

Women's Suffrage Movement



When the United States Constitution was written, only white men had the right to vote. Women were not allowed to vote under the law. Women also did not have many other rights such as the right to own property or to be educated for certain jobs.



As time passed, many people came to feel that this was unfair and that women should have the same rights as men in our country.



Women's suffrage (right to vote) became an organized movement in 1848 at a convention in New York.

Women's Suffrage Parade in New York City



The suffrage movement did not have much success in the beginning and it would be almost 80 years before U.S. laws would be changed. Many women and men worked very hard to bring about these much needed changes in the law.

Here are a few important people from the suffrage movement:



Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was
February 15, 1820
Massachusetts. She was brought up in a
Quaker family with long activist traditions.
Early in her life she developed a sense of
justice.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



In 1851 Stanton met
B. Anthony and for
fifty years they

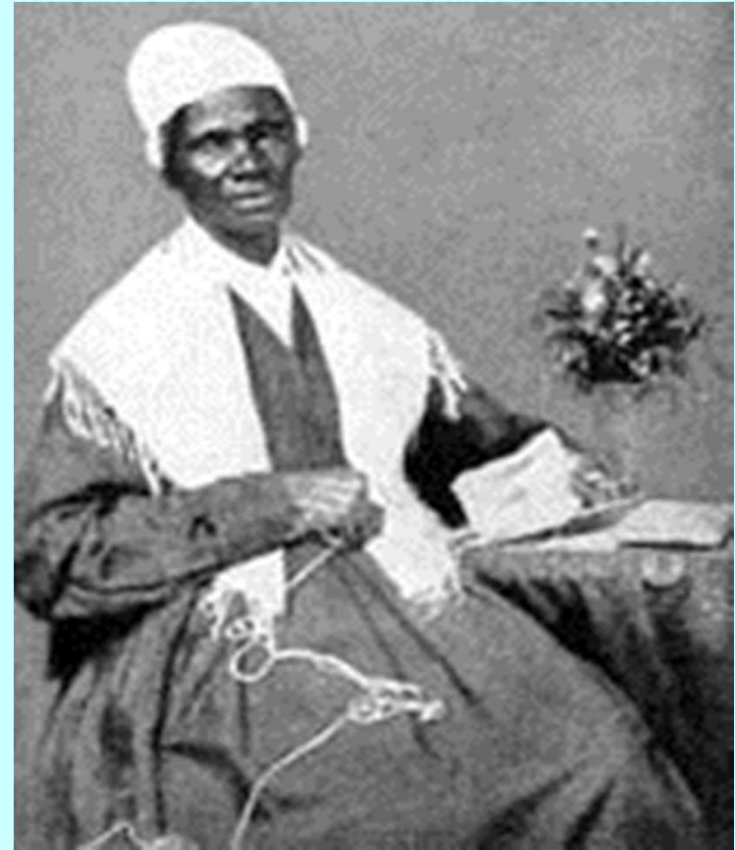
Stanton wrote and gave speeches that called
for the improvement of the legal and
traditional rights of women, and Anthony
organized and campaigned to achieve these
goals.

Lucretia Mott



Lucretia Mott helped to organize and call together the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York in July of 1848.

Sojourner Truth



Truth became a speaker on women's rights issues after attending a Women's Rights Convention in 1850.

Anna Howard Shaw



Anna Shaw was a doctor as the first woman Methodist Minister. She met Susan B. Anthony in 1888 and began working for women's rights. She was the president of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) for 11 years.

Carrie Chapman Catt



Catt was president of the NAWSA when the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote was passed in 1920.

Esther Morris

Esther Morris was the first woman to hold public office in the United States. She was a judge in the Wyoming Territory.



These women and other men and women across the country worked long and hard to convince the government and the people of the United States that the laws should be changed.



One thing that had to be done, was to let the people of each state vote on the idea.

Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May,
one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage
to women.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States
of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein),
That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution,
which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.*

“ARTICLE ————.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or
abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

“Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
legislation.”

F. H. Lilett

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thos. R. Marshall

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

The state of Tennessee was the 36th state to approve the law. Their approval gave the amendment the majority it needed to become a law.

Finally after years of hard work, the 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution of the United States in August of 1920.

Amendment XIX

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

The End

(but really just the beginning)