**WOMEN, ABOLITION, AND THE RISE OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT**

**1833:**  The American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS) founded.

**1838:**

* The American Free Produce Society founded, to refrain from purchasing goods produced by slave labor.

**1840:**

* Abolition activists Elizabeth Cady Stanton (ECS) and Lucretia Mott and others are excluded from the 1840 World Antislavery Congress in London on the basis of their sex.
* The AASS splits, in part over the issue of women’s participation and partly over the AASS unwillingness to participate in governmental political processes. The break-off leaders found the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

**1846**

* New York State Constitutional Convention. Some women petition demanding “equal civil and political rights;” they are denied.

**1848:** Seneca Falls Convention

**1849:**

* A Michigan Senate committee proposed adoption of universal suffrage. The proposal dies in committee because woman suffrage is “unusual” and “needless.”

**1850:** First National Woman’s Rights Convention, Worcester: 1,000 participants from 11 states

**1851:** The 2nd National Woman’s Rights Convention, Worcester.

**1852:** The 3rd National Woman’s Rights Convention, Syracuse.

**1853:**  The 4th National Woman’s Rights Convention, Cleveland

**1854:**

* The 5th National Woman’s Rights Convention, Philadelphia
* Founding of the Republican Party, an anti-slavery party

**1855:**

* The 6th National Woman’s Rights Convention, Cincinnati
* Congress removes independent citizenship of women.

**1856:** The 7th National Woman’s Rights Convention, New York

**1857:**  *Dred Scott v. Sandford*: The U.S. Supreme Court that the Constitution does not include black people as citizens because they were not part of the original compact.

**1858:**  The 8th National Woman’s Rights Convention, New York

**1859**: The 9th National Woman’s Rights Convention, New York

**1860:**

* The 10th National Woman’s Rights Convention, New York.
* With the first secessions, and some calls in the Republican party to placate the South over slavery, ECS and SBA go on a lecture tour in NY on “no compromise with slaveholders” and are greeted with great hostility along the way.

**1861:**  The Civil War begins

**1863:**

* Emancipation Proclamation
* SBA and ECS launch the Women’s Loyal National League top fight for emancipation.

**1865:**  The Civil War ends

**1866**:

* The 11th National Women’s Rights Convention, New York. At this convention:
* American Equal Rights Association founded, working for suffrage “irrespective of race, color, or sex”
* Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1866 declaring that African Americans are citizens of the U.S. with the same civil rights and immunities as other citizens. It does not include the vote. President Johnson vetoes the Act.

**1867**:

* New York Constitutional Convention: Delegates voted 125-19 to grant the vote to black men but not to women. The new constitution fails in an 1869 referendum.
* Kansas referenda on suffrage for women, for African American men. The Impartial Suffrage Association in Kansas fight for these; SBA, ECS do statewide campaign. Both referenda fail.
* Women in Vineland, NJ found the Vineland Equal Rights Association and petition the state for “impartial suffrage, irrespective of sex or color.”

**1868:**

* 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified. Disappointing to many of the former abolitionists and women’s rights activists because (a) it doesn’t include the right to vote for anyone; (b) it introduces “male” into the Constitution for the first time, thereby seeming to solidify women’s lack of rights.
* ECS, SBA, and Parker Pillsbury launch *The Revolution* with the motto, “Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less!”
* The New England Woman’s Club, the first of the major women’s club movement founded.
* The Universal Franchise Association founded in Washington, D.C. by Josephine Griffing and others to campaign for woman suffrage now that black men had the vote.
* A woman’s suffrage amendment is introduced into the House and the Senate but is just ignored.
* A woman’s suffrage bill for Washington, D.C. (where black men had the vote) is introduced into the Senate.
* SBA founds the Working Woman’s Association with typesetters in NYC. It lasts only about a year. SBA and ECS also appear at the National Labor Congress, attempting to forge a coalition with working people.

**1869:**

* Wyoming Territory grants unrestricted suffrage to women
* Boston suffragists, better funded than SBA and ECS, found *Woman’s Advocate*
* When Congress is clearly disinclined to incorporate women in new voting rights and much of the former abolition movement turns away from woman suffrage as a priority, SBA and ECS found an independent woman suffrage organization: The National Woman Suffrage Association.
* Because of divisions in the woman suffrage movement, over things such as how to respond to a black-man only suffrage amendment, whether to include men in the movement, whether to focus on the national or state level, Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, Thomas Wentworth Higginson found the American Woman Suffrage Association.
* It is generally agreed this is the end of the chance for the woman suffrage movement to achieve success. For now.

**1870**

* Utah Territory grants suffrage to women
* The 15th Amendment is ratified, stating that neither the U.S. not any State can deny the right to vote “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” As long as there is no bar to denying the vote on the basis of sex, this Amendment gives leverage only to men.
* A woman suffrage amendment to the VT state constitution is soundly defeated.
* Michigan’s legislature approves women suffrage; the law is vetoed by the governor.

**1871**

* Victoria Woodhull argues before the House Judiciary Committee that women have the right to vote under the 14th Amendment. The committee disagrees.
* Carrie Burnham tries to vote in Philadelphia, arguing that the 14th Amendment and a PA law guaranteeing the right to “freemen” allow her to vote. Election officials refuse; she loses her cases in the state Supreme Court in 1873.
* The Nevada legislature voted against woman suffrage. So does New Mexico.
* Mary Ann Shadd Cary and 60 other women try to register to vote in Washington, D.C. and are unsuccessful.
* Founding of the Anti-Suffrage Society.

**1872**

* In a national campaign, many suffragists across the country attempt to vote in the 1872 presidential election to see if they could just claim their rights. Most famously, SBA voted in Rochester NY (for Ulysses S. Grant) and is arrested. 15 other women are arrested for illegal voting. Sojourner Truth tries to vote in Battle Creek, MI but is turned away. Virginia Minor is turned away in St. Louis. Her suit ends unsuccessfully in *Minor v Happersett*, 1875. Four Portland, OR women (3 white, 1 black) try to vote. They accept their ballots but do not put them into the ballot box.
* Victoria Woodhull runs for President of the United States with Fredrick Douglass as the VP candidate.
* Iowa rejects a woman suffrage resolution.

**1873**

* SBA’s trial is held; she loses; she refuses to pay the $100 fine and is sent to jail. President Grant pardons her.

**1874**

* The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) is founded – it eventually becomes major supporter of woman suffrage, so the liquor lobby becomes a major opponent of woman suffrage.
* Michigan turns down a woman suffrage referendum by 3-1.

**1875**

* *Minor v. Happersett:*  The Supreme Court rules that the 14th Amendment does not grant women the right to vote because the right to vote is not a right derived from American citizenship. Thus, women’s right to vote will depend on:
  + Each state and territory granting women equal suffrage with men, requiring, in most cases, a full campaign in every state and territory.
  + An amendment to the constitution stating that neither the U.S. nor any state can deny the right to vote on the basis of sex. This happens only 45 years later. The life expectancy of an American white female born at that time was less than 44 years. The life expectancy of an American black female born at that time was less than 35 years.

**1876**

* SBA and Matilda Joslyn Gage disrupt the Centennial program at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, presenting a Declaration of Rights for Women.

**1878**

* Senator A. A. Sargeant (CA) introduces a woman suffrage amendment into Congress.

**1886**

* A suffrage amendment is soundly defeated in the U.S. Senate.

**1890**

* The National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association merge to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association. It focuses mainly on state-level campaigns.

**1896**

* The National Association of Colored Women is formed, federating more than 100 black women’s clubs.