

## Suffrage Equality Notes, Faith Morrison, Radio Interview preparation 25 February 2020

1800's

Women have limited rights. Married women's legal rights were limited by coverture, an English common law provision that husbands subsumed the legal rights and obligations of their wives.

Abolitionist groups included women.

Quaker traditions included women speaking at meetings; this was rare. It was not considered decent for women to speak in public, especially to groups that included men.

Wesleyan College, chartered in 1836 as a full college for women that could grant degrees equivalent to those men were receiving at the time, was the first true "women's college"

A few coeducational colleges existed (such as Oberlin College founded in 1833, Guilford College, in 1837, Lawrence University in 1847, Antioch College in 1853, and Bates College in 1855), the United States.

1840's

Women's rights convention Idea, 1840

- Idea born at the World Anti-Slavery Conference in 1840 – women delegates were denied the right to be seated on the floor (relegated to the gallery)
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Lucretia Mott discussed this injustice
- 1848 they advertised a women's rights convention in the local paper, and 300 people showed up including former slave Frederick Douglass)

Seneca Falls New York, 1848

- Issues in the *Declaration of Sentiments* (modeled on the Declaration of Independence):
  - Lack of women's access to education
  - Lack of women's employment opportunities
  - Need for an independent political voice for women
- All passed unanimously EXCEPT woman suffrage—barely passed.

1850's

Women's rights conventions called and held. Women and groups criticized for allowing women to speak in public.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Susan B. Anthony (anti-slavery and temperance advocate) and began a lifelong friendship that propelled the woman suffrage movement

Sojourner Truth (former slave) spoke at a women's rights convention.

HBCUs (men) established prior to the American Civil War include Cheyney University of Pennsylvania in 1837, Lincoln University in 1854, Wilberforce University, 1856

1860's

Women's colleges formed (for whites); Vassar 1861.

### **1861-1865 Civil War**

HBCUs were established in the South after the American Civil War, often with the assistance of religious missionary organizations based in the northern United States.

1866 American Equal Rights Association formed (AERA), Lucretia Mott, president.

Reconstruction Amendments (two of three)

- 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1865): abolished slavery
- 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1868): Granted birthright citizenship rights and equal protection for all persons, due process; introduction of the word "male" into the Constitution—that word split the Equal Rights Association membership.

Rival groups

- 1869 Stanton and Anthony found NWSA (National Woman Suffrage Association)-don't leave women's rights behind
- 1869 Stone, Henry Blackwell, Julia Ward Howe found AWSA (American Woman Suffrage Association)-black men face greater peril than women

1870's

Reconstruction Amendments (last of three)—black men receive constitutional right to vote

- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870): Prohibits discrimination in voting rights of male citizens on the base of race, color, or previous servitude

1870 First black women's college grants degrees (Scotia Seminary).

Split among black and woman suffrage groups

- Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, most prominent black activists supported the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- Stanton and Anthony opposed the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment because it left women's rights behind and continued to advocate for universal suffrage

NWSA (Stanton and Anthony) proposes that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment grants women citizenship and therefore voting rights; Supreme Court says no in 1875.

1880's

Both NWSA and AWSA work for woman's suffrage rights both state by state and nationally.

## 1890's

1890 NWSA and AWSA merge and form NAWSA (National American Women Suffrage Association), which included black and white members (Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell were both active members).

Women's clubs grew in numbers and prominence (middle-class white women); Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), established in 1874, supported woman suffrage as a means to achieve its goals.

Settlement house movement grew (antipoverty); women active; middle-class moral judgements on the poor alienated their intended beneficiaries.

Industrial development grew; women's place grew in the work force. Working men were hostile to low-wage female workers (competition).

Class opposition to woman suffrage—working class men were reluctant to grant voting rights to upper-class women who looked down on them. Working-class women were key to support for suffrage (protect female wage earners; empower the working class as a whole).

## 1900's

1900 NAWSA presidency passes from Susan B. Anthony to Anna Howard Shaw and then in 1904 to Carrie Chapman Catt and then back to Shaw.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton died 1902; Susan B. Anthony died 1906.

Black Women's clubs formed and became active.

National and state by state activities to support woman suffrage. Contact with international suffrage groups.

Elitist, nativist, racist rhetoric largely abandoned (in public) by suffrage groups.

More radical suffrage groups form. Suffrage parades start, following the more militant example of British "suffragettes."

1909 Catt returns to the US movement and forms Woman Suffrage Party (WSP)

## 1910's

1911—There has been progress, but only 29 states allow some form of partial woman suffrage (school, tax, bond, municipal, primary, or presidential). Low women turnout in elections where eligible.

1913 Alice Paul and Lucy Burns revive the NAWSA Congressional Committee and organized Washington DC Suffrage Parade the day before Wilson's inauguration. The marchers were attacked by a mob and the police failed to protect them; the suffrage movement gained massive publicity and considerable sympathy. Paul was forced out of the NAWSA Congressional Committee.

1913 Paul and Burns form the independent Congressional Union (CU); CU supported militancy and the British suffragette policy of "holding the party in power responsible."

1915 Catt returns to presidency of NAWSA, replacing Shaw. She opposed militancy, independent activism, and rival leaders.

1916 Paul forms the National Woman's Party (NWP); began attacks on Western Democrats in the 1916 election ("holding the party in power responsible").

### 1917-1918 World War I

1917 NWP-sponsored Silent Sentinels picket the White House (Jan 2017); 218 arrested, jailed, some went on hunger strike and were force fed. Faced with terrible publicity, authorities released picketers in late November 2017.

NWP campaigns against the party in power (Democrats).

## 1918-1919

1918 Wilson endorsed the suffrage amendment. A tough floor fight led to a close House vote, but it passed by one vote in January 2018. The Senate declined to take up the amendment.

Nov 2018 Republicans take over Congress.

December 1918 NAWSA threatened to mobilize against unsympathetic politicians in the 1918 elections. NWP continued to do so.

February 1919 Senate defeated the amendment by 1 vote, but six more legislatures had granted the vote.

1919 After 1.5 years the Senate voted on the amendment, but only at the instigation of hostile senators confident it would lose. Wilson addressed the Senate; vote lost by 2 votes.

May 1919 Wilson called a special session of Congress. House passed the amendment by a wide majority (there were 100 new pro-suffrage legislators) and the amendment passed the Senate June 4 1919 by a two-vote majority.

## 1920

Ratification was swift in the Western states (where women had the right to vote), but the remaining votes came slowly. Tennessee cast the final deciding vote 18 August 1920 after a fierce battle. The final vote was cast by Harry Burn, a young Republican, who changed his vote at the urging of his mother.

19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was certified by the Secretary of State on August 26, 1920. 26 million women became eligible to vote.

### **19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**Section 1.** 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.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1920 NAWSA became the League of Women Voters.

November 2020 Women vote for the first time in a presidential election. The winner was the Republican W. G. Harding; there were large gains for Republicans in Congress. The women's turnout was 36%; the men's turnout was 68%. By 1960 women's turnout exceeded men's in presidential elections, as it does today.



## riseUP

Recognizing the Importance of Women's Suffrage Everywhere-UP Chapter

The mission of RISE UP is to:

- Commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States,
- Commemorate the suffrage and acquisition of full citizenship rights by all populations,
- Highlight the civic and cultural contributions of women,
- Encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote

Founded in April 2019

15 August 2020 parade from Houghton to Hancock

Working on exhibits, lectures, etc.

For more information [riseup-info-l@mtu.edu](mailto:riseup-info-l@mtu.edu)

Facebook: Rise UP Keweenaw

Website: [riseupkc.org](http://riseupkc.org)

Auxiliary website: <http://pages.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/riseUP/>

Publicity poster: <http://pages.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/riseUP/rise-UPMeetingInfoPoster.jpg>

Donations may be sent to the LWVCC (put riseUP in the notes line)

**Note: We are no longer accepting sunflower sponsorship donations! Thanks to those who are already sponsoring sunflowers.**



**League of Women Voters of the Copper Country**

<http://www.lwvccmi.org/>

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### 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1865)

**Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1866; was made a requirement for re-entry into the Union)

**Section 1.** All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

**Section 2.** Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the **male** inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such **male** citizens shall bear to the whole number of **male** citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

**Section 3.** No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

**Section 4.** The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

**Section 5.** The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870)

**Section 1.** 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 race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**Section 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

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