

Women's Rights

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Women's Rights
National Historical Park



Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Seneca Falls



Elizabeth Cady Stanton named this house “Grassmere” and invited a lot of friends to stay with her at “The Center of the Rebellion.” Her farmhouse was never quiet. She was always surrounded by family, friends, and reformers.

Before Seneca Falls

Elizabeth Cady grew up in a wealthy family. She was intelligent, independent, curious, and puzzled by the different lives and privileges of men and women. She was rebellious from the start and resolved to change her world.



Elizabeth Cady,
around 1835.



Henry B. Stanton
in 1840.

Life in Seneca Falls

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and family moved to this house in 1847. Stanton was challenged to manage a hectic household. With little help and a growing family, she found herself overwhelmed with “women’s work.”



Elizabeth Cady Stanton with her
daughter Harriot in 1856.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton with her son
Daniel (right) and Henry (left) in 1848.

The First Women's Rights Convention

At the home of Jane Hunt, four women (Lucretia Mott, Mary Ann M'Clintock, Martha Wright, and Hunt – all wives and mothers) listened, shared, and understood Stanton's frustrations. Together they decided to call a woman's rights convention. It was held ten days later.



Martha Coffin Wright
around 1850.



Lucretia Coffin Mott
around 1850.

A Partnership

Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote letters and newspaper articles, recruited, networked, and organized for women's rights. Stanton combined her public and private lives by opening her home to reformers who were free to travel and speak about equal rights for women. Susan B. Anthony is her most famous recruit.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton (left) and
Susan B. Anthony around 1865.



Stanton and Anthony around 1890.

After Seneca Falls

The Stanton family moved to New York City in 1862, where Stanton continued to work for women's rights in the U.S. and abroad.

She worked for an expansive platform including: woman suffrage, dress reform, girls' sports, equal employment, property rights, equal wages, divorce and custody law reform, collective households, coeducation, and religious reform.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a staunch advocate and unwavering voice for full rights of citizenship for women until she died in 1902.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton