

Title of Essay: The Fight for Women's Rights

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The Fight for Women's Rights

Elizabeth Cady Stanton had a fire within her. She knew that the law was unjust to women. She had so many questions. Why couldn't women work and make a living? Why couldn't women get an education? Why were women not allowed to vote? Elizabeth wanted answers and that's what she was going to get.

Born in Johnstown, N.Y., Elizabeth was introduced to many male dominated activities in her early life through her father who was a slave owner, attorney, Congressman and a judge. Elizabeth longed for an education and wanted to go to college but because of her gender, she was unable to do so. After the age of sixteen, Elizabeth went onto Troy Female Seminary. This was where she earned a degree in preaching. However, Elizabeth did not want only to preach she also wanted to do other things that men were able to do such as, take part in governmental activities. This made Elizabeth furious, so she decided to do something about it!

In 1848, Elizabeth and Susan B. Anthony, also an activist who wanted to change the laws for women, decided to start fighting for what they believed was right. Elizabeth helped organize the first women's rights convention. This convention was held in Seneca Falls N.Y., close to where Elizabeth lived at the time. The convention was held in order to fight for civil, social and religious rights for women. It also protested against the fact that men were free to be part of the government and were able to participate in many governmental positions that women were not able to take part in. The convention also discussed women's rights resolutions. Elizabeth made a speech that stated "to declare our right to be free as man is free". She also stated "That all men and women are created equal" (Jone Johnson Lewis).

Elizabeth also helped write the Declaration of Sentiments. This was modeled after the Declaration of Independence but for the rights of women. It offered examples of how men overruled women. Some examples are that women could not own their own land, gain a college degree, take part in any governmental positions, and that a husband had the authority to take custody of children in a divorce. And last but not least it proposed that women be given the right to vote, and take part in more governmental offices.

In 1868, Elizabeth moved to Tenafly, NJ in Bergen County. Here Elizabeth and Susan B. Anthony established the National American Woman's Suffrage Association. This association focused on women's suffrage at the national level. It became so popular that women joined the association. Elizabeth persuaded the Senator of California to sponsor the women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution. In 1896, 4 states had secured the women's suffrage movement.

Even though Stanton's health was declining she never gave up. She eventually published an autobiography, *Eighty Years and More*. When Elizabeth died of heart failure she wanted her brain to be donated to science to debunk claims that the mass of men's brains made them smarter than women. However, Elizabeth's family did not support this and her brain was not donated to science and her final request was denied.

Works Cited

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