

Susan B. Anthony

(1820-1906)

Woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself.

- Susan B. Anthony

History:

- i Anthony was born on February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts into a Quaker family and was the second of seven siblings.
- i Her father was a mill owner and an orthodox Quaker who did not allow toys, games or music into the home in fear that it would offer distraction from the "Inner Light" known as the "God within every soul."
- i She attended a public school, until her teacher refused to allow her to learn long division with her male classmates. Her father withdrew her from public schools and began home schooling her. She was later sent to a Quaker boarding school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- i In 1838 she began her profession as a teacher, because her father's business began doing poorly.
- i She never married. She thought that if she married she would be forced to give up her rights as an individual.
- i She became a reformer in the temperance movement, in order to end domestic violence, spousal rape, and help women gain rights.
- i She also became a reformer in the abolition movement to help free slaves and give them the right to vote.
- i In May of 1851, at an anti-slavery address by William Lloyd Garrison, she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a woman's suffrage activist. They worked together for the next fifty years fighting for women's rights.
- i In 1856 to 1861 she worked for the American Anti-Slavery Society, organizing meetings and speeches.
- i She was very disappointed when the fifteenth amendment was ratified because it only gave African American's the right to vote.
- i In 1868 Anthony and Stanton started a newspaper promoting women's rights, called *The Revolution*.
- i In 1869 Anthony and Stanton formed the National Woman Suffrage Association in hopes of helping women gain the right to vote.
- i Anthony went all over the country speaking to people about the woman's suffrage movement, and many times she was faced by angry mobs. While giving a speech in Albany, New York, the mayor had to stand near her with a revolver in hand to protect her from those who protested her movement.
- i At the age of 52 years old, while in Rochester, New York, Anthony and several others demanded to vote in the election. They were able to vote, but later she faced trial because of her unlawful vote. She was charged \$100 along with other charges, but she never paid the fine nor completed her jail sentence.
- i Anthony fought for the rights of women until her death on March 13, 1906.* **Accomplishments:**
- i Without Anthony's determination it is possible that women would still be denied many rights.
- i Susan B. Anthony, along with several other suffragists, made it possible for women to claim a place for themselves in society.
- i It was not until the 19th amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920 that women were given the right to vote.

Thomas Jefferson proclaimed that equality would be the bedrock of a new American government in 1776, but it had taken 144 years for women to finally achieve full citizenship in the United States, and the two women who had fought longest and hardest for women's rights, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, had not lived long enough to cast a ballot themselves.

-Ken Burns