

Susan B. Anthony

“Champion of suffrage, abolition and equal pay”

February 15, 1820 – March 13, 1906



Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Massachusetts in 1820. Her family moved to Rochester, New York in 1845, at which point they became active members of the antislavery movement. Anthony became a teacher in Canajoharie, New York, and in 1848, became involved with the local teacher's union. Anthony did so after finding out that male teachers at the school were paid a monthly salary of \$10 while their female counterparts were only receiving \$2.50 monthly.

Her parents and sister Marry then attended the 1848 Rochester Woman's Rights Convention held later that same year, and all of these experiences combined with Anthony's upbringing led to a natural progression to a future in women's rights reform.

Susan B. Anthony was introduced to Elizabeth Cady Stanton in Seneca Falls in 1851, but the experience that is largely considered as the turning point for Anthony was a speech made by Lucy Stone at the 1852 Syracuse Convention. Anthony began actively working in the women's rights movement in 1853, when she began campaigning for women's property rights in New York State, which she did through speaking at numerous meetings, circulating petitions, and lobbying the state's legislature.

In 1854, Anthony spoke at the National Women's Rights Convention in 1854 and encouraged more petition campaigns. In all of this work, though, Anthony was still well aware of the importance of the issue of slavery, in 1856 becoming an agent for the American Anti-Slavery Society. In that capacity, Anthony arranged meetings, made speeches, hung posters, and distributed leaflets, which garnered hostility against her. Numerous angry mobs hung her in effigy, and in Syracuse, Anthony's image was dragged through the streets.

Anthony and Stanton later founded the American Equal Rights Association and in 1868, became the editors of its newspaper, *The Revolution*. A rift formed later that same year when the 14th Amendment was passed, granting the same citizenship status and protections to slaves as free people, but did not grant universal access to the vote for women, only doing so for black men.

After this, Anthony, Stanton, and other suffragists formed the National Woman Suffrage Association with the sole focus of achieving a federal woman's suffrage amendment. To challenge the existing laws, Anthony and her three sisters voted in the 1872 Presidential election. Anthony was arrested and put on trial in New York, and the judge instructed the jury to find her guilty without deliberating, imposing a \$100 fine. Anthony refused to pay it, and the judge did not then sentence her to prison time, which did not afford her the chance to appeal to a higher court with the hopes of reaching the Supreme Court.

In 1890, the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association merged, with Anthony being its effective leader despite Stanton being the first president. Anthony became president of the group in 1892, and retired in 1900. Anthony died on March 13, 1906, but as a tribute to her tireless devotion to the cause of women's suffrage, the 19th Amendment was named the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.

Sources

<https://www.nps.gov/people/susan-b-anthony.htm>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/susan-b-anthony>

<https://susanb.org/her-life/>