

Title of Essay: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Push for Women's Rights

Name: Ayush Bobra

Grade: 8

Middle School: Marlboro Memorial Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Amanda Hendrickson

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, born November 12, 1815, was an American suffragist and a leading figure in the women's rights movement. She was born in Johnstown, New York, but resided in Tenafly, New Jersey during her main years (1868-1887) as an activist. Throughout her childhood and educational experiences, Stanton learned about and experienced the many injustices women had to face at the time. It was this that sparked a fire in her and lead her on her path of an activist and suffragist. While raising her six children, Stanton continued to study law and learn about how she could help gain equal rights for women. She started to dabble in the suffragist movement soon after.

In 1848, Stanton organized the First Women's Right Convention, or the Seneca Falls Convention, with other prominent suffragists. The convention was largely mocked by the media, but it eventually became the foundation for other events of the same that took place around the country.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton also helped write the Declaration of Sentiments. This document, modeled after America's own Declaration of Independence, stated what women's rights should be and how men oppressed women in their daily lives. At the time, 68 women and 32 men signed the document during the Seneca Falls Convention. The document inspired many other suffragists to pursue the goal as well, and is widely seen as the launch of the women's suffrage movement on the national stage. The Declaration of Sentiments also called for changes to elevate women in society. That same year, Stanton circulated petitions throughout New York to urge the New York Congress to pass the New York Married Women's Property Act. In 1851, Stanton met Susan B. Anthony, another influential activist. The two collaborated on speeches and gatherings, and Stanton was widely regarded as the "brains behind Anthony's brawn" (History.com). This

pairing would lead to major developments in the movement. The two made speeches before the New York State Senate (1854) and the Assembly (1860). They also formed the National Woman Suffrage Association, which made many advances in helping women gain equal rights.

Stanton was also an abolitionist and was in support of the 15th Amendment; however, when the amendment outlawed restriction of vote due to "race, color, or previous condition of servitude" but not gender, she became infuriated and this only fueled her cause further.

As Stanton became older, she began to express her ideas more through writing than through traveling and lecturing. She co-authored the first three volumes of the History of Woman Suffrage and wrote countless essays, pamphlets, articles, and editorials.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton died in October of 1902, 18 years before women gained the right to vote. Her house in Tenafly, New Jersey, where she resided from 1868 to 1887, still stands today and is now a National Historic Landmark.

By and large, Stanton's efforts to gain equal rights for women not only sparked the women's suffrage movement, but continued to drive it forward and inspire others to take action. She is a true symbol of what dedication and perseverance can accomplish. While she did not live to see her efforts come to fruition, her legacy will live on today.

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