

The 15th Amendment after the Civil War – Leaves Women without the Vote:

The passage of the 15th Amendment after the Civil War ensured voting rights for all "citizens of the United States" regardless of race or color, but women's right to vote was neither implicitly nor explicitly guaranteed. To protest the continued exclusion of women from the electoral process, Susan B. Anthony intentionally tested the law in 1872 by voting for Ulysses S. Grant and Republican congressmen. She was arrested a few weeks later and convicted of illegal voting. The occasion, and the Supreme Court's later refusal to support her position, helped inspire Anthony in 1875 to draft what was to become the 19th Amendment, also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.

The Seneca Falls, New York convention of July 19-20, 1848 is generally considered the starting point for the modern women's rights movements in the United States. Among the principal organizers of the event were Lucretia Mott of Philadelphia and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Many of the individuals involved in the convention already were acquainted through other reform causes, particularly abolition and temperance. Lucretia Mott's husband, James Mott, presided as chairman; Frederick Douglass was secretary, and many other men were active participants. Among the issues considered during the conference were property rights for married women, equal standing for women in the legal system, and improved access to quality education. It was at this conference that Elizabeth Cady Stanton read her famous "Declaration of Sentiments," which enumerated the injustices faced by women under current legal and social conventions and called for a number of reforms. By far, the most radical component of the declaration was the idea that women should demand the right to vote. Stanton and Douglass were the most vocal supporters of this resolution and with their persuasion, the convention adopted all the articles of the declaration, although by a narrow margin. Sixty-eight women and thirty-two men signed the declaration.

Susan B. Anthony – "The true republic — men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."

Susan B. Anthony was born February 15, 1820, one of seven children, in West Grove Massachusetts. In 1837, Anthony attended a Quaker boarding school in Philadelphia. She was forced to end her formal studies because her family, like many others, was financially ruined during the Panic of 1837. In 1839, the family moved to Hardscrabble, New York, in the wake of the panic and economic depression that followed. That same year, Anthony left home to teach and to help pay off her father's debts. She taught first at Eunice Kenyon's Friends' Seminary, and then at the Canajoharie Academy in 1846, where she rose to become headmistress of the Female Department. Anthony's first occupation inspired her to fight for wages equivalent to those of male teachers, since men earned roughly four times more than women for the same duties. In 1849, she began to take part in conventions and gatherings related to the temperance movement.

In 1849, at age 29, she became secretary for the Daughters of Temperance, which gave her a forum to speak out against alcohol abuse, and served as the beginning of Anthony's movement towards the public limelight. In late 1850, Anthony read a detailed account in the New York Tribune of the first National Women's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts. In the article, Horace Greeley wrote an especially admiring description of the final speech, one given by Lucy Stone. Stone's words catalyzed Anthony to devote her life to women's rights.

In 1851, Anthony was introduced to **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** by a mutual acquaintance, as well as fellow feminist Amelia Bloomer. Anthony joined with Stanton in organizing the first women's state temperance society in America after being refused admission to a previous convention on account of her sex, in 1851. Stanton remained a close friend and colleague of Anthony's for the remainder of their lives, but Stanton longed for a broader, more radical women's rights platform. Together, the two women traversed the United States giving speeches and attempting to persuade the government that society should treat men and women equally. Anthony participated

in every annual National Women's Rights Convention, and served as convention president in 1858.

In 1856, Anthony further attempted to unify the African-American and women's rights movements when, recruited by abolitionist Abby Kelley Foster, she became an agent for William Lloyd Garrison's American Anti-Slavery Society of New York. Speaking at the Ninth National Women's Rights Convention on May 12, 1859, Anthony asked "Where, under our Declaration of Independence, does the Saxon man get his power to deprive all women and Negroes of their inalienable rights?"

On January 1, 1868, Anthony first published a weekly journal entitled *The Revolution*. Printed in New York City, its motto was: "**The true republic — men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.**" Anthony worked as the publisher and business manager, while Elizabeth Cady Stanton acted as editor. The main thrust of *The Revolution* was to promote women's and African-Americans' right to suffrage, but it also discussed issues of equal pay for equal work, more liberal divorce laws and the church's position on women's issues.

On November 18, 1872, Anthony was arrested by a U.S. Deputy Marshal for voting illegally in the 1872 Presidential Election two weeks earlier. She had written to Stanton on the night of the election that she had "positively voted the Republican ticket – straight...". She was tried and convicted seven months later, despite the stirring and eloquent presentation of her arguments that the recently adopted Fourteenth Amendment, which guaranteed to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States" the privileges of citizenship, and which contained no gender qualification, gave women the constitutional right to vote in federal elections. The sentence was a fine, but not imprisonment; and true to her word in court, she never paid the penalty for the rest of her life. The trial gave Anthony the opportunity to spread her arguments to a wider audience than ever before. Anthony toured Europe in 1883.

National suffrage organizations

In 1869, Anthony and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** founded the National Women's Suffrage Association (NWSA), an organization dedicated to gaining women's suffrage. Anthony was vice-president-at-large of the NWSA from the date of its organization until 1892, when she became president.

Susan B. Anthony died in Rochester of heart disease and pneumonia in her house at 17 Madison Street on March 13, 1906. She was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

A 1936 U.S. commemorative stamp honoring Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony, who died 14 years, 5 months and five days before passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, was honored as the first real (non-allegorical) American woman on circulating U.S. coinage with her appearance on the Susan B. Anthony dollar. The coin, approximately the size of a U.S. quarter, was minted for only four years, 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1999. Anthony dollars were produced at the Philadelphia and Denver mints for all four years, and at the San Francisco mint for the first three production years.