



Susan B. ANTHONY

(1820 – 1906)

Susan B. Anthony was a leader of the movement to grant American women the right to vote, along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. She also spoke out against slavery. Her portrait appeared on the 1979 dollar coin.

Susan's Childhood

Susan Brownell Anthony was born on February 15, 1820, in Massachusetts. She was the second oldest of seven children, and grew up in a Quaker family. Susan's father managed a cotton factory, and encouraged all his children, both boys and girls, to be determined and self-reliant. Susan attended a strict Quaker boarding school, but had to leave because her family struggled financially. She became a teacher to try and help earn some money for the family.

An early interest in social issues

Susan's family was interested in the welfare of others, and they were active in the anti-slavery movement. Every Sunday, meetings were held at the family farm and people would gather to discuss this. Susan helped by making speeches, putting up posters, and distributing leaflets. She also collected petitions against slavery.

Susan worked as a teacher for two years, and during this time she fought to get better pay for women teachers. When the school she was working at closed down, Susan decided to spend her life working on social issues. As well as speaking out against slavery, Susan wanted to campaign for women. At that time, women could not vote, and they had very few rights.

Susan's friendship with Elizabeth Cady Stanton

In 1851, Susan was introduced to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and they became friends and co-workers. Their work together played a very important role in making people aware about women's rights.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a leading figure who fought for women's rights, and she had been one of the organizers of the Seneca Falls Convention. The Seneca Falls Convention was the first women's rights convention, held two years earlier in 1848. At that meeting, Elizabeth Cady Stanton had argued that women should be allowed to vote, and presented an important document called the 'Declaration of Sentiments'.

Women's Loyal National League

At the time, there were very few people campaigning for women's rights, and this movement was closely connected with the campaigners who were fighting to end slavery.

Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan set up the Women's Loyal National League in 1863. This was the first national women's political organization in the United States, and the aim was to campaign for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would abolish slavery. The League collected a large number of signatures - nearly 400,000 - to abolish slavery.

At that time, collecting signatures was the only way for women to show their opinion on important issues as they were not able to vote.

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked hard to campaign for women's rights.

'The Revolution' newspaper

In 1868, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton began publishing a weekly newspaper called 'The Revolution'. Although lack of money meant that the newspaper only lasted for two years, it was still an important tool that allowed Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to spread their opinions, and keep up their campaign for women to be allowed to vote.

National Woman Suffrage Association

In 1869, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), and Susan dedicated her time fully to campaigning for women's right to vote.

This gave her a national platform to argue her views, and the two women often travelled together all over the country to make speeches.

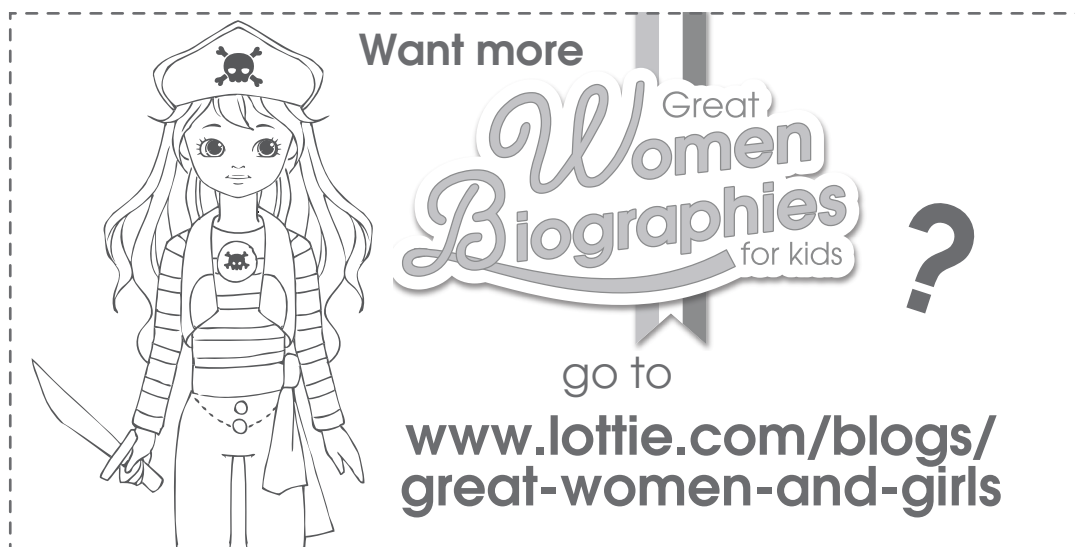
They worked hard to try to raise awareness, even getting arrested as a way to show how unfair it was that women could not vote.

In 1906, Susan B. Anthony died at the age of 86 of heart failure and pneumonia in her home in Rochester, New York.

Even though, at that point in time, women had not yet achieved the right to vote at a national level (though some states had let women vote), her efforts had really pushed forward the campaign.

Finally, in 1919, a few years after her death, the 19th Amendment that allowed women to vote was finally passed. The Nineteenth Amendment, which guaranteed the right of women to vote, was popularly known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.

Susan's B Anthony's efforts have been widely celebrated. In 1936, the U.S. Post Office issued its first postage stamp honouring Susan B. Anthony. In 1979, the new Susan B. Anthony dollar coin made her the first real woman to appear on U.S. money.



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