

Susan B. Anthony (1820 – 1906)

Compiled by the Center for American Women and Politics – August 2014

Susan B. Anthony was born into a Quaker family committed to social equality. Although most girls did not receive a formal education in the early 1800's, Susan B. Anthony's father believed in equal treatment for boys and girls. She, along with her three sisters had the unusual opportunity, for women, to receive an advanced education.

In 1851 Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was to become her lifelong partner in the fight for women's rights. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, married with children, served as the writer and idea-person of the two. Susan B. Anthony, who never married, was more often the organizer and the one who traveled, spoke widely, and bore the brunt of antagonistic public opinion.

Anthony was a strong supporter of abolition. However, she was discouraged by the "Civil War Amendments" that gave black men, but not women, the right to vote. After the Civil War, Anthony became more focused on woman suffrage and helped to found the American Equal Rights Association in 1866.

From 1868-1870 Stanton and Anthony published *The Revolution*, a weekly paper about the woman suffrage movement whose motto read, "Men their rights and nothing more, women their rights and nothing less."

Stanton and Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869 (which eventually merged with its rival, the American Woman Suffrage Association, in 1890).

In 1872, Susan B. Anthony cast a vote in the presidential election in Rochester, New York. She was arrested and found guilty, though she refused to pay the resulting fine (and no attempt was made to force her to do so).

In 1900 Anthony retired from active leadership of the suffrage movement, turning over presidency of NAWSA to Carrie Chapman Catt, with whom she continued to work closely.

In her writings, Susan B. Anthony opposed abortion which at the time was an unsafe medical procedure for women, endangering their health and life. She believed, as did many of the feminists of her era, that only the achievement of women's equality and freedom would end the need for abortion. Anthony used her anti-abortion writings as yet another argument for women's rights.

Susan B. Anthony authored the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote and led the struggle to win women the right to vote.

In 1979, her image was chosen for the new dollar coin, making her the first woman to be depicted on U.S. currency.