

# Notes on Susan B. Anthony

## Abolitionist

1845: Members of the Anthony family were active in the anti-slavery movement. Anti-slavery Quakers met at their farm almost every Sunday, where they were sometimes joined by other abolitionists.

1856: Anthony became an agent for the American Anti-Slavery Society, arranging meetings, making speeches, putting up posters, distributing leaflets and encountering hostile mobs.

1863: Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized a Women's National Loyal League to support and petition for the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery. They campaigned for Black and women's full citizenship, including the right to vote, in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. They were bitterly disappointed when women were excluded.

1868: Anthony continued to campaign for equal rights for all American citizens, including ex-slaves in her newspaper *The Revolution*.

1890s: Anthony attacked lynchings and racial prejudice in her writings.

## Educational Reformer

1846: Susan B. Anthony took the position of head of the girls' department at Canajoharie Academy, her first paid position. She taught there for two years, earning \$110 a year.

1853: At the state teachers' convention Anthony called for women to be admitted to the professions and for better pay for women teachers. She also asked for women to have a voice at the convention and to assume committee positions.

1859: Anthony spoke before teachers' conventions arguing for coeducation and claiming there were no differences between the minds of men and women. She called for equal educational opportunities for all regardless of race, and for all schools, colleges, and universities to open their doors to women and ex-slaves. She also campaigned for the right of children of ex-slaves to attend public schools.

1890s: Anthony raised \$50,000 in pledges to ensure the admittance of women to the University of Rochester. In a last-minute effort to meet the deadline she put up the cash value



of her life insurance policy. Women were admitted in 1900.

#### Labor Activist

Susan B. Anthony's paper, *The Revolution*, advocated an eight- hour day and equal pay for equal work.

1868: Anthony encouraged working women from the printing and sewing trades in New York, who were excluded from men's trade unions, to form Workingwomen's Associations. As a delegate to the National Labor Congress, Anthony persuaded the committee on female labor to call for votes for women and equal pay for equal work.

1870: Anthony formed and was elected president of the Workingwomen's Central Association. The Association drew up reports on working conditions and provided educational opportunities for working women. Anthony tried to establish trade schools for women printers.

1890s: She encouraged Florence Kelley and Jane Addams in their work in Chicago, and Gail Laughlin in her goal to seek protection for working women through trade unions.

#### Temperance Worker

Susan B. Anthony was brought up a Quaker and believed drinking liquor was sinful. While working at Canajoharie Academy, she joined the Daughters of Temperance, a group of women who drew attention to the effects of drunkenness on families and campaigned for stronger liquor laws.

1849: Anthony was elected president of the Rochester branch of the Daughters of Temperance and raised money for the cause.

1853: After being refused the right to speak at the state convention of the Sons of Temperance in Albany, Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the Women's State Temperance Society with the goal of petitioning the State legislature to pass a law limiting the sale of liquor. The State Legislature rejected the petition because most of the 28,000 signatures were from women and children. Anthony decided that women needed the vote so that politicians would listen to them.

1870s: Anthony supported the Rochester women organizers of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, although she told them that women would need to get the vote to reach



their goal. She refused to support Prohibition because she believed it detracted attention from the cause of woman suffrage.

### Suffragist

Susan B. Anthony was convinced by her work for temperance that women needed the vote if they were to influence public affairs.

1852: Anthony attended her first women's rights convention in Syracuse.

1866: Anthony and Stanton founded the American Equal Rights Association.

1868: They started publishing the newspaper *The Revolution*. Anthony and Stanton believed the Republicans would reward women for their work in building support for the Thirteenth Amendment by giving them the vote. They were bitterly disappointed when this did not happen.

1869: The suffrage movement split, with Anthony and Stanton's National Association continuing to campaign for a constitutional amendment, and the American Woman Suffrage Association adopting a strategy of getting the vote for women on a state-by-state basis. Wyoming became the first territory to give women the vote in 1869.

1872: Anthony, three of her sisters, and other women were arrested in Rochester in 1872 for voting. The judge instructed the jury to find her guilty without discussion.

1877: She gathered petitions from 26 states with 10,000 signatures, but Congress laughed at them. She appeared before every Congress from 1869 to 1906 to ask for passage of a suffrage amendment.

1881: 1885: Anthony, Stanton and Matilda Joslin Gage collaborated on and published the *History of Woman Suffrage*. The last volume, edited by Anthony and Ida Husted Harper, was published in 1902.

1887: The two women's suffrage organizations merged as the National American Woman Suffrage Association with Stanton as president and Anthony as vice-president.

1892: Anthony became president when Stanton retired and campaigned in the West to make sure that territories where women had the vote were not blocked from admission to the



Union.

1904: Anthony presided over the International Council of Women in Berlin and became honorary president of Carrie Chapman Catt's International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

1906: Susan B. Anthony died.

1920: All American adult women got the vote with the Nineteenth Amendment, also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.

Women's Rights Campaigner

Susan B. Anthony advocated dress reform for women. She cut her hair and wore the bloomer costume for a year before ridicule convinced her it detracted from the causes she supported.

1853: Anthony began to campaign for women's property rights in New York state.

1860: New York State Married Women's Property Bill became law, allowing married women to own property, keep their own wages, and have custody of their children. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton campaigned for more liberal divorce laws in New York.

1875: She attacked the "social evil" of prostitution, calling for equality in marriage, in the workplace, and at the ballot box to eliminate the need for women to go on the streets.

