



Suffrage stories

Not all women who signed the suffrage petition were outspoken social campaigners. Lady Hall was married to Sir John Hall, the member of the House of Representatives who took parliamentary leadership of the women's suffrage campaign.

Despite her politically active husband, Lady Hall was a self-described 'stay at home'. Her main concerns were the welfare of her children and household. She was a loving mother who worried about her children's wellbeing.

John's parliamentary work meant he was away from home for long periods. His political success came at a cost to their companionship. Lady Hall resented his frequent absences and felt public matters took up too much of his attention.

Lady Hall was a conscientious woman with a strong Christian faith, who supported Sunday Schools and founded the Mothers' Union in Hororata. But she was not an active campaigner for suffrage. Kate Sheppard wrote to Lady Hall, asking if she would have her name heading the petition, but shy Lady Hall declined. However, her name heads the Hororata section for which she collected signatures.

Lady Hall reminds us that many of the women who signed the suffrage petition did not seek to challenge social conventions but were content with their role as homemaker and mother.

Rose, Lady Hall

1828-1900



■ Rose, Lady Hall, London, c. 1897. Credit: Terrace Station Archives.



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