

As Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and their colleagues continue the suffragist fight, they encounter resistance. It isn't just men who disapprove of their efforts. Even some American women are not convinced the suffragists are right.

Despite the opposition, the suffragists are undaunted.

The parade—on March 13, 1913—is a very serious step forward in gathering much-needed publicity for the cause. Even Helen Keller attends the event:

But to the women, the event was very serious. Helen Keller "was so exhausted and unnerved by the experience in attempting to reach a grandstand . . . that she was unable to speak later at Continental hall [sic]." Two ambulances "came and went constantly for six hours, always impeded and at times actually opposed, so that doctor and driver literally had to fight their way to give succor to the injured."



One hundred marchers were taken to the local Emergency Hospital. Before the afternoon was over, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, responding to a request from the chief of police, authorized the use of a troop of cavalry from nearby Fort Myer to help control the crowd.

Despite enormous difficulties, many of those in the parade completed the route. When the procession reached the Treasury Building, one hundred women and children presented an allegorical tableau written especially for the event to show "those ideals toward which both men and women have been struggling through the ages and toward which, in co-operation and equality, they will continue to strive."

The pageant began with "The Star Spangled Banner" and the commanding figure of Columbia dressed in national colors, emerging from the great columns at the top of the Treasury Building steps. Charity entered, her path strewn with rose petals. Liberty followed to the "Triumphal March" from "Aida" and a dove of peace was released.

In the final tableau, Columbia, surrounded by Justice, Charity, Liberty, Peace, and Hope, all in flowing robes and colorful scarves, with trumpets sounding, stood to watch the oncoming procession. The New York Times described the pageant as "one of the most impressively beautiful spectacles ever staged in this country." (See Sheridan Harvey's article, "Marching for the Vote: Remembering the Woman Suffrage Parade of 1913," online at the Library of Congress - American Memory - web site.)

Although the suffragists' parade is a "beautiful spectacle" for some, not everyone agrees with the goals of the sponsoring women.

See, also:

Alice Paul - Chairman of the Congressional Committee

Alice Paul and Lucy Burns - Building the Base

Suffragette Parade - March 13, 1913

Breaking Ranks within the Women's Movement

Lucy Burns - Let's Picket the White House

Lucy Burns and Alice Paul - Advocates for Women

Lucy Burns - Imprisoned at the Occoquan Workhouse

Alice Paul - Imprisoned

Alice Paul - Force Feeding

Victory - The 19th Amendment is Ratified

Credits:

Clip from "[Iron-Jawed Angels](#)" (2004), an [HBO film](#) about suffragettes fighting for a constitutional amendment, giving American women the right to vote.

Clips online, courtesy HBO and YouTube. All copyrights/ownership rights belong to HBO. Provided here as "fair use" for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the program.

Director:

Katja von Garnier

Producers:

Len Amato

Lydia Dean Pilcher

Robin Forman

Paula Weinstein

Writers:

Sally Robinson

Eugenia Bostwick-Singer

Raymond Singer

Jennifer Friedes

Starring:

Hilary Swank - Alice Paul

Frances O'Connor - Lucy Burns

Molly Parker - Emily Leighton (a fictional character portrayed as a senator's wife)

Laura Fraser - Doris Stevens

Lois Smith - Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw

Vera Farmiga - Ruza Wenclawska (also known as Rose Winslow)

Brooke Smith - Mabel Vernon

Patrick Dempsey - Ben Weissman (a fictional character)

Julia Ormond - Inez Milholland

Adilah Barnes - Ida Wells-Barnett

Anjelica Huston - Carrie Chapman Catt

Music:

Reinhold Heil
Johnny Klimek

Cinematography:

Robbie Greenberg

Editing:

Hans Funck

Distributor:

HBO Films

Release date:

February 15, 2004

Running time:

125 minutes

Quoted passages from an article by Sheridan Harvey, online at the [Library of Congress - American Memory - web site](#).

In-text image of Red-Cross ambulance, at the 3 March 1913 "Freedom March," by G.V. Buck; online via the Library of Congress.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Success-and-Resistance-Alice-Paul-Keeps-Fighting>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Success-and-Resistance-Alice-Paul-Keeps-Fighting>