

1624 Captain John Smith's *General History of the Jamestown Colony* credited Pocahontas as follows: *She next under God was the instrument to preserve this colony from death, famine and utter confusion.*

1647 Margaret Brent, niece of Lord Baltimore, was ejected from the Maryland Assembly after demanding a place and a vote in that governing body.

1776 The American Revolution began. Thomas Jefferson wrote in the *Declaration of Independence*: *We believe these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.*

Abigail Adams wrote to her husband John a request that women be considered in the new government: *... in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire that you would remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands.*

John Adams' response was not encouraging: *As to your extraordinary Code of Laws, I cannot but laugh. ... Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our Masculine systems.*

1787 The *United States Constitution* was created using gender free words such as "persons" and "people". Though not specifically excluded in the Constitution, women were not allowed to vote by any state except New Jersey, which permitted suffrage from 1776 to 1807. According to custom a woman lost all property and legal status as an individual upon marriage.

1832 The first Female Anti-Slavery Society was organized in Massachusetts

to work for Abolition. Horace Mann founded coeducational public schools.

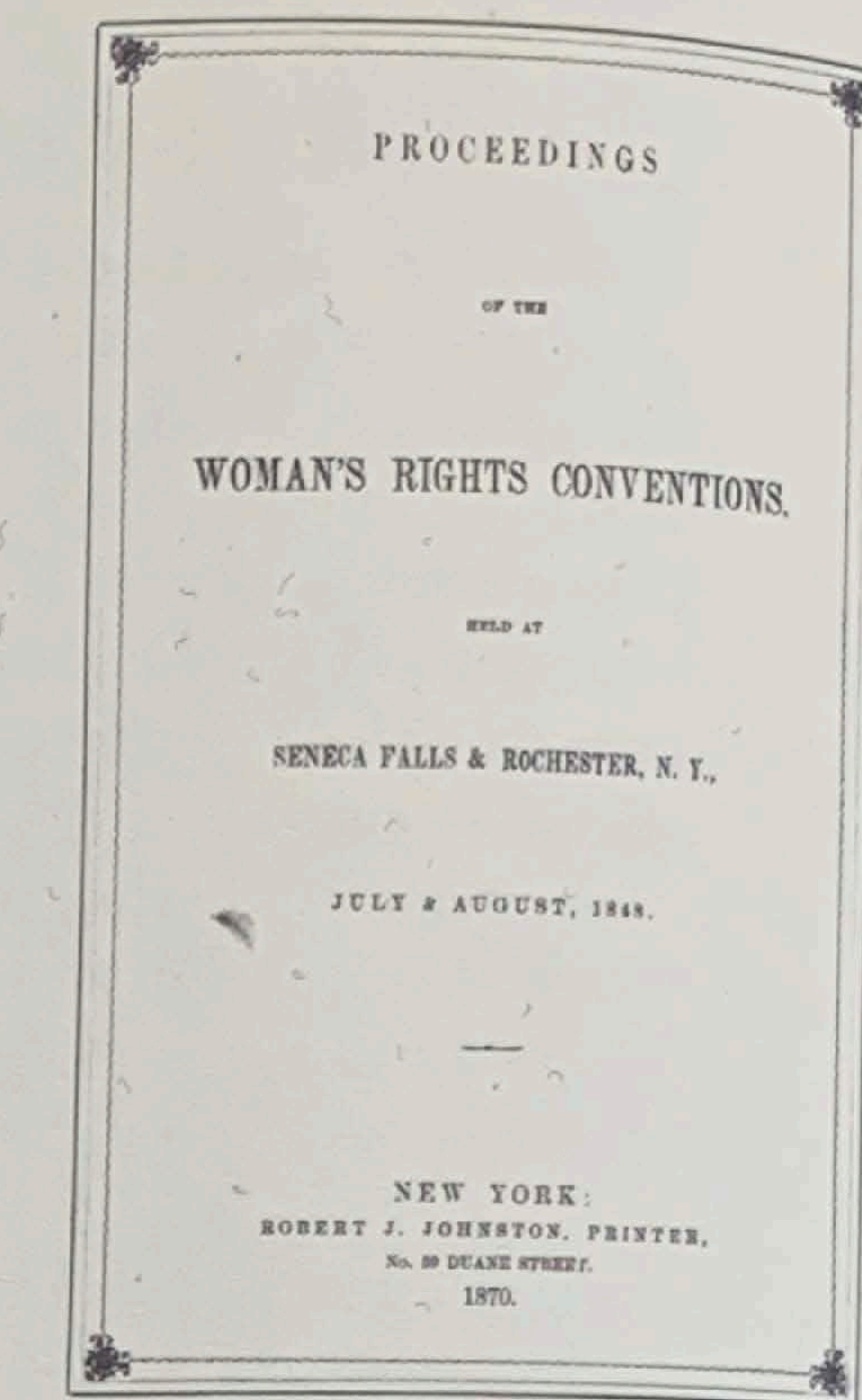
1833 The American Temperance Union was founded by men and women concerned about alcohol-related abuse of women and children in American families.

1835 Oberlin College in Ohio became the first coeducational institution of higher learning in the United States.

1838 Angelina Grimke became the first woman in the United States to be allowed to address a lawmaking body. She spoke to the Massachusetts Legislature for two hours about the cruelty of racial prejudice and suggested a plan of gradual emancipation of slaves. About her audience Angelina later wrote: *... they came despising me and my cause from the bottom of their hearts. But I trust the Lord will overrule all things to his own glory, the manumission of the slave and the elevation of woman, for such proceedings cannot but have an important bearing on the Woman Question as it is called.*

1840 Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton met at an anti slavery convention in London. As women they were denied the right to speak at the convention, vote, or even sit in the same chairs as the men in attendance. They were put in a balcony behind a screen during the proceedings. Embarrassed and angry, one woman commented: *In striving to strike the slave's chains off, we found most surely, that we were chained ourselves.*

1848 At Seneca Falls, New York, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the first convention to discuss American women's need for equality. *The Declaration of Sentiments* this convention published stated: *We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal;*



that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

1850 The first national convention for women's rights planned by Lucy Stone and Lucretia Mott was attended by one thousand concerned delegates.

1851 Sojourner Truth, a former slave, delivered an electrifying impromptu speech at a women's rights



Sojourner Truth

convention in Ohio. In response to charges that women were too weak for equality and had contributed nothing to the development of religion, Sojourner replied: *that man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best places everywhere Nobody ever helped me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or give me any best place. I have raised myself to be the full height of six feet and have a voice like rolling thunder, and ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arms. I have ploughed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me. I could work and eat as much as a man, and bear the lash as well. I have borne thirteen children and seen them most all sold off into slavery. And when I cried out with my mother's grief, nobody by Jesus heard me. And ain't I a woman? Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as man, cause 'Christ wasn't a woman'. Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman. Man had nothing to do with Him. If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, they say women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again. And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.*

1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe published *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This novel about the heartbreak of slavery became a best-seller and convinced many people to support the abolitionists.

1853 The first women's rights newspaper was founded in Providence, Rhode Island. Lucy Stone married Henry Blackwell but refused to give up her own name or promise to obey him. Their marriage contract read: *We believe that personal independence and equal human rights can never be forfeited except for crime, that marriage should be an equal and permanent partnership and so recognized by law; that until it is*



Lucy Stone

so recognized, married partners should provide against the radical injustice of present laws by every means in their power.

1861 The Civil War began. After four years of fighting the South was defeated.

1863 The National Women's Loyal League gathered 400,000 signatures on a petition for a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery.

1866 The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed ending slavery.

1867 Kansas put a woman suffrage amendment proposal on the ballot. Voters in an election defeated this amendment.

1868 The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed. The word "male" was used for the first time in the Constitution. Sojourner Truth commented on this amendment: *There is a great stir about colored men getting their rights, but not a word about the colored women; and if colored men get their rights and not colored women theirs, the colored men will be masters over the women and it will be just as bad as it was before.*

1869 Men of Wyoming territory granted voting rights to women. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman's Suffrage Association to work for an amendment to the national Constitution. Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell founded the American Woman's Suffrage Association to work for the vote by amending the constitutions of each state.

1870 The Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed assuring the right to vote to all citizens. Men of Utah territory granted women the vote. Victoria Woodhull declared herself a candidate for the Presidency with famous African American abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, as her running mate. The controversial Mrs. Woodhull commented: *My campaign will open a door to be shut no more forever.*

1871 Victoria Woodhull became the first woman to address members of Congress when she argued for woman suffrage before a Committee of the House of Representatives.

1872 Susan B. Anthony voted for Ulysses S. Grant in the Presidential election. Reporting on this daring act, Susan wrote to a friend in the movement: *Well, I have been and gone and done it. . . . positively voted the Republican ticket—straight. . . . The Democratic paper is out against us strong. . . . So we are in for a fine agitation in Rochester. . . . I hope you voted, too.* Unfortunately Miss Anthony was arrested for voting illegally, convicted and fined one hundred dollars.

1873 The Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Bradwell v. Illinois* that a state could prohibit a married woman from practicing law. One Judge wrote: *The natural and proper timidity and delicacy which belongs to the female sex evidently unfits it for many of the occupations of civil life.*

1875 In the case of *Minor v. Happersett*, the Supreme Court defined women as “persons” but added that women born in the USA were “a special category of non voting citizens” Like Susan B. Anthony, Virginia Minor had voted illegally.

1876 Susan B. Anthony protested at a Centennial celebration of the Decla-



Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

ration of Independence by issuing the *Declaration of Rights*. She concluded this stirring document as follows: *We ask of our rulers at this hour no special privileges, no special legislation. We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever.* Senator A.A. Sargent from California introduced a woman suffrage amendment into the U.S. Senate. It was not voted on.

1879 Through special Congressional legislation, Belva Lockwood became the first woman lawyer certified to try a case before the Supreme Court. Frances Willard became President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union leading its 200,000 members into active involvement in the campaign for suffrage.

1880 Lucretia Mott died.

1887 A woman suffrage amendment was voted on in the Senate of the U.S. Congress. It was defeated by a vote of 34 to 16. 25 Senators were absent. Congress banned both polygamy and woman suffrage in the Utah territory.

1890 The American Federation of Labor declared support for a woman suffrage amendment. Said union leader Samuel Gompers: *I am for unqualified suffrage as a matter of human justice.* Wyoming was admitted to the Union as the first state since New Jersey to grant women the vote. The suffrage campaign in South Dakota was defeated.

1893 Men of Colorado granted women the right to vote. Carrie Chapman Catt rose to a position of leadership in the suffrage movement.

1896 Utah joined the Union and restored to women the right to vote. The California suffrage amendment met defeat statewide, though it passed in Los Angeles. Under the leadership of Ellen Clark Sargent Californian women continued to work for the vote. Men of Idaho granted women the vote.



Ellen Clark Sargent

1900 Carrie Chapman Catt succeeded Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association.

1902 Elizabeth Cady Stanton died.

1905 Former President Grover Cleveland said: *Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote.*

1906 Susan B. Anthony died. Her last public speech included her famous motto: *Failure is impossible.*

1910 Men of Washington granted women the right to vote.

1911 Men of California granted women the right to vote. The election was very close with suffrage winning by an average of one vote per precinct statewide. Caroline Severance, suffrage movement organizer, was said to be the first woman in California to legally register to vote.

1912 Men of Oregon, Kansas and Arizona granted women the right to vote.

1913 Alice Paul founded the Congressional Union to work for passage of a national women's suffrage amendment. This group soon grew into the National Women's Party. Parades for suffrage drew thousands of supporters to New York and Washington D.C. Police in Washington D.C. did not protect the marchers from the abuse of hostile onlookers in the crowd.

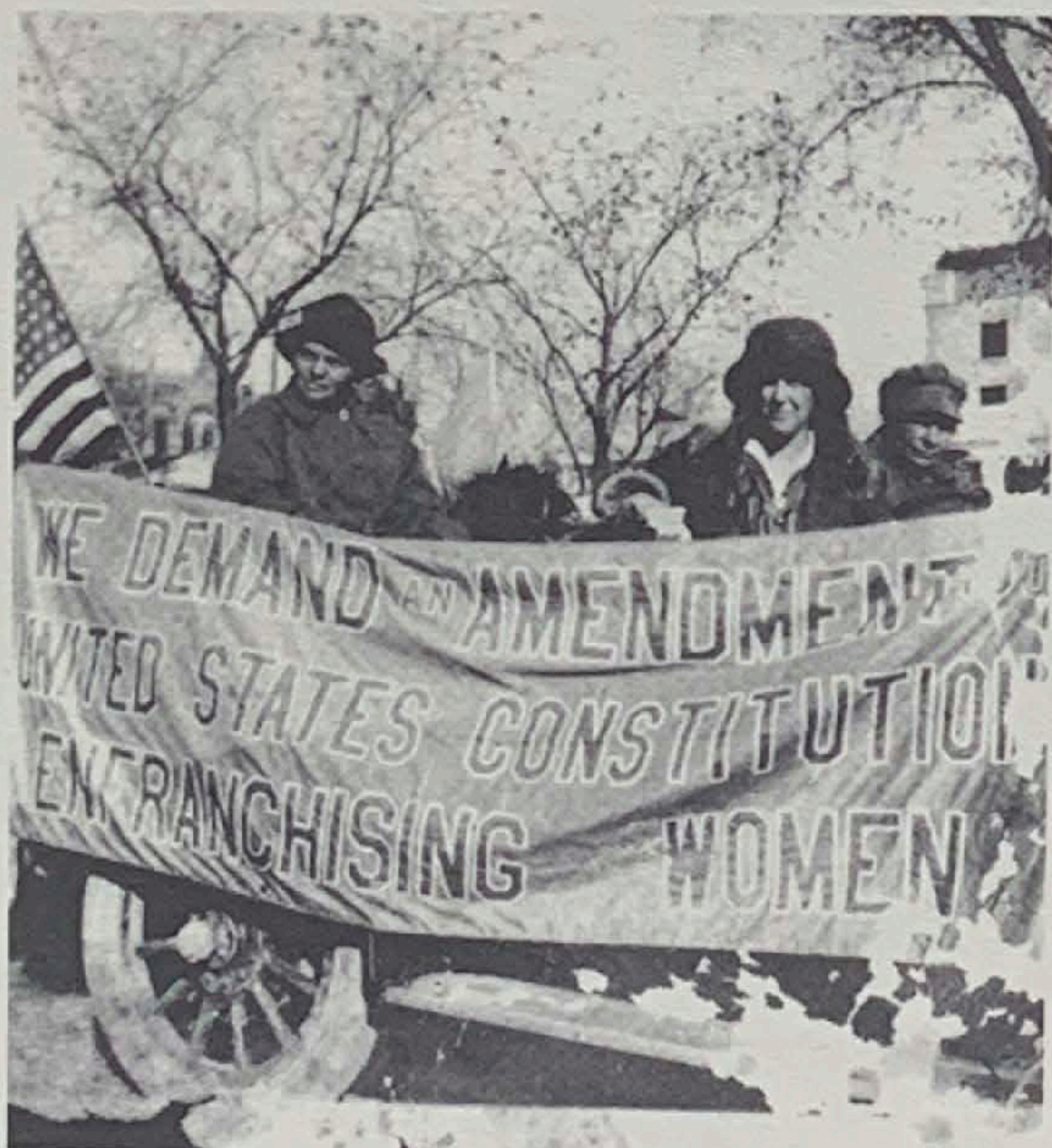
1914 Men of Montana and Nevada granted women the right to vote.

1915 Suffragists including Sally Bard Field embarked on transcontinental tours and gathered 500,000 signatures on a petition for national suffrage. President Woodrow Wilson



Alice Paul

stated: *I intend to vote for woman suffrage in New Jersey because I believe that the time has come to extend that privilege and responsibility to the women of the state; but I shall vote, not as a leader of my party in the nation, but only upon my private conviction as a citizen of New Jersey called upon by the legislature of the state to express his conviction at the polls. I think that New Jersey will be greatly benefited by the change. My position*



Sara Field, Ingeborg Kindstedt, and Maria Kindberg

with regard to the way in which this great question should be handled is well known. I believe that it should be settled by the states and not by the national gov-

ernment, and that in no circumstances should it be made a party question; and my view has grown stronger at every turn of the agitation.

1916 Inez Millholand died after an exhausting transcontinental trip work-



ing for suffrage and against the re-election of Woodrow Wilson.

1917 The National Woman's Party under the leadership of Alice Paul staged peaceful picketing of the White House in Washington, D.C. 200 women holding signs and banners were arrested and subjected to brutal treatment by the police. Men of New York granted women the right to vote. Jeannette Rankin was elected by voters in Montana to be the first woman to serve in the House of Representatives. The United States entered World War I.

1918 Men of Michigan, South Dakota and Oklahoma granted women the right to vote. Woodrow Wilson changed his position on woman suffrage and delivered a speech to the U.S. Senate encouraging the legislators to support a constitutional amendment which would allow women to vote.

1919 National Woman's Party workers who had been jailed for picketing the White House toured the country on a train called The Prison Special to rally support for the national suffrage amendment. The 19th Amendment was passed by both houses of Congress. Written many years earlier by Susan B. Anthony, the amendment stated: *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 sex.*

The Suffragist



1920 Three fourths of the states ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. Men of the United States granted women the right to vote.

Epilogue: Since 1920 women have indeed voted, and now make up 53% of the electorate. Women serve in government at the local level as mayors, at the state level as governors, and nationally as members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Sandra Day O'Connor at her swearing in ceremony as the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court said: . . . let's hope Abigail Adams would be pleased.