TIMELINE - WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

Compiled By Robin Shrimplin

-1637  In Massachusetts colony, Anne Hutchinson is found guilty of sedition and banished for her religious ideas

-1652  In England, The Society of Friends (Quakers) is founded. Later in United States history this group will be essential to both the abolition and suffrage movements.

-1776  During the second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Abigail Adams writes to her husband John entreating him to “remember the ladies” as he and the other men were writing the Declaration of Independence. However, in the end it specified that “all men are created equal.”

-1779  In Gloucester, Massachusetts, Judith Sargent Stevens writes *Essay on the Equality of the Sexes*.

-1790  **The New Jersey colony grants “all free inhabitants” the right to vote. The New Jersey legislature rescinds women’s suffrage in 1807.**

-1791  Textile mills in Rhode Island hire women to make cloth.

-1792  In England, Mary Wollstonecraft publishes one of the first books promoting women’s political and social rights, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*.
-Text available online at [http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu](http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu)

-1807  A politician that had nearly been defeated earlier by a female voting block sponsors a repeal of women’s voting rights--**New Jersey repeals the voting rights of women and African Americans.**

-1808  Slave importation becomes illegal in the United States.

-1820  To maintain balance between free and slave states, the Missouri Compromise is passed.

-1821  The first endowed school for girls, Troy Female Seminary, is founded by Emma Hart Willard in New York. It is the first American institution that offers advanced education for women.

-1824  In the textile mills of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, men and women conduct the first labor strike.

-1827  Slave Isabella Van Wagener (Sojourner Truth) escapes from her master.

-1828  In spite of society’s opposition to women speaking in the public sphere, author Frances Wright begins lecturing.

Angelina and Sarah Grimke become involved in the abolition movement. The Grimke sisters are members of a slave-owning family in South Carolina.

-1829  Author Frances Wright attacks organized religion for assigning women a secondary place as she travels throughout the United States on a paid lecture tour. She advocates women’s empowerment through the abolition movement and divorce.

-1830  The moral reform campaign, consisting mostly of women, begins in the United States. It lasts into the 1840’s. The campaign was committed to the abolition of immoral behavior, the gender double standard, and the promotion of abstinence.

Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison begins publishing *The Liberator.*
In Ohio, Oberlin College becomes the first racially integrated, co-educational college in the United States. The first academic degrees to women are awarded in 1841. Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown are early graduates.

In December, the American Anti-Slavery Association is founded in Philadelphia.

African American poet Phyllis Wheatley’s 18th century poems are re-published.

Utica, New York holds its first Anti-Slavery Convention.

In New York, the Married Woman’s Property Act is introduced to the state legislature. Abolitionist and women’s rights activist Sarah Grimke begins her speaking career. Her sister Angelina also lectures for the American Anti-Slavery Society.

An anti-slavery society is established in Rochester, New York.

New York City hosts the first National Female Anti-Slavery Society Convention. It is attended by a total of eighty-one delegates from twelve states. **It is the first women’s national political meeting.**

In Massachusetts, Mary Lyon founds Mount Holyoke College. It eventually becomes the first four-year college in the United States that was exclusively for women. Vassar followed in 1861 and in 1875, Wellesley and Smith Colleges.

Sarah Grimke publishes *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women.*

A split occurs in the American Anti-Slavery Society when Abby Keller Foster, a woman, is elected to the Business committee. She travels lecturing against slavery.

In New York, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ernestine Rose and Paulina Wright work for the passage of the Married Woman’s Property Act.

In London, the World Anti-Slavery Convention is held. Abolitionists Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other female American delegates are not allowed to participate in the meeting. This rejection prompts them to embrace the cause of women’s rights and they decide to hold a women’s rights convention when they return to the United States.

The *Workingman’s Advocate*, a newspaper in Rochester, New York, promotes children’s public education.

In Massachusetts, the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association (LFLRA) is organized by female textile workers, demanding a ten-hour workday. For working women this was one of the first, permanent labor associations.

Charles Goodyear patents the vulcanization of rubber. This provides women for the first time with reliable condoms. Its effective use contributed to the downward, century-long spiral of the birth rate in the United States.

A temperance promoting newspaper, *The Lily*, is published by Amelia Bloomer.

In Rochester, New York, Frederick Douglass publishes *The North Star.*

July 19th and 20th—Seneca Falls, New York hosts the first Women’s Rights Convention with three
hundred people attending. Frederick Douglass, Amelia Bloomer, Martha C. Wright, Mary A. McClintock, Lucretia Mott and her husband, James, are among the attendees. The Declaration of Sentiments, authored by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, sets the women’s rights agenda and many participants sign a “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions,” which outlines the main mission of this new movement.

Text Available Online At: http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches
Search the Index for: stanton_seneca_falls

Text Also Available At: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw
Search by Key Words/Full Text: Declaration of Sentiments

New York, the Married Women’s Property Act is passed by the state legislature.

An attempted utopian society, the Oneida Community, is formed in New York. In this community women have equal rights with men, childcare is shared, and property is communal. It dissolves around 1880.

 Seamstresses meet at a convention to organize the Women’s Political Union to fight for women’s equal rights, an increase in minimum wages and a reduced workday. Currently the women were working fifteen-hour days.

Maria Mitchell becomes the first woman member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences after her discovery of a comet.

In Philadelphia, Lucretia Mott delivers her lecture on the Discourse on Woman. She argues that gender inequality exists due to the social enforcement of legal, social and religious restrictions placed on women.

Text Available Online At: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw
Search by Key Words/Full Text: Discourse On Woman

Elizabeth Smith Miller begins wearing what will become known as “bloomers” in Seneca Falls, New York.

Slave Harriet Tubman escapes. Over the next decade she will lead many slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad.

In April, the second Women’s Rights Convention is held in Salem, Oregon.

In October, Worcester, Massachusetts hosts the first National Woman’s Rights Convention. Attendees include Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucy Stone, Abby Kelly Foster, Sojourner Truth, and Paulina Wright Davis. A dress reform movement was launched by Amelia Jenks Bloomer. Later, many suffragists abandoned “bloomers,” worried that it detracted from the serious women’s rights issues.

At the women’s rights convention in Akron, Ohio, former slave Sojourner Truth delivers her infamous Ain’t I a Woman? speech.

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On October 15th, Worcester, Massachusetts hosts the second National Woman’s Rights Convention with Lucretia Mott presiding. New attendees include Reverend Harry Ward Beecher, columnist Elizabeth Oakes Smith, and Horace Mann. Clarina Howard Nichols delivers The Responsibilities of Woman speech which is filled with stories about women that had been unfairly treated under the law.

“I labor in hope: for I have faith that when men come to value their own rights, as means of human happiness, rather than of paltry gain, they will feel themselves more honored in releasing than in retaining the ‘inalienable rights’ of woman.” (A series of “Women’s Rights Tracts, first
The *Westminster Review* publishes *On The Enfranchisement of Women*. John Stuart Mill originally takes credit for the article, however, it was actually written by his companion, Harriet Hardy Taylor.

In Washington, D. C., Myrtilla Minder opens the first school for training black teachers.

Newspaper editor, Clarina Irene Howard Nichols, addresses the Vermont Senate (the first woman to do so) about the issue of property rights for women. One of her staunchest opponents within the legislature had planned to present a pair of pants to her after her speech. Author Diane Eickhoff, in *Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women’s Rights*, gives the following account,

> “Before sitting down, she turned to address her staunchest opponent, the man who was secretly planning to embarrass her. She said that though she had bought the dress she wore with her own money, her husband by law owned it, not of his own will, but by a ‘law adopted by bachelors and other women’s husbands.’ She said she didn’t think it was fair for men to tease women about wanting to wear men’s pants until men had given up their right to own women’s skirts.”


In New York, Susan B. Anthony organizes the first Women’s Temperance Society.

The first periodical dedicated to woman’s rights, *Una*, is published by Paulina Wright Davis from 1853-1855.

New York City hosts the World’s Temperance Convention. Women delegates including Susan B. Anthony and Rev. Antoinette Brown are not allowed to speak.

The World’s Fair is held in New York City, a few blocks away suffragists hold a meeting in the Broadway Tabernacle--It becomes known in history as “The Mob Convention.”

New York City--Elizabeth Blackwell opens a clinic to treat poor women and children.

New York City--African-American waiters union stages the first strike--due to their success, white waiters, form a union.

Seamstresses in Rochester, New York form the city’s first clothing worker’s union.

During the Crimean War in Europe, Florence Nightingale organizes wartime nursing.

In Massachusetts, the state legislature grants women property rights.

The territorial legislature in Washington defeats a woman’s suffrage bill by one vote.

Congress passes and President Pierce signs the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, repealing the 1820 Missouri Compromise. Kansas territory was established and the principle of popular sovereignty was to determine whether Kansas would enter the Union as a free or slave state.

Suffragists Henry Blackwell and Lucy Stone marry. They exclude the vow of obedience. Lucy Stone is the first woman in the U. S. to keep her maiden name after marriage.
“While acknowledging our mutual affection by publicly assuming the relationship of husband and wife, yet in justice to ourselves and a great principle, we deem it a duty to declare that this act on our part implies no sanction of, nor promise of voluntary obedience to such of the present laws of marriage, as refuse to recognize the wife as an independent, rational being, while they confer upon the husband an injurious and unnatural superiority, investing him with legal powers which no honorable man would exercise, and which no man should possess.”

In Elmira, New York, the first woman’s institution granting degrees, Elmira (female) College is established.

Iowa becomes the first state allowing the admission of women to its public university.

-1856
New York City hosts the seventh, annual National Woman’s Rights Convention.

-1857
A hospital, the New York Infirmary for Women and Children is opened by Elizabeth Blackwell.

-1859
In Kansas territory, Clarina Nichols, Mary Tenney Gray and Mother Armstrong representing Douglas and Shawnee counties women’s groups attempts to attend the Wyandotte constitution convention. They were not allowed to speak directly to the convention membership--however, the ladies managed to have direct conversations with many of the male delegates, urging them to include equal suffrage in the state constitution. Although they were unsuccessful in the passage of women’s suffrage--women were granted the unprecedented right to have equal custody rights of their children and the right to acquire and possess property.

-1860
New York City hosts the tenth annual National Woman’s Right’s Convention.

On February 18, 1860, Elizabeth Cady Stanton addresses the New York State Legislature arguing for the passage of a women’s suffrage bill that was being considered by the state senate. The address is titled A Slave’s Appeal.

“The has been a great deal written and said about protection. We, as a class, are tired of one kind of protection, that which leaves us everything to do, to dare, and to suffer, and strips us of all means for its accomplishment. We would not tax man to take care of us. No, the Great Father has endowed all his creatures with necessary power for self-support, self-defense, and protection. We do not ask man to represent us; it is hard enough in times like these for man to carry backbone enough to represent himself.” (Source: History of Woman Suffrage, 1881)

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Search the Index for: stanton_slaves

In New York, married women are granted rights over their children, the right to retain their wages and the right to sue and be sued in court.

A mob opposed to the abolition movement burns effigies of Samuel J. May and Susan B. Anthony in Syracuse, New York.

In Lawrence, Massachusetts a factory collapses--88 workers are killed.

-1861
Kansas is granted statehood. The first state legislature grants women the right to vote in school board election.

* * * * THE CIVIL WAR BRINGS THE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT TO A HALT * * * *

-1862
The Morrill Act is passed by Congress and establishes land grant colleges in rural areas which allow women to earn low-cost degrees.

-1863
President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation granting freedom to all slaves living in states that are rebellious to the Union.
May 14th, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony organize the Women’s National Loyal League--one of the group’s goals is to keep the women’s rights issues alive. In addition the group attempted to end the U.S. civil war through a constitutional amendment that abolished slavery through the signing of a mammoth petition. Angelina Grimke Weld addresses the organization’s first meeting.

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-1865
The Thirteenth Amendment abolishes slavery in the United States.

-1866
Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton form the Equal Rights Association, a merger between the American Anti-Slavery Association and suffragists. Lucretia Mott presides over the merger of this new organization that is dedicated to universal suffrage for white and black, men and women.

New York City hosts the Eleventh National Women’s Rights Convention--this is the first since the Civil War.

-1867
Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Henry Blackwell, Lucy Stone, Clarina Nichols and others spend months traveling through Kansas on a campaign for women’s suffrage.

The Kansas Impartial Suffrage Association is formed in April.

In the fall, two separate referendums were placed on the ballot in Kansas--woman suffrage and black male suffrage. Kansas becomes the first state in the Union to officially consider woman suffrage. Both referendums are defeated.

The New Jersey Women’s Suffrage Association is organized by Antoinette Brown Blackwell.

Attendees of the annual meeting of the American Equal Rights Association are sharply divided about supporting the suffrage of black men before women.

-1868
The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, extending to all citizens the protection of the Constitution against state laws that are unjust. Section 1 of the amendment gives citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including emancipated slaves.

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton begin publishing a weekly newspaper, The Revolution, that promotes suffrage and other progressive causes.

In New York City, the Working Women’s Protective Union is established to provide free legal aid to women workers, helping them acquire work and lobbying for laws to protect their rights.

In December, Kansas Senator Samuel Pomeroy introduces a federal suffrage amendment in Congress.

-1869
A suffrage bill, sponsored by William Bright is passed by the Wyoming territorial legislature. Territorial Governor John A. Campbell, signed the bill, granting full suffrage to women in Wyoming Territory. Wyoming is the first territory or state to grant full suffrage to women. When Wyoming was granted statehood in 1890, its suffrage provision was still intact.

Due to disagreements over the Fourteenth and soon-to-be-passed Fifteenth Amendments, the women’s rights movement splits into two separate organizations--The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA).
Centered in Boston, the American Woman Suffrage Association is organized by Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell and Julia Ward Howe. Supporting the Fifteenth Amendment, it is the more conservative organization, inviting men to participate.

Centered in New York, the National Woman Suffrage Association is organized by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This association met every winter in Washington and is the more radical organization, allowing only female membership and placing women suffrage before any other issues.

A women’s convention is held in Topeka as an attempt to revive the women’s suffrage cause in Kansas.

In Iowa, Arabella Mansfield, at the age of 23, becomes the first officially recognized female lawyer in the United States.

John Stuart Mill publishes *The Subjection of Women*, later crediting many of his ideas on this subject to his companion Harriet Hardy Taylor.

The Utah territorial legislature approves full suffrage for women--17,179 female voters are enfranchised.

Casting the first female vote in Wyoming Territory is 70-year-old Eliza A. “Grandma” Swain of Laramie.

South Pass City, Wyoming appoints Esther Morris, Justice of the Peace, making her the first female government official.

Women serve on juries in Wyoming Territory.

The National Women’s Suffrage Association refuses to work for the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, believing that it should be “scrapped,” supporting a Sixteenth Amendment that would provide universal suffrage. Frederick Douglass leaves the organization over its position.

The Fifteenth Amendment is ratified granting suffrage to former male slaves. Its language appears to be gender-neutral and women go to the polls to test the amendment. However, they are not allowed to vote.

In January, the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association is founded under the umbrella of the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). Julia Ward Howe is president and African American suffragist Caroline Remond Putnam is an elected member of the executive committee of the first board.

The American Woman Suffrage Association begins publishing the *Woman’s Journal*, a magazine about women’s rights--edited by Mary A. Livermore, Lucy Stone, and Henry Blackwell.

In New York City, the International Typographical Union (ITU) elects Augusta Lewis as its Corresponding Secretary, making it the first time a woman had held such a position in a national union.

Julia Ward Howe issues her now infamous Mother’s Day Proclamation for peace.

Abigail Scott Duniway publishes *New Northwest*, a weekly newspaper in Portland, Oregon dedicated to women’s rights and enfranchisement.
The Washington Woman Suffrage Association is founded.

November 20th, Victoria Woodhull delivers her address “And the Truth Shall Make You Free.” a speech on the principles of social freedom, at the Steinway Hall in New York City. In her address, Woodhull advocates equal rights and share her radical ideas regarding free love and marriage. In 1872, Ms. Woodhull will run for President of the United States.

“What is the legitimate sequence of Social Freedom? To which I unhesitatingly reply: Free Love, or the freedom of the affections.” And are you a Free Lover? Is the almost incredulous query...And to those who denounce me for this I reply: Yes I am a Free Lover. I have an inalienable, constitutional and natural right to love whom I may, to love as long or as short a period as I can; to change that love every day if I please, and with that right neither you nor any law you can frame have any right to interfere. And I have the further right to demand a free and unrestricted exercise of that right, and it is your duty not only to accord it, but, as a community, to see that I am protected in it. I trust that I am fully understood, for I mean just that, and nothing less!"
Supreme Court of Illinois deemed important in rendering a married woman incompetent fully to perform the duties and trusts that belong to the office of an attorney and counselor.”

Alta Hulett, having been denied admission to the Illinois bar, drafted a bill that is passed by the Illinois legislature which provided that no person could be discriminated against in employment on account of sex except for military service. Hulett becomes the first female attorney in the state of Illinois.

-1873

The Edmunds Act, disenfranchising all U.S. citizens in plural marriages is passed by the United States Congress.

A new organization, founded with the help of Maria Mitchell--the American Association for the Advancement of Women, promotes women’s higher education and professional possibilities.

Abigail Scott Duniway founds the Oregon Equal Suffrage Association.

Congress passes the Comstock Law--an amendment to the 1865 Postal Act--making it a crime to import or distribute devices, medicine or information in an attempt to prevent conception or cause abortion. It is even a crime to mention the names of sexually transmitted diseases in print. Physicians and nurses are legally prevented from providing their patients with any such information.

-1874

Annie Wittenmeyer founds the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). In a few years, under the leadership of Frances Willard, this organization becomes aligned with the women’s suffrage movement. Unfortunately, the liquor lobby was vehemently opposed to the enfranchisement of women fearing that women would use their right to vote to prohibit the sale of liquor.

In October the United States Supreme Court unanimously decides in Minor vs. Happersett that the U. S. Constitution does not guarantee women the right to vote in federal elections-- “Being unanimously of the opinion that the Constitution of the United States does not confer the right of suffrage upon any one, and that the constitutions and laws of the several States which commit that important trust to men alone are not necessarily void, we affirm the judgment.”

-Text Available Online At: http://supreme.justia.com
Search the Index for: Minor vs. Happersett

Cleveland, Ohio hosts the first national convention of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union.

Michigan places a women’s suffrage referendum on the ballot. The male voters vote against the referendum.

In Rochester, New York, Susan B. Anthony argues for women workers equal rights before the National Industrial Council.

In Kansas, the Prohibition Party endorses women’s suffrage.

-1875

Women in Minnesota and Michigan are allowed to vote in school elections.

In Massachusetts, a woman’s college opens, Smith College. Sophia Smith’s estate created and endowed the college.

-1876

Women in Colorado are allowed to vote in local school elections. Colorado women organize the Colorado Women’s Suffrage Association.

On July 4th in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the National Women’s Suffrage Association distributes Matilda Joselyn Gage’s Declaration of Rights for Women as part of the Centennial celebrations.
1877
In Boston, Massachusetts, Helen Magill receives her Ph. D. from Boston University. This is the first time that an American school awards a Ph. D. to a woman.

The referendum for women’s suffrage in Colorado is defeated.

1878
California Senator A. A. Sargeant introduces a Woman Suffrage Amendment in the United States Congress. When the amendment finally passes both houses in 1919, the wording remained unchanged.

Paris, France holds the first International Woman’s Rights Congress.

In Kansas, the first group of ‘Exodusters’ arrive.

1879
In Colorado, Caroline Churchill begins publishing The Colorado Antelope, a suffrage newspaper--later the newspaper name is changed to The Queen Bee.

Frances Willard becomes president of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union--In 1883 she founds the World’s Women’s Christian Temperance Union.

On February 15th President Hayes signs a bill allowing women to practice in the federal courts.

March 3rd, Belva Lockwood becomes the first woman admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court. Late in 1880, she will become the first woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Kansas, an Equal Suffrage Association is established.

1881
Through the efforts of Clara Barton, the American branch of the Red Cross is founded. She becomes the first president, serving in that capacity until 1904.

1882
Women’s Suffrage referendums are defeated in Nebraska and Indiana. The liquor industry and its subversive tactics are largely responsible for these defeats.

1883
The Washington Territorial Legislature grants full suffrage for women, including African-American women. The Territorial Supreme Court rescinds that right in 1887.

Many prominent suffragists meet in Liverpool, England and form the International Council of Women. At this meeting, the leaders of the two American women’s suffrage movements must work together--this prepares a foundation for reconciliation.

1884
Belva Ann Lockwood becomes the presidential candidate for the National Equal Rights Party, becoming the first woman to receive votes in a presidential election. In 1888, once again she is their presidential candidate.

Male voters in Oregon defeat a woman’s suffrage referendum.

In Kansas, a statewide Equal Suffrage Association is formed.

1885
In Kansas, a bill was introduced to grant women voting rights in municipal elections.

1886
In Columbus, Ohio the American Federation of Labor (AFL) is organized.

1887
Partial suffrage is granted to women in Arizona, Montana, New Jersey, North and South Dakota.
In Kansas, women are granted the right to vote in municipal elections. Women in Kansas can be elected to municipal government positions. In Argonia, Kansas (Sumner County) on April 4th Medora Salter was elected mayor—SHE WAS THE FIRST FEMALE TO SERVE AS MAYOR IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Washington Territorial Supreme Court rescinds the suffrage rights for women granted in 1883.

Rhode Island is the first eastern state to introduce a woman’s suffrage referendum--It is defeated.

1888  The Washington Territorial Legislature once again grants women the right to vote. It is rescinded for a second time by Washington’s Territorial Supreme Court.

1888-1889 In Kansas the cities of Baldwin, Cottonwood Falls, Elk Falls, Oskaloosa and Rossville elect women mayors.

1889 In Utah, a statewide Woman Suffrage Association is organized. A woman suffrage referendum in Washington is defeated by a 2-1 margin.

1890-1899 In Kansas the cities of Beattie, Canton, Edgerton, Ellis Gaylord, Haddam, Iowa, Jamestown and Pleasanton elect women mayors.

1890  In July, Wyoming is granted statehood, despite some objections within Congress due to constitutional clauses that provide for full women’s suffrage and free and compulsory education for children. WYOMING IS THE FIRST STATE TO OFFER FULL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN. In 1924, Wyoming will become the first state to elect a female governor--Nellie Tayloe Ross.

The American and National women suffrage associations reunite, becoming the National American Woman Suffrage Association with Elizabeth Cady Stanton as president.

In Chicago, Illinois, Ellen Gates Starr and Jane Addams found a settlement housing project--Hull House. By 1891, there will be more than one hundred settlement houses in the United States--most, operated by women. The Progressive campaign and the settlement movement propelled many women into lifetime careers in social work.

In Utah Territory, a manifesto issued by the Mormon Church officially abandons polygamy.

By a large majority, male voters in Utah Territory approve full women’s suffrage.

Colorado journalist Ellis Meredith founds the Colorado Non-Partisan Suffrage Association.

1891  Salt Lake City, Utah hosts the Rocky Mountain Suffrage Conference.

In Memphis, Tennessee newspaper editor Ida B. Wells launches a nationwide anti-lynching campaign after three black businessmen are murdered.

1892  In Colorado, David Waite, candidate of the People’s Party is elected governor on a pro-suffrage platform.

1893  COLORADO BECOMES THE SECOND STATE TO GRANT WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE. Colorado is the first state to adopt a state amendment enfranchising women.

In California, women’s suffrage is approved by the state legislature only to have the governor veto the bill.
To protect the interests of working women, Helen Montgomery, Susan B. Anthony, and others organize the Women’s Education and Industrial Union (WEIU).

In Chicago, Illinois, after a meeting of the Jewish Women’s Congress, Hannah Greenbaum Solomon organizes the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW).

In Kansas, once again a women’s suffrage amendment to the state constitution is defeated.

NEW ZEALAND BECOMES THE FIRST COUNTRY TO GRANT WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE.

-1894
An Anti-Suffrage Association was first organized in Brooklyn, then Albany, during the New York campaign for women’s suffrage.

-1895
Published by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Women’s Bible, is considered too radical by many suffragists. The National American Woman Suffrage Association distances itself from her believing her views to be potentially damaging to the women’s suffrage campaign and formally condemns her critique of Christianity. After this, despite formally being the president of the NAWSA, she was no longer invited to sit on the stage at the organization’s conventions.
-Text Available Online At: http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu Search under AUTHOR

In New York, a state anti-suffrage organization is organized--The New York State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. In Massachusetts a state anti-suffrage association is formed. Massachusetts men also formed the Man’s Suffrage Association which was opposed to women’s suffrage.

-1896
January 4th, Utah is granted statehood with full women’s suffrage. UTAH IS THE THIRD STATE TO GRANT WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE. The women of Utah, along with those in Wyoming and Colorado vote in the McKinley-Bryan presidential election.

In Idaho a women’s suffrage referendum is passed allowing women full voting rights. IDAHO BECOMES THE FOURTH STATE TO GRANT WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association hires Ida Husted Harper to launch a women’s suffrage campaign in California. It is unsuccessful.--the referendum is defeated by a large majority.


In August, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lease of Kansas addresses a mass-meeting at Cooper Union (New York) that had been organized by the Social Reform Club. In her address she attacks the entire social system.

“...The aristocracy of royalty is dying out. But here in this country we find in place of an aristocracy of royalty an aristocracy of wealth. Far more dangerous to the race is it than the aristocracy of royalty. It is the aristocracy of fold that disintegrates society, destroys individuals and has ruined the proudest nations. It has called Rothschild’s agent here to make the platform of the Republican party...We have advanced scientifically, ethically and others, but in finance we have followed the barbaric methods of our ancestors and the teachings of college-bred idiots who tell us that gold is the only desirable coin.

-Text Available Online At: http://projects.vassar.edu/1896/leasespeech.html

-1897
The National American Woman Suffrage Association publishes The National Suffrage Bulletin,
edited by Carrie Chapman Catt.

In Illinois, a state anti-suffrage association is organized.

-1898

In Washington a second women’s rights referendum is defeated.

February 18th, African American suffragist Mary Church Terrell delivers her speech The Progress of Colored Women at the 50th anniversary celebration of the National American Woman Suffrage Association held in Washington, D. C.

“So overcrowded are the avocations in which colored women may engage and so poor is the pay in consequence, that only the barest livelihood can be eked out by the rank and file. And yet, in spite of the opposition encountered, the obstacles opposed to their acquisition of knowledge and their accumulation of property, the progress made by colored women along these lines has never been surpassed by that of any people in the history of the world.”

-Text Available Online At:  http://gos.sbc.edu
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-1899

In Oregon, a state anti-suffrage association is formed.

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AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY ONLY FOUR U.S. STATES ALLOW WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE: WYOMING, COLORADO, UTAH, IDAHO

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-1900

Susan B. Anthony retires her position as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and recommends Carrie Chapman Catt to succeed her. Catt is elected the new president--the older generation passes the suffrage torch on to the next generation.

At the National American Woman Suffrage Association’s convention, the youngest delegate Maud Wood Park (age 29) begins working with Inez Haynes Gillmore in an effort to attract younger members--founding what will become the College Equal Suffrage League.

In Victoria, Australia, an anti-suffrage association is organized.

-1902

In Washington, D. C. a meeting is held between women from ten nations to plan an international effort for suffrage. Among the meeting’s distinguished speakers is Clara Barton.

In New Hampshire, voters defeat a referendum for woman’s suffrage.

Women in California organize the Woman’s Socialist Union.

-1903

In New York, middle-and-working-class women committed to working women and women’s suffrage organize and form the Women’s Trade Union League of New York. Its membership includes Mary Drier, Lenora O’Reilly, and Rheta Childe Dorr. This organization becomes the core of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

-1904

The International Council of Women splits when dissidents form the more aggressive International Women Suffrage Alliance.

Carrie Chapman Catt resigns as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association to care for her dying husband. Dr. Anna Howard replaces her.

-1905

At the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon, suffragists organize a “Woman’s Day.” Many national suffragist leaders including Susan B. Anthony attend the dedication of a statue of Sacajawea.
Upon her return to the United States from England, Harriot Stanton Blatch, daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, becomes disappointed with the National American Woman Suffrage Association’s conservation. In an attempt to reach out to the working-class she forms the Equality League of Self-Supporting Women.

On March 13, 1906, Susan B. Anthony dies at her home in Rochester, New York.

In Washington, D. C. Anne Fitzhugh Miller and Antoinette Brown Blackwell speak before the Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage.

In Oregon a third referendum for women’s suffrage is defeated.

The United States Senate’s Select Committee on Woman Suffrage hears testimony from Ella Hawley Crossett of the New York State Suffrage Association.

In Oregon a fourth referendum for women’s suffrage is defeated.

In New York’s garment district, the Women’s Trade Union League organizes a strike by 20,000 women workers. The “Uprising of the 20,000” ends with some settlements over work hours and wages and establishes the ILGWU’s reputation.

A group of multi-racial activists organize the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In Washington, Emma Smith DeVoe organizes a successful grassroots campaign for women’s suffrage. A referendum for full women’s suffrage is passed. WASHINGTON BECOMES THE FIFTH STATE TO GRANT WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE.

On March 25th, a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City killed 146 women employees that were trapped in the factory or jumped to their deaths. After the fire, reform efforts were adopted that included laws to regulate sweatshops--factory safety--and the employment of women and children.

Mrs. Arthur Dodge organizes the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. Members of this organization included influential, wealthy women as well as some Catholic clergymen. Others opposed to women’s suffrage worked largely “behind the scenes” lending their support. These included Southern Congressmen, brewers and distillers, and corporate capitalists (meatpackers and railroad magnates).

In Kansas the women’s suffrage amendment was resubmitted to the legislature, passing by a vote of 94 to 28.

A State referendum is passed in California granting women full suffrage. CALIFORNIA BECOMES THE SIXTH STATE TO GRANT FULL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN.

OREGON, KANSAS, AND ARIZONA TERRITORY APPROVE FULL SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN—NOW NINE WESTERN STATES/TERRITORIES HAVE GRANTED FULL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN.

In Oregon, Abigail Scott Duniway persuades the National American Woman Suffrage Association from becoming highly involved in the statewide campaign for suffrage—instead organizing a successful grassroots campaign. Oregon women obtain full suffrage. On November 30th, Abigail Scott Duniway cosigns Oregon’s suffrage proclamation along with Governor Oswald West and is the first woman in Oregon to register to vote.

Proclamation of Woman’s Suffrage in Oregon - TEXT - Available Online at:
In Kansas male voters approve a constitutional amendment granting full suffrage for women.

In February, Arizona is granted statehood. The women having had partial suffrage since 1887 now have full suffrage.

ARGENTINA GRANTS WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE.

Rose Schneiderman, a Women’s Trade Union League activists, travels throughout the Midwest speaking to working class audiences about women’s suffrage.

The first national political party to adopt a woman suffrage platform was Theodore Roosevelt’s Progressive Party.

For the first time--U. S. Presidential candidates give respectful attention to the female vote--Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, wins the election.

In Lawrence, Massachusetts, textile-mill owners lowered wages for thousands of women and children after increasing the speed of factory looms. The workers react by striking. The “Bread and Roses” strike lasted two months and involved 23,000 strikers. The police and state militia were called in leading to numerous deaths and mass arrests. Public outcry mounted at the assault of women and children by the police and militia. When the strike ends, workers have gained wage increases for themselves as well as thousands of other s working in New England mills. The strike is considered a major labor action of American history.

Juliette Gordon Lowe organizes the Girl Guides--the organization will later be known as the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

1913

The first official act of the Alaska Territorial Legislature grants women full suffrage.

Illinois grants women the right to vote in presidential elections only.

Alice Paul and Lucy Burns form the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage. The Congressional Union is a militant branch of the National American Woman Suffrage Association--electing Alice Paul as its leader. In 1917 it will merge with the Woman’s Party to form the National Woman’s Party.

Alice Paul and other members of the Congressional Union organize a suffrage parade in Washington, D. C. along Pennsylvania Avenue. It has been carefully scheduled one day before the inauguration of President Wilson. Many of those at the parade are not supporters of women’s suffrage, these individuals crowd and insult the marching women. These actions are investigated by District of Columbia commissioners and the suffrage campaign gains further momentum.

Southern suffragists with the help of Kate Gordon organize the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference. This organization plans to lobby within state legislatures for suffrage laws that only impact white women.

In Chicago, Ida B. Wells-Barnett organizes the Alpha Suffrage Club. It is the first African-American woman’s suffrage association in Illinois.

1914

NEVADA AND MONTANA GRANT FULL SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN.

The National Federation of Women’s Clubs and their membership of two million American
women endorse the campaign for women’s suffrage.

In the U. S. Senate the “Susan B. Anthony” amendment fails to pass.

The Congressional Union campaigns against pro-suffrage Democrats in congressional elections--this alienates the leaders of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Abigail Scott Duniway’s autobiography, *Path-Breaking: An autobiographical History of the Equal Suffrage Movement in the Pacific Coast States* is published

“East and South, I have been asked why it was that the Pacific Northwest was so far in advance of the older settled portions of the United States, in its recognition of the Divine principle of equality of rights between the sexes, which originated in the human home. To this query, I am always proud to reply, that the territorial domain of Oregon was the first great section of our Federal Union in which woman’s equal right to occupy and possess real estate, in fee simple, and on her own individual account, had ever been recognized or practiced.”

Margaret Sanger is indicted for circulating her magazine, *The Woman Rebel*, through the mail. In her magazine she attacked the legislative restrictions that had been placed on the distribution of information about contraceptives. Influence from prominent leaders in the community cause the case against her to be dismissed in 1916. All Seven Issues Are Available Online.

- Text Available Online At: [http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu](http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu) Search Under AUTHOR

-1915 When Anna Howard Shaw resigns, Carrie Chapman Catt once again becomes the new president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

-1916 The Congressional Union changes its name to the National Woman’s Party. They utilize radical tactics to publicize their cause--picketing the White House, participating in hunger strikes and other forms of civil disobedience.

At a women’s suffrage convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Carrie Chapman Catt reveals her winning strategy for victory that will require activities targeting both local and state associations in her address, *The Crisis*.

- Text Available Online At: [http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches](http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches) Search the Index for: catt_the_crisis

Woodrow Wilson endorses suffrage for women, promising that the Democratic Platform will too.

**Montana elects suffragist Jeannette Rankin to the House of Representatives.** RANKIN IS THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN TO BE ELECTED TO REPRESENT HER STATE IN CONGRESS. Her term begins in 1917.

In Brooklyn, New York, on October 16th, Margaret Sanger and her sister, Ethel Byrne, open the first birth control clinic in the United States. Ten days later it is shut down. Sanger and Byrne are arrested, tried, and convicted of “maintaining a public nuisance.” Sanger serves thirty days--after her release she wins an appeal, which paved the way for physicians to give advice about birth control in New York City.

-1917 **Women in New York are granted full suffrage rights.** NEW YORK BECOMES THE FIRST EASTERN STATE TO ALLOW WOMEN FULL VOTING RIGHTS.

In Arkansas, *white* women are granted partial suffrage. They are allowed to vote in primary elections, however they are not able to vote in general elections and African American women are not allowed to vote in any election.

Rhode Island, Nebraska, and North Dakota grant women the right to vote in presidential elections only.
RUSSIA ALLOWS WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association aligns with the war effort when the United States enters World War I. As American men join the war effort, American women join the workforce.

In Washington, D. C. female suffragists are arrested and jailed for marching in picket lines outside the White House. While imprisoned Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and others engage in a hunger strike. In *Jailed For Freedom*, written by Doris Stevens (one of the imprisoned suffragists), gives the account of a document signed by all the imprisoned suffragists and addressed to the Commissioner of the District of Columbia. The following is an excerpt from that account:

“...This action is a necessary protest against an unjust sentence. In reminding President Wilson of his pre-election promises toward woman suffrage we were exercising the right of peaceful petition, guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, which declares peaceful picketing is legal in the District of Columbia. That we are unjustly sentenced has been well recognized--when President Wilson pardoned the first group of suffragists who had been given sixty days in the workhouse, and again when Judge Mullowny suspended sentence for the last group of picketers. We wish to point out the inconsistency and injustice of our sentences--some of us have been given sixty days, a later group thirty days, and another group given a suspended sentence for exactly the same action.”

-1918 MICHIGAN, OKLAHOMA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA GRANT WOMEN FULL SUFFRAGE.

Montana Representative Jeannette Rankin opens the debate within the U. S. House of Representatives on a new women’s suffrage amendment--IT PASSES. Offering his support of a federal amendment granting women’s suffrage, President Woodrow Wilson addresses the U. S. Senate--however it FAILS to win the required majority of Senate votes.

-1919 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES FOR THE 19TH AMENDMENT AND THE FULL ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN. THIS TIME IS ALSO PASSES IN THE SENATE. NOW SUFFRAGISTS BEGIN THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR STATE-BY-STATE RATIFICATION.

Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin grant women partial suffrage.

In St. Louis, Missouri, at the convention held by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Carrie Chapman Catt recommends changing the organization’s name to the League of Women Voters.

-1920 AUGUST 26TH -- THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT - THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY AMENDMENT - IS RATIFIED BY A MAJORITY OF U. S. STATES BECOMING FEDERAL LAW - FINALLY ALL WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE FULL SUFFRAGE!

Once it finally had accomplished victory, the National American Woman Suffrage Association organized The League of Women Voters. Maud Wood Park becomes the new organization’s first president.
Helpful Resources and Links

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw

“Votes For Women” is a website that provides access to selections from the National American Woman Suffrage Association Collection 1848-1921. “The NAWSA Collection consists of 167 books, pamphlets and other artifacts documenting the suffrage campaign. They are a subset of the Library's larger collection donated by Carrie Chapman Catt, longtime president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, in November of 1938. The collection includes works from the libraries of other members and officers of the organization including: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Alice Stone Blackwell, Julia Ward Howe, Elizabeth Smith Miller, Mary A. Livermore.” This site is hosted by the Library of Congress.

http://gos.sbc.edu

This website “Gift Of Speech: Women’s Speeches From Around The World” provides the text for many notable women’s speeches--Select BROWSE and search by the author’s last name.

http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww

“Harvard University has produced this Open Collections Program: Women Working 1800-1930. It focuses on women’s role in the United States economy and provides access to digitized historical, manuscript, and image resources selected from Harvard University’s library and museum collections. The collection features approximately 500,000 digitized pages and images including“:

* 7,500 pages of manuscripts
* 3,500 books and pamphlets
* 1,200 photographs

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml

American Woman - A Gateway to Library of Congress Resources for the Study of Women’s History and Culture in the United States

“Unlike most American Memory presentations, American Women is not a collection of digital items. It is a gateway--a first stop for Library of Congress researchers working in the field of American women's history. The site contains a slightly expanded and fully searchable version of the print publication American Women: A Library of Congress
Guide for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 2001). The guide has been redesigned for online use, with added illustrations and links to existing digitized material located throughout the Library of Congress Web site. These materials are supplemented by a small number of newly digitized items that provide a sample of the many relevant types of materials available in Library of Congress holdings (see Building the Digital Collection). The Research Guide also provides practical search tips, detailed collection summaries of the Library's voluminous multiformat holdings, and links to fuller catalog record descriptions and digitized material (see About the Guide for further information regarding the content and structure of the Research Guide portion of the site, as well as tips for using its search feature).

“In addition to the Research Guide, the gateway home page also provides information regarding preparing to do on-site research at the Library of Congress; tips on searching for women's history resources in the Library's catalogs; guidance on finding materials relating to women within the Library's American Memory collections; and helpful orientations to women's history sources in the Library's online exhibitions and audiovisual Web broadcasts of lectures, readings, and symposia. Simultaneously a guide, an online magnet for digitized women's history materials drawn from a plethora of Library sources, and a gateway, American Women is an innovative addition to American Memory. The site will continue to evolve and grow as new subject approaches to women are explored, additional items and collections on women are identified and digitized, and new programs on women's themes are offered for public viewing over the Internet.”

http://www.nwhm.org

“The National Women’s History Museum (NWHM), founded in 1996, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women, and integrating this rich heritage fully into our nation’s history. Until legislation passes in Congress designating a permanent museum in Washington, D.C., the NWHM promotes women’s history through its temporary exhibits, special events, Cyber Museum, and online educational materials.”

http://www.museumoftheamericanwest.org/explore/exhibits/suffrage

WOW--Women of the West Museum has a great website filled with interest information about the women’s suffrage movement in western states. The website includes biographies, activities, a timeline, resources, and an interactive western states map filled with information about suffrage in many of the western states.

http://www.history.com/exhibits/woman/firsts.html

The History Channel Exhibits: Woman’s Suffrage - Firsts in Women’s Achievement

http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu

“The Online Books Page is a website that facilitates access to books that are freely readable over the Internet. It also aims to encourage the development of such online books, for the benefit and edification of all.” The site lists over 25,000 free books on the web. Major parts of the site include:
• An index of thousands of online books freely readable on the Internet
• Pointers to significant directories and archives of online texts
• Special exhibits of particularly interesting classes of online books
• Information on how readers can help support the growth of online books

http://supreme.justia.com

This website provides the text to United States Supreme Court Decisions which are easily accessed on the SEARCH index.

http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches

This website provides speeches from many of the suffragists as well as others and can be accessed from this index.

http://www.free.ed.gov

Teaching and Learning Resources from Federal Agencies are available on this website.

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem

The Library of Congress - American Memory website.