

Victory Horns, Parade Horns And Suffragettes

During the 19th century a reform started to take place that focused on securing the privileges of women. The women gathered together to address social and institutional barriers that limited women's rights. Issues included the lack of opportunities for educational and economic gain as well as their responsibilities in the home and their lack of voice in the political sphere.

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton took the opportunity during these meetings to create the National Women Suffrage Association (NWSA). The NWSA focused on changing the federal law and to include women in the 15th amendment.

At the same time, Lucy Stone formed the American Women Suffrage Association (AWSA) addressing the same issues but on a state level instead of a national level.

Both groups struggled to maintain momentum, but by the late 1880s and the early 1890s both groups experienced a surge of volunteerism from women of all types. In response to this surge, the two groups combined to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) in order to unite the suffragettes.

The NAWSA accomplished their goals through a wide spread and colorful campaign. For two decades these women held marches, parades, and many acts of protests that displayed symbolic meaning to the women.

One item that became a monumental symbol for this movement was the Suffragette horn. The horn was first introduced when Elizabeth Stanton adopted it from Caroline Watts' "Bugler Girl" design for the Women's Political Union. This horn was used by the women during

their demonstrations to amplify their presence by creating noise while they gave speeches or protests.

This symbol was not only an object for the women to use but it was displayed on posters, buttons and advertisements everywhere. The horn was usually displayed in colors that have meaning such as red white and blue to display their patriotic pride or white, gold, and purple which became the colors of the movement. The horn made a great impact on the suffrage campaign.

In 1917 the United States entered World War I and the National American Suffrage Association used this opportunity to spread their ideas in a new way. Their campaign supported the war even though many of them were pacifists. Their campaign agreed the world should be safe for democracy however it should start at home.

The suffrage leaders concluded that their participation during the war efforts was inconsistent due to their lack of the political right to vote.

In 1918 the House of Representatives passed an amendment securing the rights to vote, however the Senate did not approve or passed this amendment. Once World War I ended the House of Representatives brought back the voting rights amendment.

By 1920 the 19th amendment was finally ratified and women all over the nation were granted the full right to vote. This was the beginning of the women's movement into the national political sphere.

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SUFFRAGETTES Poster for rally by National Union of Women's Suffrage Albert Hall, London, 13 June 1908



Official program of the
Woman Suffrage Parade
of 1913 by Benjamin Morgan Dale



Suffragists Celebrate 1920 Ratification of 19th Amendment, Bettman.
"The Fight for Women's Suffrage Photos."



Suffragists celebrate
the end of the war,
Pavlik Studio, 1918