

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

August 26th



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1st Woman Commander of
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Assumed Command December 2005

Preface

Chief Librarian, Karen Olender, at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), created this document that provides background and reference material information for Women's Equality Day 2007. This document is posted on the Internet at: <https://www.deomi.org>. Additionally, there are various materials on the web site that support other national observances.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author, and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the military Services, or the Department of Defense.

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WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

THEME: CELEBRATING WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified granting women the right to vote. Each year since 1971, when President Jimmy Carter designated August 26th as Women's Equality Day, we have recognized the struggle for equal rights for women.

On July 11, 1848, the *Seneca County Courier* published the following notice:

WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

A convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of Woman will be held in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Seneca Falls, N.Y., on Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th of July current, commencing at 10 o'clock a.m.

More than 300 women and men attended the convention, and sixty-eight women and thirty-two men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, the statement that listed the rights of women modeled after Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.

Women's Rights Conventions: Seneca Falls & Rochester, 1848, published by Arno & the New York Times Co. contains the proceedings of the historic meeting held in July as well as the subsequent meeting held in August in Rochester.

It would take seventy-two years after that first women's rights convention before women were allowed to vote. Women's rights leaders such as:

Lucretia Mott, an abolitionist, Quaker minister, and one of the organizers of the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention;

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an abolitionist and writer of the Declaration of Sentiments for the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention;

Susan B. Anthony, co-founder of the National Woman Suffrage Association, gave over 75 speeches per year for over 45 years, voted in the 1872 presidential election and was arrested and tried;

Lucy Stone, founder of *Woman's Journal*, the publication of the American Woman Suffrage Association, refused to take her husband's name;

Sojourner Truth, former slave and abolitionist, her famous speech, *Ain't I a Woman*, was delivered at the 1851 Ohio Women's rights Convention;

Carrie Chapman Catt, elected president twice by the National American Woman Suffrage Association and founder of the League of Women Voters;

Alice Paul, founder of the National Woman's Party, proposed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923;

and so many others would crusade for women's right to vote. We recognize their place in history and honor them for their dedication.

Women's Equality Books

Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America

Evans, Sara M.

New York: Free Press, 1989

Starting with the first women of America, the indigenous Indians, Evans traces the history of women through various time periods: revolutionary era, the suffragist movement of the early 1900's, the roaring 1920's, forward to Betty Friedan's feminine mystique in the 1960's, and then through the 1980's.

Century of Struggle: The Women's Rights Movement in the United States, Rev ed.

Flexner, Eleanor

Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1975

First published in 1959, this classic work on the history of the woman's rights movement explores women's lives and history from the colonial period through victory in 1920 when the 19th Amendment passed.

Origins of the Equal Rights Amendment

Becker, Susan D.

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1981.

After the passage of the nineteenth amendment the National Woman's Party founded by Alice Paul supported the passage of an Equal Rights Amendment which this book addresses.

Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights

Strum, Philippa

Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2002

This book traces VMI's history of male military tradition, why women were not allowed entrance, and the hard fought court case that resulted in women's entrance to the institute.

Women Together: A History in Documents of the Women's Movement in the United States

Papachristou, Judith

New York: Knopf, 1976

Features 325 letters, newspaper stories, speeches, flyers, press clippings, and illustrations.

This book provides a broad view of the woman's rights movement from the 1830's abolitionist movement to the social changes of the 1960's and 1970's.

Women's Rights : The Struggle for Equality in the 19th & 20th Centuries

McGlen, Nancy E. & Karen O'Connor
New York: Praeger Publishers, 1983

McGlen and O'Connor analyse the progress of the women's equality movement from the convention at Seneca Falls, N.Y. to the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Women's Suffrage in America, Updated Edition

Frost-Knappman, Elizabeth and Kathryn Cullen-DuPont
New York: Facts on File, 2005

Each chapter consists of an introductory essay, chronology of events, and first-hand accounts of the women's movement provided in the form of letters, speeches, newspaper accounts, and diary entries.

Book List of Leaders of the Suffragette Movement

Five for Freedom

Burnett, Constance Buel
Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1953

This book features biographical chapters on Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt who crusaded to win the right to vote in nineteenth century America.

From Equal Suffrage to Equal Rights: Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party, 1910-1928

Lunardini, Christine A.
New York: New York University Press, 1986

Alice Paul was leader of the National Woman's Party (NWP), a militant woman's movement organization that was founded in 1916 and was instrumental in the passage of the 19th Amendment. The NWP secured the first congressional hearings on the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923.

Laura Clay and the Woman's Rights Movement

Fuller, Paul E.
Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1975

Laura Clay, was born in Kentucky in 1849, just a year after the first women's equality convention took place at Seneca Falls, N.Y. Professor Fuller explores Clay's career as one of the most prominent southern suffragette and her renown as a speaker for the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

Ward, Geoffrey C. and Ken Burns
New York: Knopf, 1999

This book is a companion volume to the documentary film by Ken Burns and Paul Barnes written in collaboration with Geoffrey Ward. It contains numerous pictures, illustrations, and the writings of Stanton and Anthony.

Sisters: the Lives of America's Suffragists

Baker, Jean H.
New York: Hill and Wang, 2005

Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frances Willard and Alice Paul are profiled in private life and their public achievements are lauded.

Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend

Mabee, Carleton with Susan Mabee Newhouse
New York: New York University Press, 1993

Sojourner Truth was born a slave in New York State. She was a well known abolitionist and women's rights advocate.

Susan B. Anthony: A Biography

Barry, Kathleen
New York: New York University Press, 1988

A legend in her own time, this biography integrates Anthony's personal story with the story of her rise to prominence in the suffrage movement.

List of Women in the Military

Generally Speaking

Kennedy, Claudia J. (Lt. Gen., Ret) with Malcolm McConnell
New York: Warner Books, 2001

Lt. Gen. Kennedy was the Army's first woman three-star general, overseeing 45,000 soldiers in her job as Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

My Rise to the Stars

Adams-Ender, Clara with Blair S. Walker
Lake Ridge, VA: CAPE Associates, Inc., c2001

Brig. Gen. Adams-Ender was the first African American Nurse Corps Officer to graduate from the U.S. Army War College. She served over thirty-two years on active service and retired in 1993.

Audiovisual Media

Generations: American Women Win the Vote

12.5 minutes; VOTE 70 Inc., 2003

This production covers 72 years of suffrage history. The nineteenth amendment needed 2/3 of the states to ratify it before becoming law. Tennessee was the 36th state to vote to pass the amendment. Women were allowed to vote finally, forty-two years after the amendment was introduced.

Iron Jawed Angels

124 minutes; HBO Films, 2004

This movie stars Hilary Swank as Alice Paul and portrays how she and other young women activists helped the women's suffrage movement to gain passage of the 19th Amendment.

Not for Ourselves Alone

90 minutes; PBS Home Video

This is a documentary film by Ken Burns and Paul Barnes focusing on the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony who led the fight for women's equal rights in the later part of the nineteenth century.

Sojourner Truth

30 minutes; Schlessinger Video Productions, 1992

This documentary is part of *The Black Americans of Achievement Video Collection*. In her later years, Sojourner Truth became a women's rights speaker.

Web sites of Interest

Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives

<http://kdla.ky.gov/resources/kylauraclay.htm>

Web site devoted to Laura Clay, who founded the Kentucky Equal Rights Association in 1888 and was a prominent southern member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Library of Congress

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw/nawshome.html>

Selections from the National Women's Suffrage Association Collection, 1848–1921 contain the full text of 167 books, pamphlets and other documents of importance to the history of the women's equality movement. A timeline of important events in the movement is also available.

National Park Service

<http://nps.gov/wori>

The Women's Rights National Historical Park is located in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York and offers interpretive programs and tours of historic buildings such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton's house and the Wesleyan Chapel where the first major women's rights conference was held. The Web site contains the full text of the Declaration of Sentiments that launched the women's rights movement as well as biographical information about the first leaders of the suffragette movement.

National Women's History Museum

<http://www.nmwh.org/home/equalityday.html>

This Web site contains links to Presidential Equality Day Proclamations, resources on women's equality available through the National Women's History Project's Web site, and events locator held nationwide or locally to celebrate women's Equality Day.

PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/stantonanthony>

This link is to PBS's official Web site of the documentary film and book, Not for Ourselves Alone. PBS provides information about the suffrage movement, video clips, historic documents, Web site links, and suggested resources.

Rutgers University

<http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/misc/relsites.html>

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony Papers Project site features links to other Web sites on women's history and suffrage as well as full text documents.

University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law

<http://www.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/anthony/sbahome.html>

Susan B. Anthony was arrested after trying to vote in 1872 and this Web site contains the complete trial record.