

Mary Wollstonecraft: 'Britain's first feminist'

1784: Expanding Horizons – video transcript

[Presented by Amanda Vickery]

When Mary Wollstonecraft was in her twenties, she set up a small school here in Newington Green for the daughters of the local merchants.

Her experience of teaching was to have a profound and guiding influence on her political thinking. She believed the banal and limited education of girls was the greatest tool in the repression of women.

"It is time to effect a revolution in female manners," she wrote. "Time to restore to them their lost dignity.

"Strengthen the female mind by enlarging it, and there will be an end to blind obedience."

Clip from Suffragettes Forever! The Story of Women and Power, BBC Two