

TEMPERANCE PLEDGES

Temperance pledges, in which people vowed not to drink or to drink only for medicinal purposes, in moderation, and on drinking holidays such as the 4th of July, began to appear around the late 1800s. The majority of participants in temperance meetings were women. Many of the same women were also part of the suffragist movement. Women such as Carrie Nation and the American Temperance Union preached the “evils of drink and drunkenness” and urged men and women to sign the pledge.

American Temperance Union Pledge

We whose names are hereunto annexed, believing that the use of intoxicating liquor, as a beverage, is not only needless, but hurtful to the social, civil, and religious interests of men: that it tends to form intemperate appetites and habits, and that while it is continued, the evils of intemperance can never be done away: do therefore agree that we will not use it or traffic in it: that we will not provide it as an article of entertainment or for persons in our employment: and that in all suitable ways, we will discountenance the use of it throughout the community.

Philadelphia Female Total Abstinence Society Pledge

Believing that the use of all intoxicating liquors both as a beverage, and when mingled with food is injurious to the body and the mind, and that the great prevalence of Intemperance in our Country calls upon mothers and daughters to renounce the use of whatever maintains the evil, the Members of this Society do agree entirely to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and also not to use them unnecessarily in domestic cookery, or traffic in them, and that in all suitable ways they will discountenance their use in the community.

Pledge for Children

I do hereby pledge forever and myself to abstain entirely from the use of all intoxicating liquor as a drink.

Source

The Library Company of Philadelphia. (n.d.). Ardent spirits: The origins of the temperance movement.
<http://librarycompany.org/ArdentSpirits/temperance-pledge.html>