

Susan B Anthony

Yes, voting can get you in trouble

Early Life

Born in February 1820 to an activist Quaker family.

There was a craze during her teens of adding a middle name or middle initial.
Anthony added a B, no name.

Family's Activities

Her father was an abolitionist and temperance advocate- too activist for his Quaker church and he was disavowed. Frederick Douglass was a frequent visitor and Douglass became a good friend, until the rupture in 1866.

Two of her brothers followed John Brown to Kansas to support the anti-slavery movement.



Early Activism

- In 1837, at age 16, Anthony collected petitions against slavery.
- In 1851, she organized an anti-slavery convention in Rochester.



Radical vision
of a racially
integrated
society

- ...1861- “Let us open to the colored man all our schools...Let us admit him into all our mechanic shops, stores, offices...let him rent such pew in the church and occupy such seat in the theatre.... Extend to him all the rights of Citizenship.”

Temperance and rights for married women

Married women had few rights. They couldn't sign contracts; any money they earned or inherited belonged to their husbands; divorce even for extreme abuse was difficult; the children also belonged to the husband.

Anthony's first women's rights activities were for temperance laws and increased rights for married women.

Temperance

Because the husband had all the money and control, even when the husband was a drunk and abusive, the wife had no recourse.

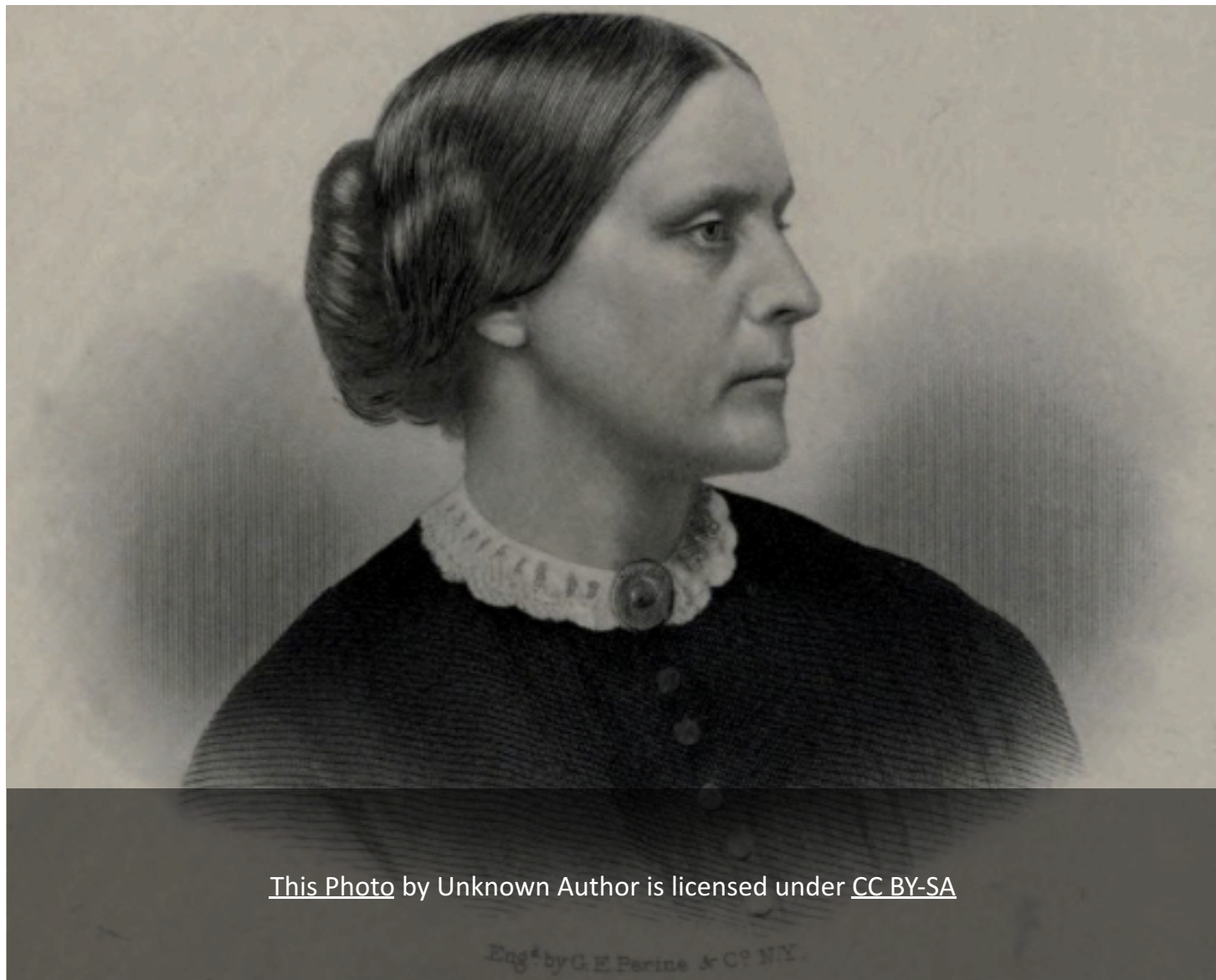
Temperance laws and Married Women's laws were seen as a remedy to help women.

Anthony organized temperance drives and meetings but when she tried to talk at them, she was often prevented because she was a woman.

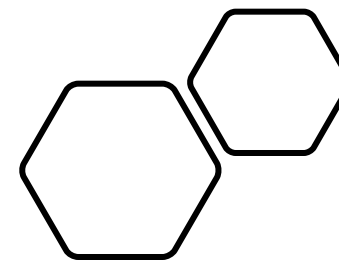
Equal Pay for Equal Work

From 1846-1849, Anthony taught at a Quaker Academy.

“I wasn’t ready to vote, didn’t want to vote, but I did want equal pay for equal work.”



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1849-1906

- For the rest of her life, Anthony devoted herself to her causes:
- Anti-slavery (until 1866)
- Temperance (until 1853 when she was denied the right to speak at temperance conventions)
- Women's Rights (1866-1906)
- She lived off her income as a speaker but donated much of it to her cause.

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- You can't talk about suffrage and Susan B Anthony without talking about Elizabeth Cady Stanton .



Elizabeth
Cady
Stanton

Stanton organized the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention- the first convention to be called solely to discuss women's rights.

The Declaration of Sentiments was the first public expression of complete equality.

Founding document

Declaration of Sentiments

- We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their powers from the [consent of the governed](#).

Anthony and Stanton met in 1851

- The twin engines of the women's movement.

They worked closely for the rest of their lives.

Anthony often lived at Stanton's house and babysat her 7 children



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They had
complementary
skills

**Anthony was the
organizer.**

**Stanton was the writer
and idea person.**

1851-1863

Anti- slavery activities were the focus of Anthony's work.

The women's rights movement was small and loosely organized.

It was closely connected to the anti-slavery movement, dependant for money and relying on its newspapers.

13th Amendment

In 1863, Anthony organized a petition drive to abolish slavery.

She organized the collection of 400,000 signatures. Signed by 1 in 24 adults in the North.

This created significant pressure for the amendment to abolish slavery.

14th Amendment- 1866

- 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.**

14th Amendment

- Section 2.
- **Representatives will be figured among the States according to their numbers, counting all the people in the State, except Native Americans who are not taxed. If a State will not let any male citizen over 21 years old vote freely (unless he commits a crime, or takes part in a rebellion), the number of Representatives for that states will be reduced.**

Anthony and Stanton opposed the 14th Amendment

- For the first time, the word “male “ was written into the Constitution.
- Anthony and Stanton argued women should be enfranchised as well as men.
- The women’s movement split in two. One group was willing to wait and supported the 14th Amendment; Anthony and Cady Stanton were not willing to wait.
- Many of their friends, such as Frederick Douglass, broke with them over the issue.

They also
opposed the
15th
Amendment
for similar
reasons

"An oligarchy of wealth, where the rich govern the poor; an oligarchy of learning, where the educated govern the ignorant; or even an oligarchy of race, where the Saxon rules the African, might be endured; but surely this oligarchy of sex, which makes the men of every household sovereigns, masters; the women subjects, slaves; carrying dissension, rebellion into every home of the Nation, cannot be endured."

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Post- Civil War

- The anti-slavery organizations and newspapers gradually folded.
- As a result, the women's movement had very little money and little formal structure.

1866 and on

- Organize , organize , organize
- Created women's associations, including an international group still in existence and associated with the UN.
- Organized conventions.
- Went on the lecture circuit- spoke 75- 100 times a year into her 70's.



The Court Strategy

- Women's organizations decided on a strategy of arguing in court that section 1 of the 14th Amendment gave women, as citizens, the right to vote.
 - 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.**

Let's give it a try!




Minor v. Happersett (1875)

- Voter suppression is rapidly put in place in many states, but especially the South.
- It wasn't until the 1965 Civil Rights Act that blatant voter suppression was addressed by Congress.
- The Constitution still does not include the basic right of citizenship- the right to vote. States still retain the right to set the requirements to vote, e.g. disqualification of felons.


Donald Trump's tin ear

- On August 18, 2020 (100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th Amendment) Trump announced he would pardon Anthony.
- The president of the National Susan B Anthony Museum wrote to “decline” the offer, saying it would wrongly validate the trial’s outcome.

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- After 1875, the fight went on.
 - Some Western states gave women the right to vote.
 - 1890- Wyoming
 - 1893- Colorado
 - 1896-Utah and Idaho


Anthony
continued
to fight

- In 1896, she worked the California campaign, sometimes speaking 3 times a day in 30 different places.

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- The suffrage amendment was first introduced into Congress in 1878.
 - The proposed amendment, called the Susan B Anthony Amendment, finally passed the US House and Senate in 1919 and was sent to the states for ratification by three quarters of the states -36.

It was a hard fight

- The Women's Hour by Elaine Weiss
- Tells the story of ratification in Tennessee—the final possible state to make 36. The southern states had all rejected it; Tennessee was the last hope.
- Massive pro and anti campaigns. Dirty tricks. Corporate payoffs. When the vote started, it looked like the suffragists were 1 vote short of ratification.
- The House floor was in chaos.



Representative Harry Burn had voted with the antis in previous votes.

In his pocket, Burn had a letter from his mother, arrived that morning,

vote for suffrage, she said. And he did.

Changes in voting patterns

- It wasn't until 1980 that there was a discernible gender gap in party voted for in presidential elections.
- The gender gap has continued to increase with with time.
- After 1980, women also started to vote at higher rates than men, a gap that is also increasing.

What is the impact of the right to vote?

- In 1889, Anthony said that women had always been taught that their purpose was to serve men.
- “Now, after 40 years of agitation, the idea is beginning to prevail that women are created for themselves, for their own happiness, and for the welfare of the world”



