

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

March 2016: **Women's History Month**

Locke Lord celebrates Women's History Month by honoring the women who fought tirelessly in the Women's Suffrage Movement toward the dream of obtaining the right to vote. It was 103 years ago, that on March 3, 1913, the day before Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration, 8,000 women gathered to march down Pennsylvania Avenue in support of women's right to vote. With 2016 being an election year and Washington already abuzz with potential candidates, election opinions, and conspiracy theories, we choose to remember those that worked so hard to bring that dream to reality when the 19th Amendment was officially proclaimed a part of the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. This month we are highlighting just a few of the thousands of women whose efforts and perseverance made it possible for women to vote today.



Sojourner Truth (c. 1797-1883) was an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist. Her best-known speech was delivered extemporaneously in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, and became widely known by the title "Ain't I a Woman?" She became increasingly involved in women's suffrage, but broke with leaders Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton when Stanton stated that she would not support the black vote if women were not also granted the right.



Margaretta (1806-1875; not pictured) and **Harriet Forten** (1810-1875) were African American abolitionists and suffragists. Along with their mother and sister, the Fortens formed the first biracial women's abolitionist group, the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society. The Fortens were key organizers of the Fifth National Women's Rights Convention in 1854, and toured and gave speeches in favor of women's suffrage.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) was a leading figure of the early women's rights movement. Her Declaration of Sentiments, presented at the Seneca Falls Convention held in 1848 is often credited with initiating the first organized women's rights and women's suffrage movements in the U.S. Stanton was president of the National Woman Suffrage Association from 1892-1900.



Lucy Stone (1818-1893) was a prominent American orator, abolitionist, and suffragist, and a vocal advocate and organizer promoting rights for women. In 1847, Stone became the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree. She spoke out for women's rights and against slavery at a time when women were discouraged and prevented from public speaking.



Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was a social reformer who played a leading role in the women's suffrage movement. Anthony traveled the country to give speeches and organize local women's rights organizations. She and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the American Equal Rights Association and later the National Woman Suffrage Association.



Ida B. Wells (1862-1931), was an African-American suffragist, and an early leader in the Civil Rights Movement. She was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. She was active in women's rights and the women's suffrage movement, establishing several notable women's organizations.



Alice Paul (1885-1977) was the main leader and strategist of the 1910s campaign for the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which prohibits sex discrimination in the right to vote. Alice strategized events, such as the Silent Sentinels, which led the successful campaign that resulted in its passage in 1920.



Front page of the *Woman's Journal and Suffrage News* from March 8, 1913. Rosalie Gardiner Jones, Inez Milholland on a white horse, floats, and an aerial view of the *Woman Suffrage Parade* of 1913 are depicted. / Library of Congress

RIGHT TO VOTE: Voting Rights for Women in some other parts of the world began nationally in New Zealand (1893); Australia (1902); Norway (1913); Russia (1917); Austria, Germany and Poland (1918); USA (1920); Brazil (1932); Turkey (1934); France (1944); Italy (1945); China and India (1949); Mexico (1953); Switzerland (1971); Jordan (1974); Nigeria (1976); Qatar (2003); and Saudi Arabia (2015).

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