

# The struggle for suffrage

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A virtual museum by Madison Scully





## Welcome to the virtual Museum

- This is a museum about the different fights for the right to suffrage, ranging from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- It is about the rights for men's suffrage, women's suffrage and adult suffrage.



The image features a background of a brick wall with red and grey bricks. In the center, there is a dark brown wooden sign with a horizontal grain. The text "Early fights for suffrage" is written on the sign in a white, serif font, arranged in two lines.

# Early fights for suffrage



# Peterloo massacre

- Though it wasn't the first, the Peterloo massacre was a very famous fight for voting rights
- The event was protesting for men's right to vote, but there were women there.
- At least 15 people were killed and over 600 injured out of the 60000 people who had gathered
- Though the protest was peaceful, magistrates sent the Yeomanry (wealthy locals who pretended to be soldiers) to imprison the leader, Henry Hunt.
- Once they had accomplished their mission, they became ruthless. You can see in the painting how violent it was.



Above is a painting of the Peterloo Massacre





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# Changing Laws

- After this, the government released new laws banning, mass meetings, the carrying of flags, and cheap news papers.
- Later on, government released the Great reform act, which only made workers more angry



# Chartists

- The chartists were workers or unemployed people who wanted the right to vote
- At first, their methods were peaceful: they made a petition listing their demands.
- However, the first petition they made was laughed at and the second had no affect



Above is a photo of William Cuffay, the leader of the Chartists, who was sent to Tasmania as punishment but decided to stay there when he was released from prison



# Chartists

- When they realised that peace wasn't working, the Chartists started gathering together and demanding a revolution.
- Unfortunately, the police had spies on the inside and they were ready.
- Most of the Chartists were arrested

## NOTICE.

WHEREAS divers Large Meetings of Persons calling themselves Chartists have lately been held in the open air, in and near the Metropolis, at which Seditious and Inflammatory Speeches have been addressed to the Persons there assembled, and whereas

### SUCH MEETINGS HAVE EXCITED

## Terror and Alarm,

and have caused serious disturbance of the Public Peace, and have led to acts of tumult, disorder, and violent resistance to the Law; and whereas certain Persons styling themselves Members of the Executive Committee of the Chartist Association have declared their intention to call together other

### LARGE MEETINGS IN OR NEAR THE METROPOLIS,

*On Monday next, June 12;*

And whereas apprehension is entertained by the Peaceable Inhabitants of the Metropolis that such Meetings will be of the same dangerous character, and will lead to the disturbance of the Public Peace:

Notice is hereby given, That

## SUCH MEETINGS ARE ILLEGAL,

AND THAT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES WILL BE ADOPTED

to prevent any  
such Meeting taking place

And all well-disposed Persons are hereby cautioned not to attend, be present at, or take part in, any such Meeting.

Saturday, June 10, 1848,  
Metropolitan Police Office,  
Whitehall Place.

**C. ROWAN,** Commissioners of Police  
**R. MAYNE,** of the Metropolis.

THE CHARTIST COLLECTION

## 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 TRADIS, 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.

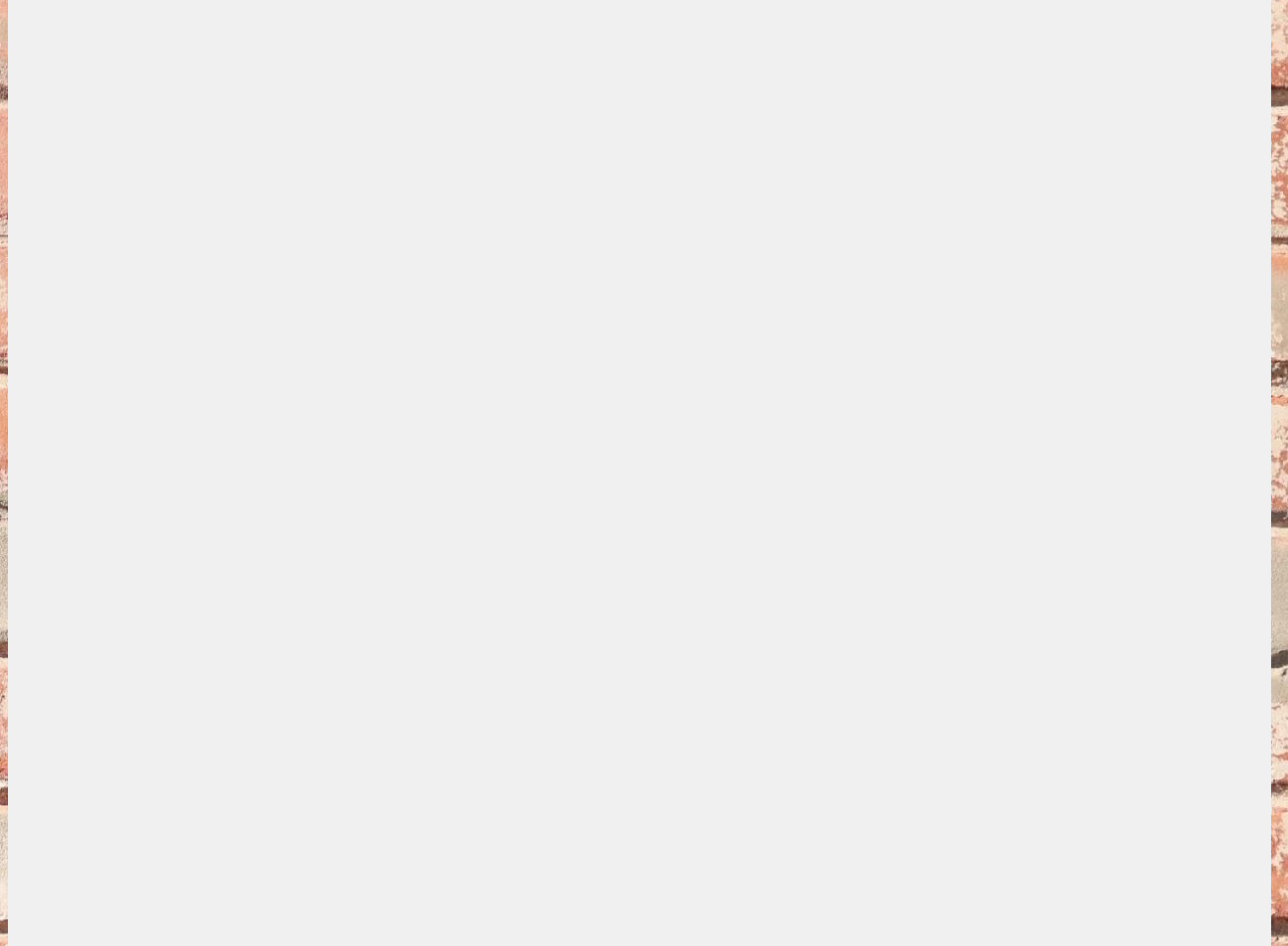
*Signed on behalf of the Committee, JOHN J. HARRIS, Sec.*  
John Harriss (John J. Harriss, Secretary 1848)

Above is two posters about a chartist meeting, One is posted by the police (left) and one is posted by the chartists (right). You can see the two very different views on the meeting,



# Chartists

Here is a song that the chartists  
sung in their marches.





# Votes for men

- In 1867, most men in towns were given the vote
- In 1884, most men in towns and the countryside were allowed to vote
- This happened because men were becoming more interested in politics and were given more opportunities to learn.
- Also, the different parties used this to get votes.



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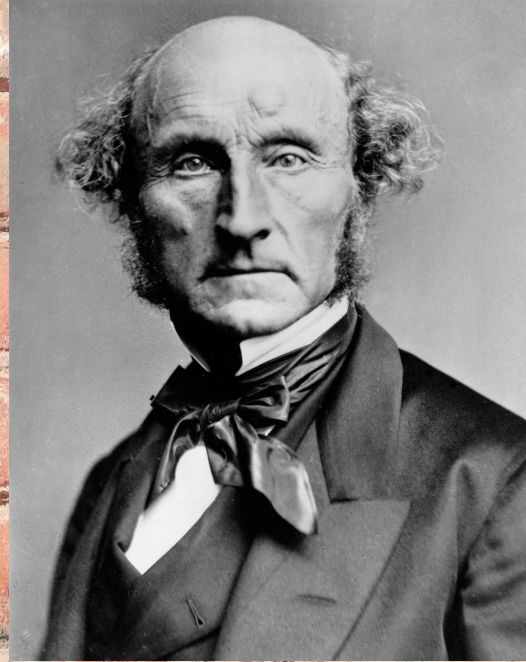
The background of the image is a close-up of a brick wall. The bricks are in various shades of red, orange, and grey, with some showing signs of weathering and peeling mortar. In the center of the image, there is a dark brown, rectangular wooden sign with a visible wood grain. The sign is slightly offset from the wall, creating a subtle shadow. On the sign, the text "Early Woman's suffrage" is written in a white, serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

# Early Woman's suffrage



# Early women's suffrage

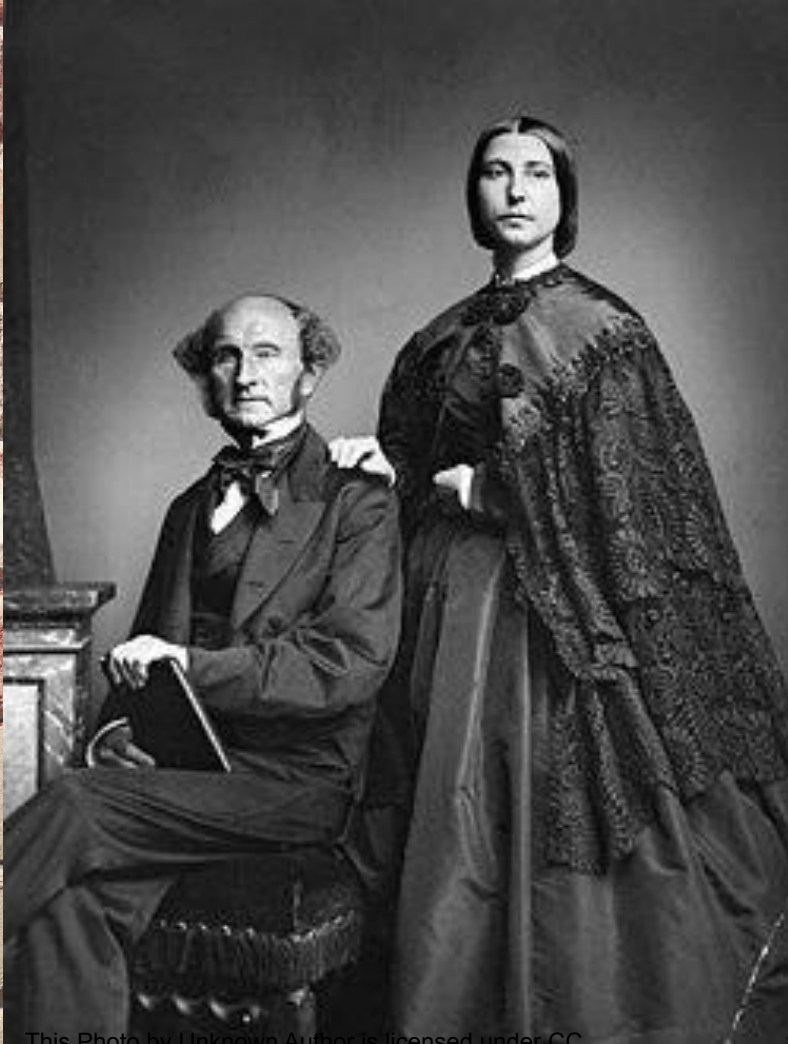
- There are lots of different people and groups who were campaigning for women's right to vote, though all of them were unsuccessful



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# The Mills

- Harriett Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill were both supporters of woman's suffrage
- Harriett wrote an anonymous essay highlighting the problems of women
- John was involved in creating some petitions with the Langham Place group though either had any effect.

Above is a photo of Harriet Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill



# Lydia Becker

- Lydia Becker was a woman who worked with the Manchester Suffrage Society
- She persuaded officials to accept a woman's vote, held public meetings and had a court case about it.
- Unfortunately, the court case was shut down.



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Above is a photo of Lydia Becker





# Helping future campaigns

- Though they themselves failed, their work inspired people and created new groups who wanted woman's suffrage

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The background of the image is a close-up of a brick wall. The bricks are in various shades of red, orange, and grey, with some showing signs of weathering and peeling paint. In the center of the image, there is a dark brown wooden sign with a vertical grain pattern. The sign is rectangular and has the text "Later women's suffrage" written on it in a white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines, with "Later women's" on the top line and "suffrage" on the bottom line.

# Later women's suffrage



# Different suffrage groups

- There were lots of different groups campaigning for women's suffrage later



## The NUWSS who used peaceful protests



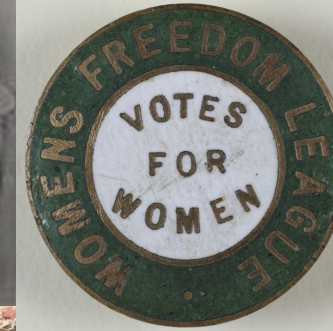
The radical suffragists  
who were  
working-class women  
who wanted adult  
suffrage



**Selina Cooper who  
made speeches and  
wrote petitions**



Eve Gore-Booth and Esther Roper who wrote *The Woman's Labour News*



**The Woman's  
Freedom League  
who refused to pay  
takes and take part  
in Census**



And the most famous of them all, the Suffragettes. A violent group of women.



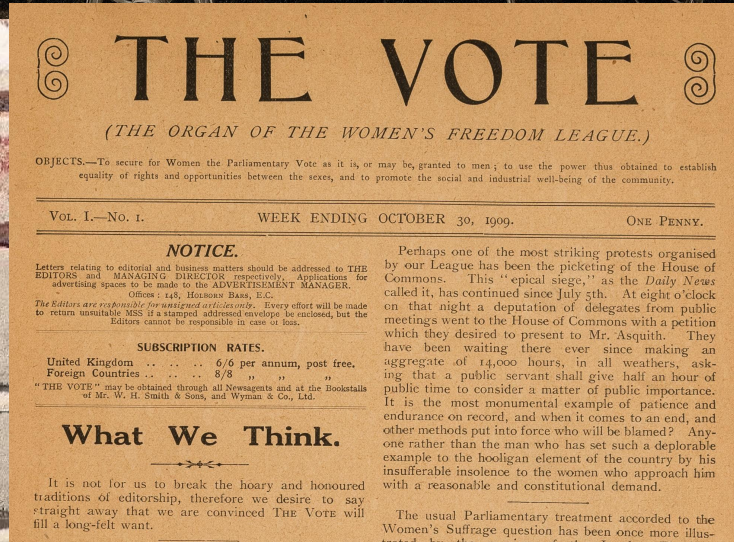
# The NUWSS

- The NUWSS was a peaceful suffragist group.
- They used petitions, debates and speeches to try and gain the vote
- They only wanted women suffrage, so they would be on the same terms as men and not all of them could vote.



Above are photos of the NUWSS pin badge and the leader of NUWSS, Millicent Fawcett





# The WFL

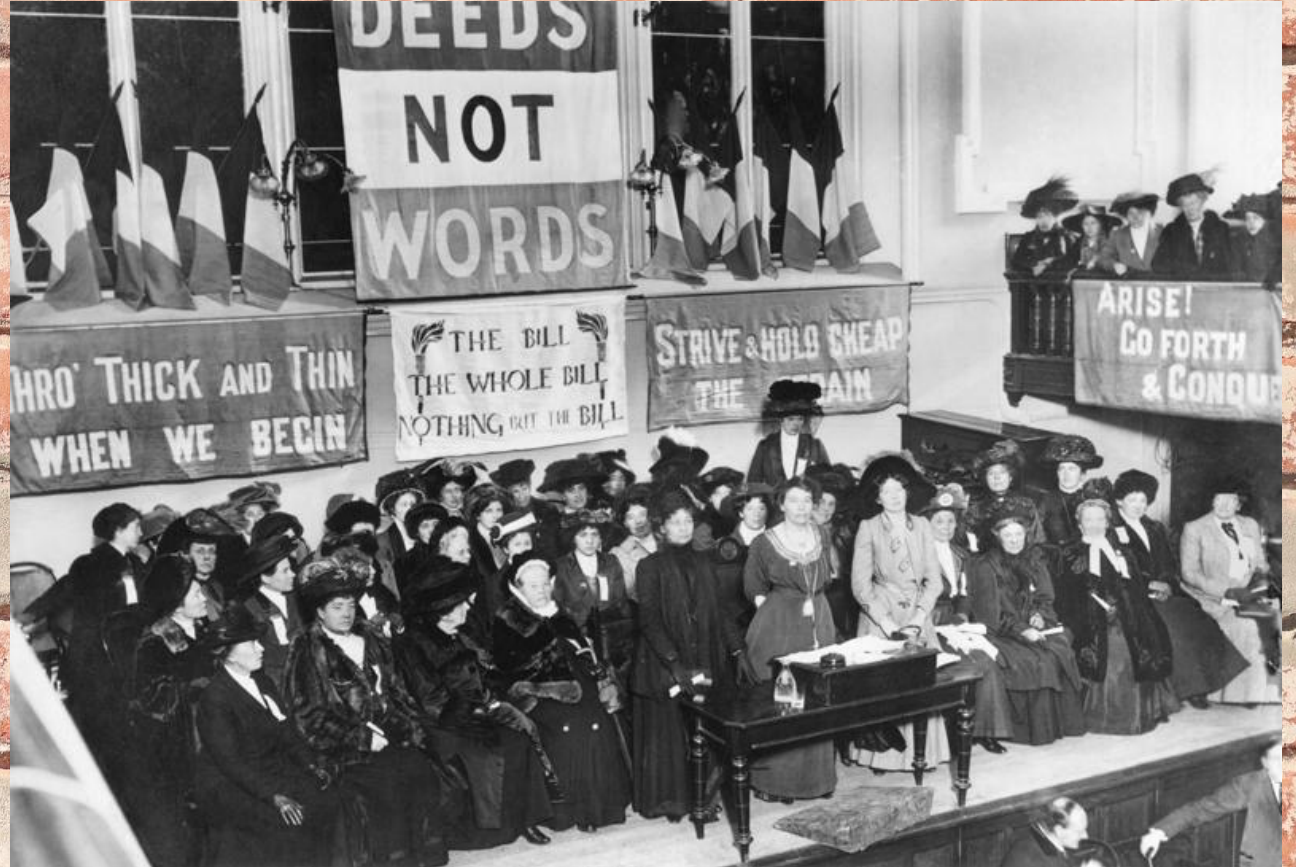
- The WFL was another peaceful group of suffragists
- They also wrote their own newspaper and chained themselves to objects
- They travelled in a caravan.
- It was founded by people who left the WSPU ( the Suffragettes) because they didn't agree with its tactics and its aims

Above are photos of their caravan and their newspaper.



# The WSPU

- The WSPU/ the Suffragettes were the first violent group
- They purposefully broke the law to get arrested and gain publicity
- However, they actually made it harder to get the vote because the government didn't want to give in to violence
- Lots of people left their group due to the violence.



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Above is a photo of the Suffragettes protesting.



# Specific Suffragettes

- Lots of specific Suffragettes were important.



Kitty Marion: threw bricks in windows was a key member of bombing, was arrested several times and went on hunger strike.



Annie Kenney: organised the movement when Christabel left to France and had to gain support from the working class.



Princess Sophia Duleep-Singh: an Indian princess who sold *The Suffragette* and led a 440-strong demonstration with Emmeline Pankhurst.



Mary Richardson: an important militant, involved in arson attacks, known for slashing the painting of Rokeby Venus.



# Emily Wilding Davison

- Emily Wilding Davidson is a very well-known suffragette
- Emily was the first suffragette to die
- She did so when trying to put a suffragette banner on the King's horse



Here is the video of Emily being run over by the King's horse



# The Pankhursts

- The Pankhursts were the most important family in the suffragette movement
- Emmeline Pankhurst was the founder of the WSPU.
- Christabel Pankhurst was a dedicated member until she fled to France to escape imprisonment.
- Sylvia Pankhurst didn't agree with the suffragettes tactics and aims. She was removed from the group in 1913.



Above is a photo of Emmeline Pankhurst (left) with her daughters, Christabel (middle) and Sylvia (right).





Outcome



# World War one

- Though they were improving, during World War 1 was really when women proved that they were worthy of the vote.







# Helping in the war

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- All groups put aside their campaigns for the war
- They marched in 1915 for their “Right to Serve” which led to the creation of the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps
- Other women served medical roles or worked in factories where they produced weapons



# Women achieving the vote

- In 1918, the vote was given to women over 30.
- In 1928, it was given to women over 21, the same rights as men.





A close-up photograph of a brick wall. The bricks are a mix of red and grey, with some showing signs of weathering and peeling paint. In the center of the image, there is a dark brown wooden sign with a vertical grain pattern. The sign is rectangular and has the words "The end" written on it in a white, sans-serif font.

The end