

Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in 1815 into an affluent family in Johnstown, New York. While growing up, Stanton tried to copy her brothers' academic achievements. She attended Johnstown Academy and studied Greek and mathematics. After she graduated in 1830, she attended the Troy Female Seminary in New York. It was one of the first women's academies to offer an advanced education equal to that of male academies.

Stanton's father was a judge and lawyer. After she returned from the academy in 1833, she read law in his office and watched how he handled his cases. Seeing firsthand how women suffered legal discrimination, she resolved to change the laws. She also became involved at this time with the abolitionist movement and was exposed to progressive-thinking reformers. One of these was the journalist Henry Stanton, whom she married in 1840, against her father's wishes.

Stanton traveled with her husband to London to attend the World Anti-Slavery Convention in June, 1840. Here Stanton met Lucretia Mott, who was to become her close friend and intellectual mentor. When the convention refused to recognize women as legitimate delegates, Stanton and Mott were humiliated and angered. They resolved to call together a women's rights convention after they returned to America. Eight years later, in Seneca Falls, New York, they carried through with their plan. On July 19, 1848, five women met and Stanton, acting as leader, wrote the meeting's manifesto, the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments.

In 1851, Stanton met Susan B. Anthony, who became her friend and partner. The ongoing association did much for the advancement of women's rights. In 1868 Stanton and Anthony created the independent *National Woman Suffrage Association* with Stanton as president. In 1881, Stanton and Anthony published the first volume of the *History of Woman Suffrage*, a collection of writings about the movement's struggle.

Stanton spent her whole life trying to make it possible for women to vote and have the same rights as men. This didn't happen until eighteen years after her death in 1920. Stanton had been inspired by the example of her mother, encouraged by her husband, cousin, tutors, and Susan B. Anthony; opposed by her father, preachers, and the press. But she remained indomitable until her death.