upon by the government. The response from the government brought about a change in attitude and the new approach was 'peacefully if we can, forcibly if we must.' Blacksmiths began mass producing weapons and workers gathered after work to train for a rebellion, however, it never came to anything and the movement petered out in 1848.

Early Women's Suffrage Campaigns ~ 1851-1869

Insert a picture of a person, object, or place, or
museum.



Harriett Taylor Mill

Harriett Taylor Mill and her husband campaigned for women who paid taxes to be given a vote. Harriett had radical views for the time and felt women should have equality in all areas of life. Whilst they made no direct impact on parliament, their actions created more groups working towards a vote for women.

These included : **The Langham Place Group** whose members were educated, middle-class women. Their aims were to find work for women and rights for women, such as divorce. **The Manchester Suffrage Society** - established in 1869. The Society's main interest was the education of women and girls. In 1868 it held the first public suffrage meeting and tried to recruit working women. They campaigned for the improvement of working conditions for women.

Emmeline Pankhurst and The Suffragettes

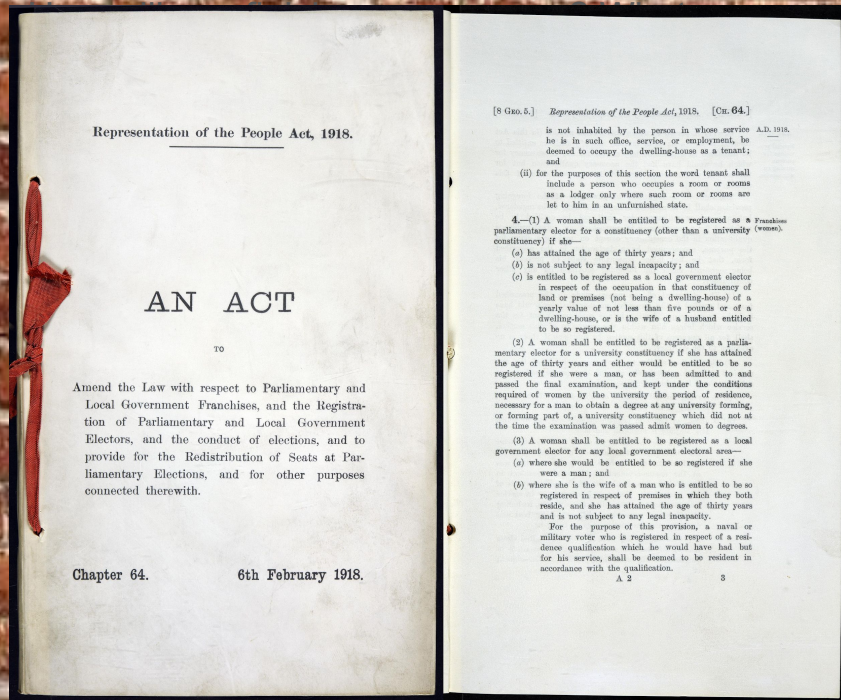


The Suffragettes.

In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters formed the Women's Social and Political Union.

In response to the lack of progress made towards votes for women. What stood The suffragettes apart from previous suffrage groups was the lengths they were prepared to go to, to obtain the vote. They deliberately broke the law to gain publicity and get arrested. They were a militant group, burning houses and planting bombs and members were expected to be fully committed to the cause at all costs. They developed a clear strategy which was communicated widely through recognisable posters and slogans such as 'deeds not words'. Their purple white and green flags could be seen on every march.

Votes for all



The representation of the people act.

Finally the great Reform Act in 1928 allowed all women and men could vote on the same basis as long as they were over 21. Their wealth did not affect their vote at all. This was quite a large improvement to the previous act -the Representation Of The People Act in 1918- which allowed women with a property qualification and a higher age qualification to vote.

Thank you for looking around my museum I hope you now understand the lengths people went to to gain the votes for all.