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1848

FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

The first women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York. There, 68 women and 32 men sign a Declaration of Sentiments, modeled on the Declaration of Independence, outlining grievances and setting the agenda for the women's rights movement. A set of 12 resolutions is adopted calling for equal treatment of women and men under the law and voting rights for women.

1849

FIRST NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

The first National Women's Rights Convention takes place in Worcester, Massachusetts, attracting more than 1,000 participants. Frederick Douglass, Paulina Wright Davis, Abby Kelley Foster, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucy Stone and Sojourner Truth are in attendance.

1866

FORMATION OF THE AMERICAN EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony form the American Equal Rights Association, an organization for white and black women and men dedicated to the goal of universal suffrage. They petition Congress for "universal suffrage."

1868

RATIFICATION OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified: "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" and that right may not be "denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States."

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

HONORING THE IMPORTANT ROLES IOWA WOMEN PLAYED IN THE WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

By Emily Chafa

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially became the law of the land on Aug. 26, 1920, 100 years ago. The 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, nationwide, in all elections.

The motto of Iowa's 100th anniversary celebration, **HARD WON NOT DONE**, accurately summarizes the decades-long struggle for women's right to vote, and the continuing efforts to guarantee voting rights for all. The state and national woman's suffrage movement included many courageous Iowa women. Some of these women are well-known. Some are not. Some were Iowa's first women lawyers and law school graduates. Read on to learn their stories and a few interesting facts about each woman.



Arabella "Belle" Babb Mansfield,

the first woman admitted to practice law in the United States, on June 15, 1869, in Mount Pleasant, was active in the woman's suffrage movement. She chaired the 1870 Iowa Woman Suffrage Convention, the first statewide gathering of the newly-formed Iowa Woman Suffrage Society. Arabella Mansfield never actively practiced law, but frequently demonstrated her analytical skills and persuasive speaking skills to argue for women's right to vote.

Arabella Mansfield spent her entire professional career in academia, teaching at Simpson College, Iowa Wesleyan College (now Iowa Wesleyan University), and DePauw University, where she taught various subjects and served as the Dean of the School of Arts and Music. She

spent most summers in Iowa with her family, continuing to give speeches and support the woman's suffrage movement.

Interesting facts: Arabella Babb Mansfield studied the law for two years in her brother's law office in Mount Pleasant. Her husband, John Mansfield, studied the law with her. John and Arabella Mansfield took the bar examination the same day and were sworn into the Iowa bar on the same date, June 15, 1869, in the Union Block Building in Mount Pleasant.

Her Iowa bar admission required an expansive interpretation of the current statute governing bar admissions. Iowa Code §114.2700 (1860) required Iowa lawyers to be white, male, at least 21 years old, reside in Iowa, of good moral character and possess the requisite learning to satisfy an Iowa district court of his qualifications. The word "male"

1870

RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT

The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified: "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."

1872

SUSAN B. ANTHONY REGISTERS AND VOTES FOR ULYSSES S. GRANT IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Susan B. Anthony is arrested, tried and convicted for registering and voting for Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential election in New York. Her defense, that the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment entitled her to vote, was not successful.

1874

MINOR V. HAPPERSETT

The Supreme Court rules in *Minor v. Happersett* that the 14th Amendment does not guarantee women the right to vote. Citizenship does not give women voting rights, and women's political rights are under individual states' jurisdictions, the Court determines.

1912

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S BULL MOOSE PARTY SUPPORTS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party becomes the first national major political party to support woman's suffrage.

was construed as gender neutral, relying on Iowa Code §3.29(3) (1860), the statutory construction section, which stated "words importing the masculine gender only may be extended to females." This statutory interpretation opened the door for Arabella Mansfield to take the bar exam and be admitted to the Iowa bar. Thankfully, the pertinent Iowa Code section was soon amended, by removing the words "white" and "male" to explicitly allow women, and men and women of color, to study law and be admitted to practice law in Iowa. (See Iowa Code §9.208, 1873 edition.)



Carrie Chapman Catt grew up on a farm near Charles City. She became a suffragist at age 13 when she learned that her well-informed mother could not vote in the presidential election, but her father, her brother, and their uninformed hired men could vote. Carrie attended the State Agricultural College in Ames (now Iowa State University). She was the only woman in her class. She graduated at the top of her class in 1880. She worked before and during her college years to pay for her education.

Carrie decided to become a lawyer and began to study law while working in an attorney's office to earn money. She abandoned this plan when she received an offer to serve as principal of the high school in Mason City. She soon became superintendent of the Mason City Schools, at age 24, the first woman to do so.

Carrie Chapman Catt married two men who fully supported her work in the woman's suffrage movement. Leo Chapman supported her work through the newspaper he owned and published. Sadly, he died shortly after they married. Her second husband,

George Catt, supported her by allowing Carrie ample time and funds to travel as needed to advance woman's suffrage state by state and nationwide.

Carrie's organizing skills quickly came to Susan B. Anthony's attention. She chose Carrie Chapman Catt as her successor as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1900. Carrie served in this position from 1900-1904 and again from 1916-1920.

Carrie was a great writer, a persuasive speaker, an effective organizer and strategic planner. Her winning plan included focusing on state constitutional amendments and limited voting rights in various states as well as the federal constitutional amendment. Her strategic winning plan is generally credited with moving the 19th Amendment past the finish line in August 1920. Her famous speech in August of 1920 is still relevant today.

"That vote of yours has cost millions of dollars and the lives of thousands of women. The vote has been costly. Prize it. Understand what it means and what it can do for your country. No soldier in the great suffrage army has labored and suffered to get a place for you."

Their motive has always been the hope that women would aim higher than their selfish ambitions; that they would serve the common good. The vote is won. Seventy-two years the battle for this privilege has waged, but human affairs with their eternal change move on without pause. Progress is calling on you to make no pause. Act."

Interesting facts: The 19th Amendment was ratified by the Tennessee legislature on Aug. 18, 1920, the necessary 36th state to make it part of the U.S. Constitution. Carrie Chapman Catt spent several weeks in Tennessee that July and August, organizing, writing, speaking, rallying the troops, overcoming numerous obstacles. The deciding vote was cast by Frank Burn, the youngest member of the legislature, after he received a letter from his mother, Phoebe Burn, encouraging him to "vote for suffrage...help Mrs. Catt put the "Rat" in Ratification."

Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters in February 1920. She co-founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in 1902.

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1913

SUFFRAGISTS ORGANIZE A PARADE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Suffragists organize a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Known as the Woman Suffrage Procession, it was the first public demonstration in the nation's capital for woman's suffrage and called participants to "march in a spirit of protest against the present political organization of society, from which women are excluded."

1916

FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jeannette Rankin of Montana is the first woman elected to the House of Representatives. Woodrow Wilson states that the Democratic Party platform will support suffrage.

1919

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT IS PASSED BY CONGRESS

The Woman Suffrage Amendment, originally written by Susan B. Anthony and introduced in Congress in 1878, is passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is then sent to the states for ratification. Wisconsin and Illinois are the first states to ratify. July 2, 1919 was the date that Iowa adopted the 19th Amendment.

1920

THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION IS CERTIFIED AS LAW

After Tennessee becomes the 36th state to ratify, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution is certified as law, granting American women the national right to vote.



Annie Savery was the first woman to speak publicly on woman's suffrage in Des Moines, on Jan. 23, 1868. She delivered the same speech in Iowa City on Feb. 18, 1868. She generously used her wealth and standing in local and state society to support the woman's suffrage movement, including inviting and hosting national leaders Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to speak in Des Moines.

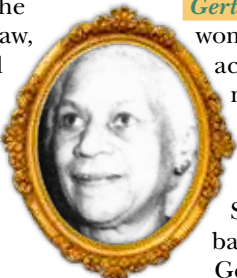
Annie Savery was one of the first women to attend law school at the University of Iowa, graduating from the one-year program in 1875. She was admitted to the Iowa bar on June 26, 1875. She did not intend to actively practice law, but wanted to understand the legal history of the rights of women more fully to support her work in the woman's suffrage movement.

Interesting facts: The Savery Hotel, built in 1877 and still operating in downtown Des Moines, was owned and operated by James and Annie Savery. The original Savery Hotel, also in downtown Des Moines, was renamed the Kirkwood Hotel after James Savery lost it in 1878. The Savery family lived in their original hotel after their home burned down in 1874.

Annie Savery requested appointment to serve as United States Consul to Le Havre, France, in 1873. The entire Iowa congressional delegation supported her request, as did congressman from five other states. She was not appointed to the post. She publicly stated to her detractors that she could afford to be used as a test by the elected officials and she did so to make the point that a woman was qualified for this type of position.



Alice Bird Babb, an 1869 Iowa Wesleyan College graduate, began to give speeches supporting woman's suffrage in 1870, mostly in the Mount Pleasant area. In January of 1869, Alice Bird co-founded the P.E.O. Sisterhood, an international women's organization, with six other Iowa Wesleyan College students. She served as its first president. (Many current Iowa lawyers and judges are active P.E.O. members.) Alice married Arabella Babb Mansfield's brother, Washington Babb, in 1873. Alice and Arabella continued to speak in support of woman's suffrage for many years.



Gertrude Rush, the first Black woman lawyer in Iowa, was active in the woman's suffrage movement. Gertrude Durden Rush studied law in her husband's law office under his tutelage for several years. She took and passed the Iowa bar examination in 1918.

Gertrude Rush co-founded the National Bar Association in 1925, in Des Moines, after she and four other Black Iowa lawyers were denied admission to the American Bar Association because of their race. Gertrude Rush was known as the "Sunday School lawyer" because she often referred to the Golden Rule and kept a Bible on her desk along with the Iowa Code. She was active in numerous religious and civic organizations in addition to her work for woman's suffrage.

More interesting Iowa facts:

The Iowa legislature ratified the 19th Amendment on July 2, 1919, the 10th state to do so, during a special session lasting an hour and 40 minutes, the shortest legislative session in Iowa history.

On Aug. 27, 1920, one day after the 19th Amendment became the law of the land, Mrs. Jens Thuesen of Grundy County became the first woman to vote in an election under its authority. A total of 77 women voted in this school district consolidation election.

The University of Iowa never limited enrollment on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity or religion. Miss Mary B. Hickey of Newton was the first woman graduate from the University of Iowa law school in 1873. The second and third women law school graduates were Mrs. Annie Savery of Des Moines, and her friend, Mrs. Mary Emily Haddock of Iowa City, in 1875.

The first Black men to graduate from the University of Iowa law school were Alexander Clark, Jr., in 1879, and his father, Alexander Clark, Sr., in 1884, both of Muscatine. Their names may sound familiar as the successful plaintiffs in the 1868 Iowa Supreme Court decision integrating public schools.

Primary source: *Strong-Minded Women: The Emergence of the Woman-Suffrage Movement in Iowa*, by Louise R. Noun. Published by Iowa State University Press, 1969.

VOTING RIGHTS, HARD WON, NOT DONE: HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE 15TH AND 19TH AMENDMENTS

A special CLE program is being offered on Monday, Sept. 14, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, granting African American men the right to vote, and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote. The webinar event will take place at noon and the speakers are Henry Hamilton III, Administrative Law Judge with the U.S. Social Security Administration, and Emily Chafa, Chair of the ISBA Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee. Visit the iowabar.org homepage Event Calendar to find details on the event and to register.



Emily Chafa serves as the Chair of the ISBA Diversity & Inclusiveness Committee. She is active in several national, state and local bar associations, including the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (I.O.W.A.), Polk County Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, Blackstone Inn of Court and the ABA Judicial Division National Conference of Administrative Law Judiciary. She enjoys learning and telling the stories of Iowa women trailblazers and other relatively unknown history makers.