

# DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

## Chapter 1 : Seneca Falls Convention begins - HISTORY

*The Seneca Falls convention transformed a wide variety of ideas about woman's rights (expressed earlier through abolitionism, legal reform, moral reform, and popular culture) into an identifiable woman's rights movement.*

That reform effort evolved during the 19th century, initially emphasizing a broad spectrum of goals before focusing solely on securing the franchise for women. They are holding a banner emblazoned with a quote from suffragist Susan B. Stanton and Susan B. Like many other women reformers of the era, they both had been active in the abolitionist movement. For much of the s they agitated against the denial of basic economic freedoms to women. Later they unsuccessfully lobbied Congress to include women in the provisions of the 14th and 15th Amendments extending citizenship rights and granting voting rights to African-American men, respectively. Capitol is in background. Stanton and Anthony created the National Woman Suffrage Association NWSA , which directed its efforts toward changing federal law and opposed the 15th Amendment on the basis that it excluded women. Eventually, the NWSA also shifted its efforts to the individual states where reformers hoped to start a ripple effect to win voting rights at the federal level. The AWSA was better funded and the larger of the two groups, but it had only a regional reach. The NWSA, which was based in New York, relied on its statewide network, but also drew recruits from around the nation largely on the basis of the extensive speaking circuits of Stanton and Anthony. Neither group attracted broad support from women or persuaded male politicians or voters to adopt its cause. For instance, suffrage movement leaders knew that this was a significant impediment to achieving their goal. Anthony and Ida H. The determination of these women to expand their sphere of activities further outside the home helped legitimize the suffrage movement and provided new momentum for the NWSA and the AWSA. Senate, poses at her desk in the Senate Office Building. For the next two decades the NAWSA worked as a nonpartisan organization focused on gaining the vote in states, although managerial problems and a lack of coordination initially limited its success. The first state to grant women complete voting rights was Wyoming in But before only these four states allowed women to vote. Some scholars suggest that the West proved to be more progressive in extending the vote to women, in part, because there were so few of them on the frontier. Granting women political rights was intended to bring more women westward and to boost the population. Others suggest that women had long played nontraditional roles on the hardscrabble frontier and were accorded a more equal status by men. Still others find that political expediency by territorial officials played a role. They do, however, agree that western women also organized themselves effectively to win the right. Between and , the NAWSA intensified its lobbying efforts and additional states extended the franchise to women: Washington, California, Arizona, Kansas, and Oregon. In Illinois, future Congresswoman Ruth Hanna McCormick of Illinois helped lead the fight for suffrage as a lobbyist in Springfield when the state legislature granted women the right to vote in This marked the first such victory for women in a state east of the Mississippi River. A year later Montana granted women the right to vote, thanks in part to the efforts of another future Congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin. Despite the new momentum, however, some reformers were impatient with the pace of change. Embracing a more confrontational style, Paul drew a younger generation of women to her movement, helped resuscitate the push for a federal equal rights amendment, and relentlessly attacked the Democratic administration of President Woodrow Wilson for obstructing the extension of the vote to women. Beginning in , President Wilson a convert to the suffrage cause urged Congress to pass a voting rights amendment. Elected two years after her state enfranchised women, Rankin became the first woman to serve in the national legislature. Unveiled in , the monument is featured prominently in the Rotunda of the U. Moreover, they insisted, the failure to extend the vote to women might impede their participation in the war effort just when they were most needed to play a greater role as workers and volunteers outside the home. Responding to these overtures, the House of Representatives initially passed a voting rights amendment on January 10, , but the Senate did not follow suit before the end of the 65th Congress. It was not until after the war, however, that the

## DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

measure finally cleared Congress with the House again voting its approval by a wide margin on May 21, , and the Senate concurring on June 4, . A year later, on August 18, , Tennessee became the 36th state to approve the 19th Amendment. Official ratification occurred on August 26, , when U. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the approval of the Tennessee state legislature. Banner, Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Cornell University Press, Rutgers University Press, Northeastern University Press, Office of the Historian:

# DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

## Chapter 2 : Open thread for night owls: The Seneca Falls women's rights resolutions of July ,

*Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement is a thorough account and analysis of the convention that began to galvanize women to organize around suffrage, rights for divorce, and other issues that became the mainstay of the women's rights movement.*

Her insight has been borne out time and again throughout the development of this country of ours. Being allowed to live life in an atmosphere of religious freedom, having a voice in the government you support with your taxes, living free of lifelong enslavement by another person. These beliefs about how life should and must be lived were once considered outlandish by many. But these beliefs were fervently held by visionaries whose steadfast work brought about changed minds and attitudes. Now these beliefs are commonly shared across U. Another initially outlandish idea that has come to pass: United States citizenship for women. Over the past seven generations, dramatic social and legal changes have been accomplished that are now so accepted that they go unnoticed by people whose lives they have utterly changed. Many people who have lived through the recent decades of this process have come to accept blithely what has transpired. And younger people, for the most part, can hardly believe life was ever otherwise. They take the changes completely in stride, as how life has always been. The staggering changes for women that have come about over those seven generations in family life, in religion, in government, in employment, in education â€” these changes did not just happen spontaneously. Women themselves made these changes happen, very deliberately. Women have not been the passive recipients of miraculous changes in laws and human nature. Seven generations of women have come together to affect these changes in the most democratic ways: They have worked very deliberately to create a better world, and they have succeeded hugely. On that sweltering summer day in upstate New York, a young housewife and mother, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was invited to tea with four women friends. Surely the new republic would benefit from having its women play more active roles throughout society. This was definitely not the first small group of women to have such a conversation, but it was the first to plan and carry out a specific, large-scale program. Today we are living the legacy of this afternoon conversation among women friends. Within two days of their afternoon tea together, this small group had picked a date for their convention, found a suitable location, and placed a small announcement in the Seneca County Courier. In the history of western civilization, no similar public meeting had ever been called. They saw their mission as helping the republic keep its promise of better, more egalitarian lives for its citizens. The same familiar words framed their arguments: To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. This was just seventy years after the Revolutionary War. But this Declaration of Sentiments spelled out what was the status quo for European-American women in America, while it was even worse for enslaved Black women. That women should be allowed to vote in elections was almost inconceivable to many. Even the heartfelt pleas of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a refined and educated woman of the time, did not move the assembly. Not until Frederick Douglass, the noted Black abolitionist and rich orator, started to speak, did the uproar subside. Woman, like the slave, he argued, had the right to liberty. The Declaration of Sentiments ended on a note of complete realism: We shall employ agents, circulate tracts, petition the State and national Legislatures, and endeavor to enlist the pulpit and the press in our behalf. We hope this Convention will be followed by a series of Conventions, embracing every part of the country. In ridicule, the entire text of the Declaration of Sentiments was often published, with the names of the signers frequently included. Just as ridicule today often has a squelching effect on new ideas, this attack in the press caused many people from the Convention to rethink their positions. Many of the women who had attended the convention were so embarrassed by the publicity that they actually withdrew their signatures from the Declaration. But most stood firm. And something the editors had not anticipated happened: Some drew such large crowds that people actually had to be turned away for lack of sufficient meeting space! Elizabeth Cady Stanton and women like Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, and Sojourner Truth traveled the country lecturing and organizing for the next

## DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

forty years. Eventually, winning the right to vote emerged as the central issue, since the vote would provide the means to achieve the other reforms. All told, the campaign for woman suffrage met such staunch opposition that it took 72 years for the women and their male supporters to be successful. As you might imagine, any year campaign includes thousands of political strategists, capable organizers, administrators, activists and lobbyists. 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. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, of course. Esther Morris, the first woman to hold a judicial position, who led the first successful state campaign for woman suffrage, in Wyoming in Abigail Scott Duniway, the leader of the successful fight in Oregon and Washington in the early s. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell, organizers of thousands of African-American women who worked for suffrage for all women. Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt, leaders of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in the early years of the 20th century, who brought the campaign to its final success. I applaud the bravery and resilience of those who helped all of us “you and me” to be here today. In , as the suffrage victory drew near, the National American Woman Suffrage Association reconfigured itself into the League of Women Voters to ensure that women would take their hard-won vote seriously and use it wisely. Many suffragists became actively involved with lobbying for legislation to protect women workers from abuse and unsafe conditions. This movement not only endorsed educating women about existing birth control methods. It also spread the conviction that meaningful freedom for modern women meant they must be able to decide for themselves whether they would become mothers, and when. For decades, Margaret Sanger and her supporters faced down at every turn the zealously enforced laws denying women this right. In , a Supreme Court decision declassified birth control information as obscene. Still, it was not until that married couples in all states could obtain contraceptives legally. What occurred in the s was actually a second wave of activism that washed into the public consciousness, fueled by several seemingly independent events of that turbulent decade. Each of these events brought a different segment of the population into the movement. The report issued by that commission in documented discrimination against women in virtually every area of American life. State and local governments quickly followed suit and established their own commissions for women, to research conditions and recommend changes that could be initiated. The Feminine Mystique evolved out of a survey she had conducted for her year college reunion. In it she documented the emotional and intellectual oppression that middle-class educated women were experiencing because of limited life options. The book became an immediate bestseller, and inspired thousands of women to look for fulfillment beyond the role of homemaker. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act was passed, prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sex as well as race, religion, and national origin. But it passed, nevertheless. With its passage, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was established to investigate discrimination complaints. But it was quickly obvious that the commission was not very interested in pursuing these complaints. Betty Friedan, the chairs of the various state Commissions on the Status of Women, and other feminists agreed to form a civil rights organization for women similar to the NAACP. In , the National Organization for Women was organized, soon to be followed by an array of other mass-membership organizations addressing the needs of specific groups of women, including Blacks, Latinas, Asians-Americans, lesbians, welfare recipients, business owners, aspiring politicians, and tradeswomen and professional women of every sort. During this same time, thousands of young women on college campuses were playing active roles within the anti-war and civil rights movement. At least, that was their intention. They came together to form child care centers so women could work outside their homes for pay. These clinics provided a safe place to discuss a wide range of health concerns and experiment with alternative forms of treatment. With the inclusion of Title IX in the Education Codes of , equal access to higher education and to professional schools became the law. One in twenty-seven high school girls played sports 25 years ago; one in three do today. The whole world saw how much American women athletes could achieve during the last few Olympic Games, measured in their astonishing numbers of gold, silver, and bronze medals. This was another very visible result of Title IX. The average age of women

## DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

when they first marry has moved from twenty to twenty-four during that same period. Do you realize that just 25 years ago married women were not issued credit cards in their own name? That most women could not get a bank loan without a male co-signer? That women working full time earned fifty-nine cents to every dollar earned by men? The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled this illegal in , but since the EEOC had little enforcement power, most newspapers ignored the requirement for years. The National Organization for Women NOW , had to argue the issue all the way to the Supreme Court to make it possible for a woman today to hold any job for which she is qualified. And so now we see women in literally thousands of occupations which would have been almost unthinkable just one generation ago: The Equal Rights Amendment Is Re-Introduced Then, in , the Equal Rights Amendment, which had languished in Congress for almost fifty years, was finally passed and sent to the states for ratification. The wording of the ERA was simple: Unlike so many other issues which were battled-out in Congress or through the courts, this issue came to each state to decide individually. Marches were staged in key states that brought out hundreds of thousands of supporters. House meetings, walk-a-thons, door-to-door canvassing, and events of every imaginable kind were held by ordinary women, many of whom had never done anything political in their lives before. But Elizabeth Cady Stanton proved prophetic once again. Opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment, organized by Phyllis Schlafly, feared that a statement like the ERA in the Constitution would give the government too much control over our personal lives. They charged that passage of the ERA would lead to men abandoning their families, unisex toilets, gay marriages, and women being drafted. And the media, purportedly in the interest of balanced reporting, gave equal weight to these deceptive arguments just as they had when the possibility of women winning voting rights was being debated. And, just like had happened with woman suffrage, there were still very few women in state legislatures to vote their support, so male legislators once again had it in their power to decide if women should have equal rights. When the deadline for ratification came in , the ERA was just three states short of the 38 needed to write it into the U. Despite polls consistently showing a large majority of the population supporting the ERA, it was considered by many politicians to be just too controversial.

# DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

## Chapter 3 : Seneca Falls Convention - HISTORY

*Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement* Sally McMillen *Pivotal Moments in American History*. In *Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Woman's Rights Movement*, Sally McMillen unpacks, for the first time, the full significance of the revolutionary convention that changed the course of women's history.

Reform movement[ edit ] In the decades leading up to , a small number of women began to push against restrictions imposed upon them by society. A few men aided in this effort. In , Reverend Charles Grandison Finney began allowing women to pray aloud in gatherings of men and women. A few women began to gain fame as writers and speakers on the subject of abolition. Ernestine Rose began lecturing in to groups of women on the subject of the "Science of Government" which included the enfranchisement of women. In London, the proposal was rebuffed after a full day of debate; the women were allowed to listen from the gallery but not allowed to speak or vote. In , Fuller published *The Great Lawsuit* , asking women to claim themselves as self-dependent. In the s, women in America were reaching out for greater control of their lives. Husbands and fathers directed the lives of women, and many doors were closed to female participation. She wrote to her friend Elizabeth J. Lucretia Mott and two other women were active within the executive committee, [17] and Mott spoke to the assemblage. Lucretia Mott raised questions about the validity of blindly following religious and social tradition. And as women have never consented to, been represented in, or recognized by this government, it is evident that in justice no allegiance can be claimed from them Our numerous and yearly petitions for this most desirable object having been disregarded, we now ask your august body, to abolish all laws which hold married women more accountable for their acts than infants, idiots, and lunatics. This universal exclusion of woman These Quakers strove for marital relationships in which men and women worked and lived in equality. They rented property from Richard P. Hunt, a wealthy Quaker and businessman. By the s, some Hicksite Quakers determined to bring women and men together in their business meetings as an expression of their spiritual equality. The Progressive Friends intended to further elevate the influence of women in affairs of the faith. They introduced joint business meetings of men and women, giving women an equal voice. Mott was present at the meeting in which the Progressive Friends left the Hicksite Quakers. The announcement began with these words: Each woman made certain her concerns were appropriately represented among the ten resolutions that they composed. The Declaration of Sentiments was then drafted in the parlor on a round, three-legged, mahogany tea table. When he saw the addition of woman suffrage, Henry Stanton warned his wife "you will turn the proceedings into a farce. Because he intended to run for elective office, he left Seneca Falls to avoid being connected with a convention promoting such an unpopular cause. Even though the first session had been announced as being exclusively for women, some young children of both sexes had been brought by their mothers, and about 40 men were there expecting to attend. The men were not turned away, but were asked to remain silent. Stanton read the Declaration of Sentiments in its entirety, then re-read each paragraph so that it could be discussed at length, and changes incorporated. The Declaration of Sentiments was read again and more changes were made to it. Lucretia Mott read a humorous newspaper piece written by her sister Martha Wright in which Wright questioned why, after an overworked mother completed the myriad daily tasks that were required of her but not of her husband, she was the one upon whom written advice was "so lavishly bestowed. Evening speech[ edit ] In the evening, the meeting was opened to all persons, and Lucretia Mott addressed a large audience. She asked the men present to help women gain the equality they deserved. Amelia Bloomer arrived late and took a seat in the upstairs gallery, there being none left in the main seating area. Quaker James Mott was well enough to attend, and he chaired the morning meeting; it was still too radical a concept that a woman serve as chair in front of both men and women. Bascom spoke at length about the property rights it secured for married women, including property acquired after marriage. One hundred of the [44] present signed the Declaration of Sentiments, including 68 women and 32 men. At the afternoon session, the eleven resolutions were read again, and each

## DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

one was voted on individually. Resolved, that it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise. Douglass projected that the world would be a better place if women were involved in the political sphere. Douglass again rose to speak in support of the cause of woman. The National Reformer reported that the convention "forms an era in the progress of the age; it being the first convention of the kind ever held, and one whose influence shall not cease until woman is guaranteed all the rights now enjoyed by the other half of creation" Social, Civil and POLITICAL. If our ladies will insist on voting and legislating, where, gentleman, will be our dinners and our elbows? Where our domestic firesides and the holes in our stockings? Louis, Missouri, the Daily Reveille trumpeted that "the flag of independence has been hoisted for the second time on this side of the Atlantic. However unwise and mistaken the demand, it is but the assertion of a natural right, and such must be conceded. On Sunday, July 23, many who had attended, and more who had not, attacked the Convention, the Declaration of Sentiments, and the resolutions. Women in the congregations reported to Stanton, who saw the actions of the ministers as cowardly; in their congregations, no one would be allowed to reply. Unlike the Seneca Falls convention, the Rochester convention took the controversial step of electing a woman, Abigail Bush, as its presiding officer. In the next two years, "the infancy Woodward was not well enough to vote herself.

### Chapter 4 : Women's rights and the Seneca Falls Convention (article) | Khan Academy

*In the quiet town of Seneca Falls, New York, over the course of two days in July, , a small group of women and men, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, held a convention that would launch the women's rights movement and change the course of history.*

### Chapter 5 : Seneca Falls Convention - Wikipedia

*At the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, N.Y., a woman's rights convention-the first ever held in the United States-convenes with almost women in attendance. The convention was organized.*

### Chapter 6 : Women's Rights National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)

*In the quiet town of Seneca Falls, New York, over the course of two days in July, , a small group of women and men, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, held a convention that would launch the women's rights movement and change the course of history. In Seneca Falls and the Origins.*

### Chapter 7 : Seneca Falls and the origins of the women's rights movement /

*On July , , hundreds of women and men met in Seneca Falls, New York for the very first woman's rights convention in the United States. Its purpose was "to discuss the social, civil, and.*

### Chapter 8 : History of the Women's Rights Movement | National Women's History Alliance

*In Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Woman's Rights Movement, the latest contribution to Oxford's acclaimed Pivotal Moments in American History series, Sally McMillen unpacks, for the first time, the full significance of that revolutionary convention and the enormous changes it produced.*

### Chapter 9 : The Women's Rights Movement: From Seneca Falls To Today - WAMC Podcasts

*The Seneca Falls Convention was the first women's rights convention in the United States. Held in July in Seneca Falls,*

## DOWNLOAD PDF SENECA FALLS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WOMENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT

*New York, the meeting launched the women's suffrage movement, which.*