

Margaret Brent and the Right to Vote

Let's learn about the first woman to ask for the right to vote in Maryland! Margaret Brent moved from England to the colony of Maryland in 1638. While living in Maryland, Lord Calvert left Brent land in his will, so she became a landowner. In colonial Maryland, people who owned land were allowed to vote, but typically landowners were men. Margaret Brent went to the Maryland assembly and asked for the right to vote since she owned land. However, she was denied that right because she was a woman. It would take another 300 years before women would gain the right to vote in the United States.

Now that we've learned about Margaret Brent, let's answer some questions!

What is voting?

In the United States, we vote for many things! What is something we vote for?

Have you ever voted for something? What was it?

Do you think it is fair that Margaret Brent couldn't vote? Why or why not?

How do you think women felt when they got the right to vote?

Here is an artist's idea of what it looked like when Margaret Brent asked the Maryland Assembly for the right to vote.



Margaret Brent Comes Before the Maryland Colonial Council. J. Carroll Mansfield in 1942. 1988.53.14. Maryland Historical Society, Museum Department

Alt Text: This image depicts Margaret Brent standing before the Maryland Assembly, all of whom are men, requesting the right to vote.

Now it's your turn! Draw the image above in your own style!

