

100th
Anniversary
19th
Amendment



THE DISCOVERY PAPERS



The Golden Lane

3000 women wearing white dresses with golden sashes, carrying yellow parasols, lined both sides of Locust Street in St. Louis, Missouri, for twelve blocks. Their purpose was a “walkless, talkless protest” calling for the franchise for women. It was the first day of the Democratic National Convention - June 14, 1916.

The Democratic National Convention was held in the old Coliseum at Jefferson and Locust

The delegates were staying in hotels in downtown St. Louis and would walk or drive Locust Street on their way to the Coliseum.

Women and African Americans fought side by side to abolish slavery and achieve equal rights for all - ALL Americans regardless of color, sex, economic status or education. Equality for All was a sticking point for the writers of the U.S. Constitution. Who would be entitled to participate and vote? In their eyes, the only “equals” were themselves - independent, (financially), free, white males. Failing to come to an agreement on the subject, they left it up to the states and did not address it in the U.S. Constitution. Without the right to vote, you have no say. Your life, your needs, your opinions are not considered or valued. Basically, you don’t exist, you don’t matter.

You Don’t Matter

Women and people of color were completely controlled by white males. Together they were fighting for the same thing - to be free like men.

Women were basically property. Their fathers or brothers and then husbands and sons controlled their money, their movements, what they could read, their bodies, and their children. Without a man, a woman was often left homeless and destitute. Some men felt women should only be granted a basic education - ability to read the Bible, sign their name, and enough math to buy groceries without being cheated.

Women were confined by society to the “domestic sphere” - the home and family - as the nation became more industrialized - and men became the primary providers for the family. This system of domestic vs public spheres worked well for the economically

Celebrate the Stories of Women

[The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote](#) by Elaine Weiss

[Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot](#) by Winifred Conkling

[Alice Paul and the Fight for Women’s Rights](#) by Deborah Kops

[Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told](#) by Walter Dean Myers

[The Golden Lane: How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History](#) by Margot McMillen

[The Secret History of Wonder Woman](#) by Jill Lepore

The 19th Amendment stated that the right of U.S. citizens to vote “shall not be denied or abridged but the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

advantaged or households blessed with sober breadwinners who weren't abusive to their wives and children or addicted to vices that endangered the stability and safety of the home. Women forced to enter the public sphere in order to survive or wanted to pursue a life beyond the home found their opportunities limited with dreadful working conditions, little pay, and unwanted advances from male co-workers and supervisors.

To address these conditions, women started clubs for educating one another, socializing, and addressing community causes that they saw as natural extensions of their domestic sphere. Women began seeking careers in this extended sphere - home economics, medicine, law, and religion. These new careers required education and training in subjects prohibited to women. Believe it or not doctors advised that women not pursue subjects like science, math, and classic languages as the material was too challenging for the female brain and it would likely explode! With women being denied admission to colleges and universities, colleges and medical schools exclusively for women were started. Loopholes were exploited by women to gain entry to the public sphere in every way possible.

Women began crusading for better conditions for themselves and people of color as part of their domestic sphere. They became abolitionists. They called for dress reform, education, and protections for women from abusive and drunken men. They provided medical care and sanitary conditions for soldiers and civilians during the Civil War. As more women entered the public sphere, they paved the way for more women to escape the bonds of the domestic sphere and become free, independent beings. They also called for the right to vote for ALL Americans.

Following the Civil War, the vote was extended to African American MALES. Government officials argued that the nation could not have two such dramatic changes at one time. Women were outraged. They had worked for decades to abolish slavery and fought for the equal rights of ALL citizens. Professional, well-educated women saw the right to vote granted to white and African American men who were financially poorer and less educated. African American men had the vote. They mattered. Other people of color and women did not.

The idea of women voting was a joke for many. How could a woman be "equal" to a man? Women were deemed too emotional and not intelligent enough. Their role was in the home and at the hearth. In the South, white men began working to disenfranchise African American men, making it increasingly difficult to "prove" they

were eligible to vote. Despite the 15th Amendment affording African American men the right to vote, white men viewed no one besides themselves as equal and entitled to vote no matter the educational, professional, and economic achievements of “the other” Americans.

By 1900, 1/5 of the American workforce was women. Increasingly women were escaping the domestic sphere, delaying marriage and motherhood, and abandoning the restraints of the corset. The New Woman was born. More and more women were working outside the home and the need for women to have the vote became essential. Working class and middle class women joined together to form the Equality League, open to ALL wage earning women. Strikes and pickets became a part of the protests for the rights of women. Some men formed leagues of their own in support of the women’s cause. Being a suffragist became fashionable.



American Girl Dolls dressed as Suffragists

It also brought backlash. Some men believed that women becoming involved in politics and the public sphere meant the destruction of the family. Women would be sullied. Basically, they were afraid of the unknown. What would the world look like if women were equal participants in the world? To allow women the vote and participate equally in the world went against the roles of men and women established by God, right?

Since the issue of voting had been left to the individual states by the Constitution, women began working at the local level to achieve their goal. Over and over again, states, pressured by women, proposed the right to vote only to have it soundly defeated. The western territories were among the first to recognize the contributions of women and granted them full voting rights: the territories of Wyoming (1869), Utah (1870), Washington (1883), Montana (1887), and Alaska (1915). As the territories became states they continued to support women’s suffrage and the list began to grow. The states that granted women the right to vote in some or all elections before the passage of the 19th Amendment began to grow with 27 states in total before passage. Alice Paul created a flag using the National Woman’s Party

colors of purple, white and gold, with room for 36 stars symbolizing the number of state ratifications required for the amendment to become law.

Kansas (1912) was one of the states to grant women the right to vote. Kansas suffragists in 1867 adopted the sunflower as the symbol of their campaign. The sunflower was also associated with another cause dear to many women - temperance. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an early leader of the women's rights cause and abolitionist movement, wrote a column in *The Lily*, a feminist and temperance newspaper, under the pen name, "*Sunflower*." For many there was a direct connection between the two causes.



Starting in 1910, women in Missouri formed an Equal Suffrage League and began lobbying the Missouri Legislature. They sponsored public meetings, issued reports, and even sponsored the firebrand of British suffrage, Emmeline Pankhurst, to speak in St. Louis, on November 3, 1911. Their efforts were wasted on the legislators so they regrouped, collected petitions and forced the issue on a statewide ballot. To publicize the upcoming referendum, a parade and rally of 60 automobiles was held in St. Louis on National Women's Suffrage Day, May 2, 1914. Although the event was well-attended, there were hecklers.

Come November 3, 1914, the referendum was soundly defeated by a vote of 2 to 1. Men in Missouri did not support women having the vote out of fear that women voters would adopt Prohibition. (For the record, the 18th Amendment was submitted in 1917 to save grain for food production as the U.S. entered World War I. The amendment received support from 3/4 of the states and was ratified in January 1919, with 33 states having their own prohibition legislation. Prohibition went into effect in January 1920, and was repealed by the ratification of the 21st Amendment in 1933.)

The women of Missouri regrouped once again and planned their silent protest, *the Golden Lane*, on the opening day of the Democratic National Convention in 1916. The



American Girl doll on her way to the Golden Lane

convention was held in the old St. Louis Coliseum. Party Headquarters was at The Hotel Jefferson. The two were 12 blocks apart. On June 14, 3000 women lined both sides of Locust Street for the entire 12 blocks. They wore white dresses with yellow sashes and carried yellow parasols. The women were directed by the organizers not to speak to the delegates making their way from the hotel to the convention. During the convention,

the Democratic party adopted a general plank directing the states to do something about suffrage.

In 1917, a group of women stood in silent protest outside the White House as a means of raising awareness for their cause. More than 90 of these *Silent Sentinels* were arrested for obstructing traffic and sent to prison in Virginia and the District of Columbia. During their imprisonment, they were beaten, force fed, and suffered untold indignities. When the public learned of how the women were treated, opinions about women's suffrage began to change.

A proposal for the 19th Amendment was brought before the U.S. House of Representatives in January 1918 and passed by one vote. In the Senate, President Woodrow Wilson made an unprecedented appeal for support for women's suffrage, asking why men seek women as partners in times of suffering and sacrifice and not as partners in privilege and right? The proposal failed to pass by two votes. Five times the proposal was brought before Congress.

In March, 1919, The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) gathered in St. Louis, for their 50th convention. President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed creating a league within the NAWSA to further women's issues and help in the states where suffrage for women had been attained. The league was formally organized the following year at the Chicago convention and the League of Women Voters was born. The Missouri legislature, also in March 1919, agreed to let women vote in presidential elections.

President Wilson, at the urging of the Suffragists, called a special session in May 1919. On the 21st of May, the Amendment passed the House of Representatives. It finally passed the Senate on June 4, 1919. Now to get the states to ratify it!

Women across the nation were mobilized to get their states to ratify the 19th Amendment. Some states quickly and eagerly voted for ratification. Others were just as quick and eager to vote against it. Thanks to the tireless efforts of women and men throughout the nation, by June 1920, 35 states had ratified the amendment with only one more needed to make the 19th Amendment a law! It came down to the State of Tennessee. (Kansas was the fourth state to ratify the Amendment on June 16, 1919. Missouri was eleventh on July 3, 1919.)

The battle was a hard fight in Tennessee and was narrowly approved on August 18, 1920. A suffragist on the House floor rang a miniature Liberty Bell. The United States became the twenty-seventh country in the world to give women the right to vote.

The 19th Amendment was not ratified by all the states in 1920. Southern states were particularly slow to ratify the amendment: Virginia (1952), Alabama (1953), Florida and South Carolina (1969), Georgia and Louisiana (1970), North Carolina (1971) and Mississippi (1984).

Symbols of Suffrage

The colors of the suffrage movement were different in America than in the United Kingdom as was what the supporters were called. In the United Kingdom, the supporters were called *suffragettes* and their colors were *purple* (representing royalty and the instinct of freedom and dignity); *white* (representing purity); and *green* (representing hope and an emblem of spring). American supporters were known as *suffragists* and their colors were *purple* (the color of loyalty, constancy to purpose, and unswerving steadfastness to a cause); *white* (the emblem of purity, symbolizing the quality of purpose); and *gold* (the color of light and life, like the torch that guides their purpose, pure and unswerving).

The men and women who did not support a woman's right to vote portrayed the suffragists and suffragettes as masculine, ugly, unwanted, unmarried women. Suffragists countered the attacks of the opposition by wearing white. The white dresses represented femininity and the purity of their cause.

American women chose silent and non-violent means to protest and make their case for equality. Women in the United Kingdom began resorting to vandalism and violent means to present their cause.



Tennessee was the last state needed for the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. The lobbying by both sides of the issue was intense. The suffragists wore pins shaped like *yellow roses* to promote their position while the anti-suffrage faction wore pins shaped like *red roses*.

Movies

Check out these depictions of the fight for women's suffrage. You might be surprised by the variety. Check the rating in making your selections to insure age and subject appropriateness.

Adventures in Baltimore (1949)

Mary Poppins (1964)

Iron Jawed Angels (2004)

Suffragette (2015)

Professor Marston and the Wonder Women (2017)



Our Mascot Amelia Peabody

Lia by Ruby Red Galleries

UFDC Convention Doll 2018

Time Travelers in Action

The Westport Historical Society/Harris-Kearney House is open for tours on Friday and Saturday afternoons. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification for the 19th Amendment, they are hosting an exhibit from The National Archives entitled *Rightfully Hers*. This exciting and informative popup exhibit is available for you to explore now. However, if you are not yet comfortable with being out and about, the exhibit will be part of a larger exhibition the Society is mounting in Spring 2021. Watch future issues of *The Discovery Papers* for more information about the 2021 exhibit, activities, and programs.

As part of the exhibit in 2021, we are planning to recreate Missouri's Golden Lane using dolls. If you would like to participate, please contact the Society's Time Traveler program at timetravelwestport@gmail.com.

Craft

The National Museum of Toy and Miniatures has a delightful tutorial for making your own superhero. You can check it out here: https://toyandminiaturemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Making-a-Pipe-Cleaner-Superhero.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2fkPnlMD-Px5Tr8XoiNppC63Y_wYWsAuf-rGk5i8a3yCz3oMf6Uq4cs70

Share your Superhero with us!



Robert Tonner *Wonder Woman*

A Suffrage Superhero?

Historians will point you to Alice Paul, Ida B. Wells, Emmeline Pankhurst, or Susan B. Anthony as a few of the heroes of the long and hard-fought fight for women's suffrage. Few would point you to Wonder Woman. Yes, the comic book heroine, star of motion pictures and cartoons.

Wonder Woman was created by William Moulton Marston in 1941, almost twenty years after women won the right to vote. How can she be a suffragist? Marston created a new type of woman - in the mold of the New Woman who emerged from the domestic sphere of home and hearth to take on the world.

Wonder Woman is psychological propaganda for the new type of woman who should, I believe, rule the world.

- W.M. Marston

Marston believed that the hope of the world lies in "the greater freedom, development and equality of women in all fields of human activity." (Lepore) Doesn't that sound like the very life that the suffragists were fighting for?



As part of the 100th Anniversary a 12' x 100' tromp l'ceil was installed at Four Freedoms Park in New York. It was a joint project of the Park, the League of Women Voters and the New York Historical Society. The wording is from the 19th Amendment.

New Opportunity

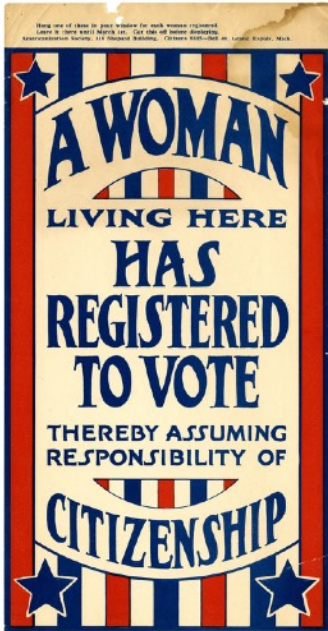
We are on a mission to demonstrate how dolls teach us about the past. Towards that end, the Westport Historical Society mounts an annual doll exhibit. Dolls are featured in the monthly newsletter *The Discovery Papers*. The Society is joining forces with the United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc. in starting a Junior Collectors Club. The club will be part of the annual exhibit and enjoy activities and

12 inch Suffrage Doll

National Archives



programs throughout the year. If you are interested, please contact the Time Travelers at timetravelwestport@gmail.com.



The Discovery Papers and the Time Travelers group are sponsored by the Westport Historical Society, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri

Our appreciation is extended to the United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc, Region 5 and the UFDC Doll Museum.