

Women's Rights in the 19th Century



US History I

Among these women are several activists whose names and accomplishments should become as familiar to Americans as those of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr.

A History of the Movement from National Women's History Project

Elizabeth Cady Stanton



- ❖ Born November 1815 in Johnstown, NY
- ❖ Very-well educated & mother of 7
- ❖ Attended the World's Anti-Slavery convention in London on her honeymoon with her husband Henry
- ❖ Women were not allowed to speak or participate



Lucretia Mott



- ❖ Born to Quaker parents - Nantucket Jan. 3, 1793
- ❖ Became a minister (along with her husband John)
- ❖ Very anti-slavery & protested products made by slaves
- ❖ Attended the World's Anti-Slavery Convention and befriended Elizabeth Cady Stanton

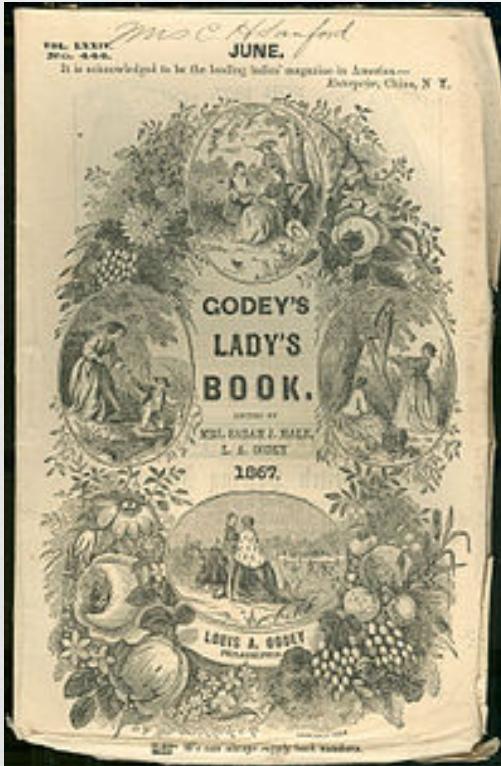


Declaration of Sentiments



- ❖ First Woman's Rights convention held in Seneca Falls, NY (July 19-20, 1848) by Stanton and Mott
- ❖ 300 women and men attended (68 women and 32 men signed)
- ❖ Inspired later advocates of women's rights

Declaration of Sentiments



- ❖ Protested the “cult of domesticity” which believed women should
- ❖ Be more religious than men
- ❖ Be pure in heart, mind, and body
- ❖ Submit to their husbands
- ❖ Stay at home

Amelia Bloomer



- ❖ Born May 27, 1818 in Homer, NY
- ❖ Married Dexter Boomer from Seneca Falls, NY
- ❖ They attended the Seneca Falls Convention
 - ❖ Amelia was inspired to write about temperance/women's issues
 - ❖ Her husband encouraged her to change women's position in US society



Amelia Bloomer



- ❖ Began her newspaper *The Lily*
- ❖ Championed women's suffrage and dress reform
- ❖ Invented the "bloomer"
- ❖ Looser tops and skirts that stopped at the knee with pants underneath instead of a corset and many petticoats



Elizabeth Blackwell



- ❖ Born in Bristol, England in 1821
- ❖ Father moved to the US to help abolish slavery
- ❖ She applied to 12 medical colleges including Geneva Medical College
- ❖ All-male student body got to vote on her admission
- ❖ Jokingly they all voted “yes” and she attended



Elizabeth Blackwell



- ❖ Became the first woman in America to earn the M.D. degree in 1849
- ❖ Later opened her own medical practice and college for women
- ❖ Women could not get internships at other hospitals/practices



Emma Willard



- ❖ Born on Feb. 23, 1789 in Berlin, CT
- ❖ Encouraged to read and think for herself by her father
- ❖ Opened the Middlebury Female Seminary in VT in 1814 and then the Emma Willard School in 1821 in NY
 - ❖ First serious school for women in the country



Catharine Beecher



- ❖ Great need for teacher's in rapidly expanding U.S.
- ❖ Beecher advocated for educating women to fill this role in her essay "Suggestions Respecting Improvements in Education."
- ❖ Helped found the Hartford Female Seminary



Prudence Crandall



- ❖ Born Hopkinton, RI – Sept. 3, 1803
- ❖ Opened a private girl's school in 1831 (w/ rigorous curriculum) in CT that admitted African-American students
- ❖ Protests and mob attacks forced her to close the school in 1835



Mary Lyon



- ❖ Born Feb. 28, 1797 in Buckland, MA
- ❖ Became a teacher but wanted better education to teach more effectively
- ❖ Eventually founded the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary w/ challenging curriculum including math and science
- ❖ Inspired the founding of other women's colleges (Wellesley & Smith)



Question to Consider



What were these women's accomplishments and why were these accomplishments so significant in American history?