



The extension of suffrage

A virtual museum by
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Welcome to the museum of men and women's suffrage.

In this museum, you will find out how all people over the age of 18 won the right to vote. The right to vote was not always a right that everyone had, it took hard work, many protests, petitions and strikes to give every adult the right to vote.

Section 1: St Peter's Field

Section 2: William Cuffay

Section 3: WSPU

Section 4: Louisa Garrett Anderson

Section 5: Victory - adult suffrage for all



St Peter's Field, Manchester

St Peter's Field (Peterloo Massacre) 16th August 1819



- Over 60,000 people including men women and children gathered at St Peter's Field that day to protest and hear speeches about working men having the right to vote
- Many of the men there had just returned from the the battle of Waterloo and wanted something back - the right for working class and middle class men to vote
- However, the magistrates and wealthy elite did not think that it was going to continue being a peaceful protest, they were worried it would turn into a revolution as the French had happened not long before
- The soldiers used sabres (curved swords) to scare the crowd and make them run away
- In total, around 18 people were killed and around 600 people were injured

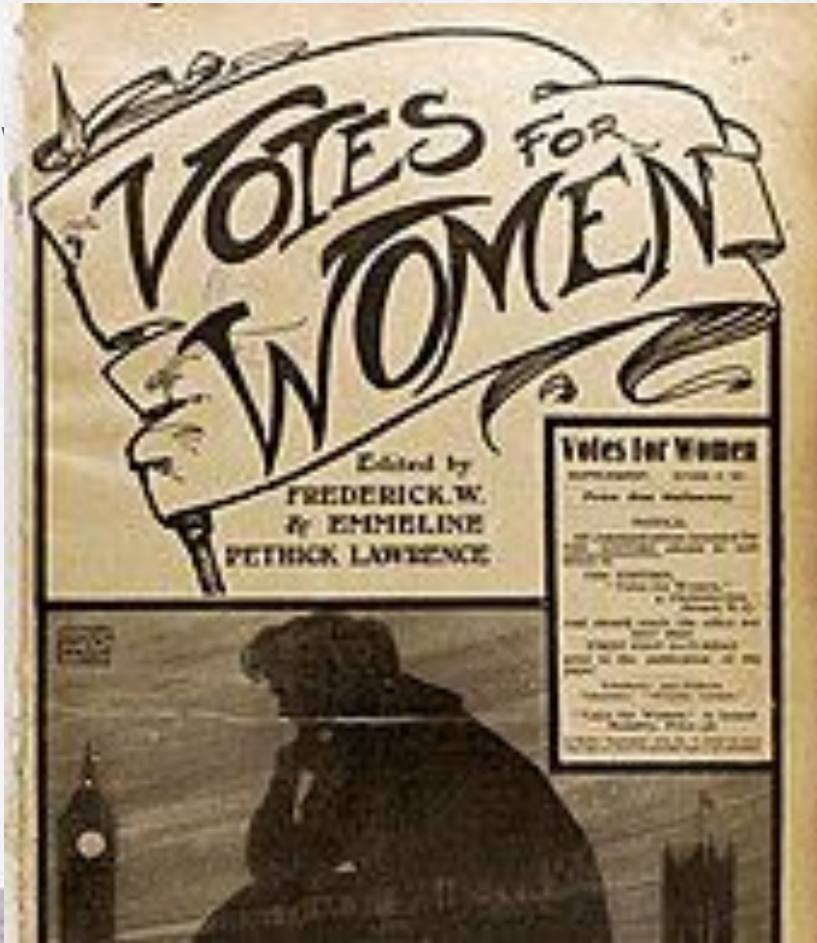
William Cuffay



William Cuffay was an amazing man. In the 19th century, it was very unusual for a black working class man to have any power or an opinion as they were normally treated very badly and not paid well.

- He helped in planning the 1848 rally on Kennington Common for adult suffrage which attracted 20,000 participants but sadly had to be abandoned
- He was arrested and transported to Tasmania (Australia) and in 1856 he was pardoned
- He decided to stay there and settle in Tasmania with his wife

WSPU



The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)

- They wanted votes all adults
- Formed by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters
- The WSPU were also known as the Suffragettes
- They were very violent and deliberately broke the law to get arrested and therefore get attention. They slashed paintings and set off bombs.
- They were organised very like an army as in if they were told to do something then they would do it
- They used the slogan 'deeds not words' to show that they believed that only action (not peaceful protests and petitions) would help secure the vote

Louisa Garrett Anderson



She was the daughter of the first ever British female doctor. She became a Chief Surgeon of a London hospital which meant she was in charge of all the male surgeons in the hospital.

- She was in the WSPU and got arrested but she later resigned as she felt their tactics were too violent
- She was a qualified surgeon
- She formed the Women's Hospital Corps and set up hospitals in France during WWI
- One of her biggest achievements was becoming Chief Surgeon of the full Military hospital in London

Victory - adult suffrage for all



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WOMEN
URGENTLY WANTED
for the
W.A.A.C
**WOMEN'S ARMY
AUXILIARY CORPS**

**WORK AT HOME
AND ABROAD
WITH THE FORCES**

**COOKS CLERKS
WAITRESSES
DRIVER-MECHANICS**

**ALL KINDS of DOMESTIC WORKERS
& WOMEN in MANY OTHER CAPACITIES
TO TAKE THE PLACE OF MEN**

**GOOD WAGES QUARTERS
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The 1918 and 1928 Acts were very important as women finally got the vote after all their hard work all the lives lost and people injured.

- 1918 Representation of the People Act. This gave all men over the age of 21 and women over 30 who owned property the right to vote. This was a massive breakthrough as women (even though it was not all) the right to vote which they had never had before. Women had proved that they are just as smart and important as men during WWI as they were making all the weapons and helping behind the front line.
- 1928 Universal Suffrage to all adults over 21. This was incredible as only ten years earlier women had got the vote but in 1928 women had the same right to vote as men.
- 1969 - when all people over the age of 18 got the right to vote.

Did adult suffrage for all ensure equality for all?

Universal suffrage for all adults in Britain, took many years and was a long and often bloody struggle.

Although women won the vote on equal terms with men in 1928, women still had a long battle ahead of them to achieve equality in other aspects of life such as fair pay and representation in political and economic life. Some people argue that this battle for equality continues to this day.

Some people take their vote for granted but I think it is important to remember all the efforts that went into getting the right to vote and equality in our lives today. Even though it is not perfect, all adults still have the right to vote.

