



19TH AMENDMENT
DIGITAL EXHIBIT

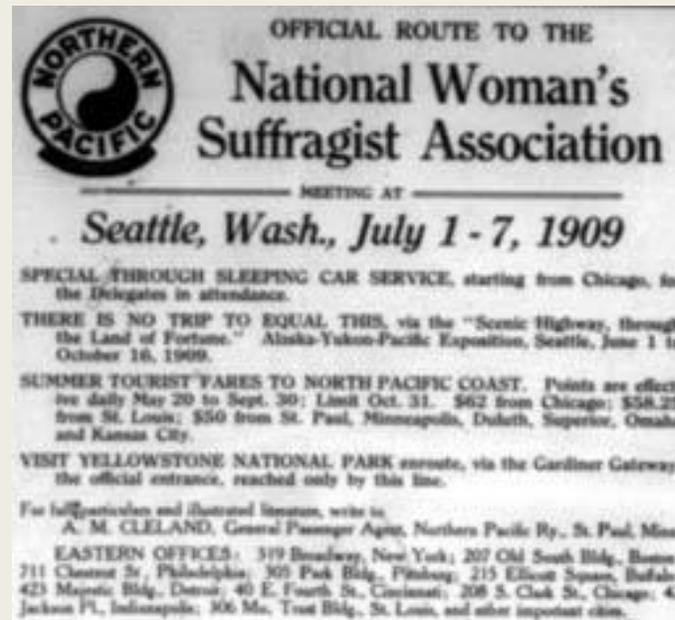
Women's Suffrage in Washington Trivia

See if you can locate answers to these trivia questions:

- 1) What right does the 19th Amendment allow.
- 2) The national women's suffrage movement got its start with a Declaration of Sentiments. When was it drafted?
- 3) How many years did it take from that date for women to gain the right to vote in Washington?
- 4) The first proposal allowing women to vote in the Washington Territory failed. What year was it proposed?
- 5) Later, the Washington Territorial Legislature pass a bill allowing women to vote, What year? What happened?
- 6) Six years later Washington women met in Tacoma to continue to push for the right to vote under the new Washington State Constitution. It took an amendment to the constitution giving women the right to vote in all elections. Which State Amendment is it and what year was that approved?
- 7) At that time, how many other states allowed women to vote?



Now, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which delivered that eventual victory, it's an ideal time to reflect on the events in Washington state that helped get us there. The lessons here still hold true: Lasting political change can't be done on the cheap. It requires broad, clever organizing to transform hearts and minds. [Read Article](#)



NORTHERN PACIFIC

OFFICIAL ROUTE TO THE
**National Woman's
Suffragist Association**

MEETING AT
Seattle, Wash., July 1 - 7, 1909

SPECIAL THROUGH SLEEPING CAR SERVICE, starting from Chicago, for the Delegates in attendance.

THERE IS NO TRIP TO EQUAL THIS, via the "Scenic Highway, through the Land of Fortune." Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Seattle, June 1 to October 16, 1909.

SUMMER TOURIST FARES TO NORTH PACIFIC COAST. Points are effective daily May 20 to Sept. 30; Limit Oct. 31. \$62 from Chicago; \$58.25 from St. Louis; \$50 from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, Superior, Omaha and Kansas City.

VISIT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK enroute, via the Gardiner Gateway, the official entrance, reached only by this line.

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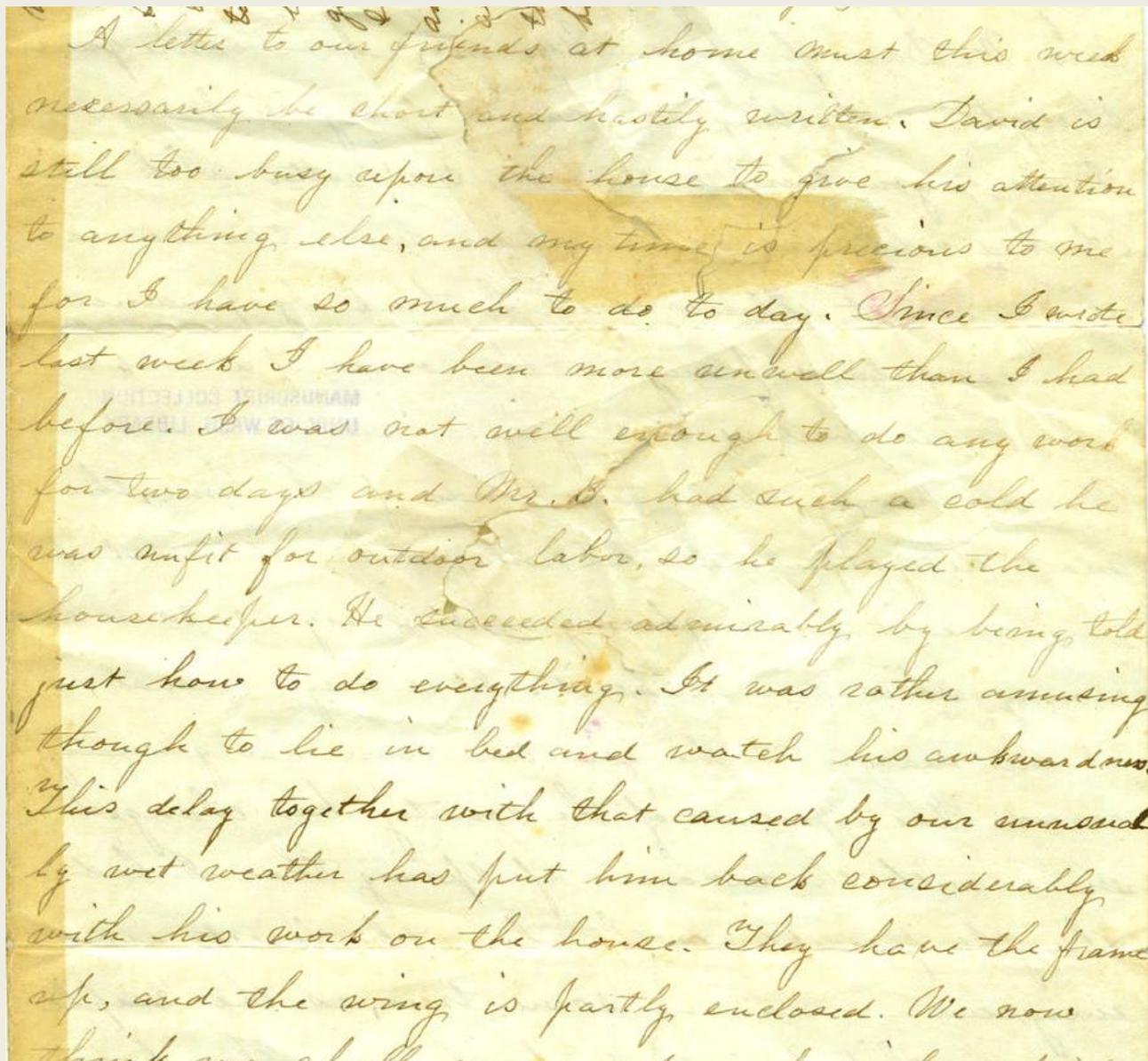


Catharine Paine Blaine

The first women's rights convention in the nation was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, and resulted in the creation of the Declaration of Sentiments. Inspired by the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Sentiments called on the government to grant female citizens "all the rights and privileges" that white American males received. The document was signed by 68 women and 32 men on July 20, 1848.

One of the women who signed the Declaration of Sentiments was Catharine Paine Blaine. When she moved to Seattle in 1853 with her husband David Blaine, a Methodist minister, she brought her ideas about women's rights with her. Blaine continued to subscribe to political newspapers that addressed issues like women's rights and the temperance movement, and she opened a community school—Seattle's first—which encouraged female enrollment. During the first term, 13 of the 14 students were girls. She also wrote many letters to her family back east criticizing the injustice of voting laws in Washington Territory.

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/collection/pioneerlife/id/4227>



A letter to our friends at home must this week necessarily be short and hastily written. David is still too busy upon the house to give his attention to anything else, and my time is precious to me for I have so much to do to day. Since I wrote last week I have been more unwell than I had before. I was not well enough to do any work for two days and Mr. B. had such a cold he was unfit for outdoor labor, so he played the housekeeper. He succeeded admirably, by being told just how to do everything. It was rather amusing though to lie in bed and watch his awkwardness. This delay together with that caused by our unseasonable wet weather has put him back considerably with his work on the house. They have the frame up, and the wing is partly enclosed. We now think we shall be able to move in a few days.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE In Washington



- **Voting Rights for Women, Women's Suffrage**

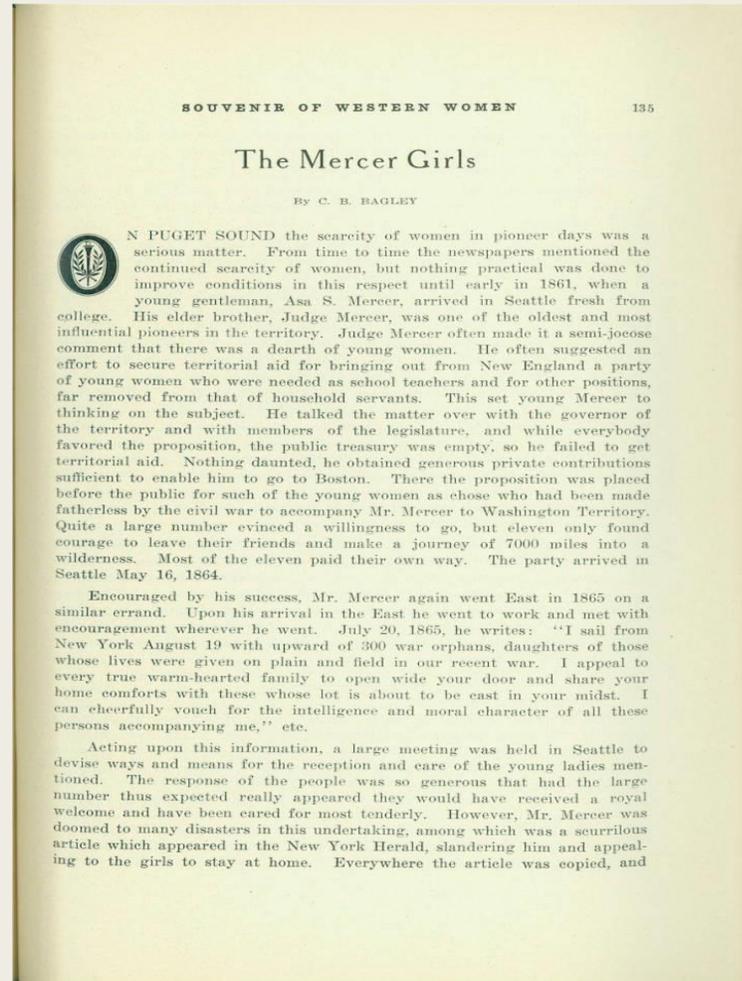
In the time of the earliest settlers in the Washington Territory, women did not have the right to vote. In 1854, Washington nearly became the first state to grant women's suffrage, but the proposal was defeated by a single vote. In an attempt to crush the woman's suffrage movement, the Territorial Legislature soon after mandated that "no female shall have the right of ballot or vote."

In 1871, Susan B. Anthony and Abigail Scott Duniway led a crusade through the territories of Washington and Oregon and helped to form the Washington Woman Suffrage Association. Due to the group's constant protesting and pushing, full voting rights were given to women in 1883 by a bill that passed through the Territorial Legislature. But in 1887, the Territorial Supreme Court overturned that law. Another was passed in 1888, but was also overturned. This happened because women voters were making sales of liquor more difficult with their votes, and the state's liquor lobby had fought hard to remove their voting rights. In light of this opposition, some activists chose to emphasize the contributions of women workers to the community and finally, in 1910, the Washington State Constitution was permanently amended to grant women the right to vote. It would be ten years before the rest of the country's women had that right.

- <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/timeline/suffrage.htm>

Here Come the Suffragists: The Role of the Mercer Girls in the Washington Woman Suffrage Movement by Shanna Stevenson, WHC Coordinator

A brief notice in the October 27, 1871 issue of *The New Northwest* echoed the notice of a group of similar minded women some 23 years earlier in 1848 at Seneca Falls, N. Y. announcing the Seneca Falls Convention which was the beginning of the 19th century woman's suffrage movement. The 1871 Olympia declaration survives as a fragile piece of courage of women who were willing to put their names in the public sphere in favor of women's rights. [More...](#)





Emma Smith DeVoe
Library of Congress image

Fight continues-changing the state constitution

After a lull in efforts around the turn of the 20th century, by 1906, new, more organized efforts to win women's suffrage began in earnest in Washington under the leadership of Tacoma resident Emma Smith DeVoe, who was a professional organizer for the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and noted suffragist May Arkwright Hutton of Spokane.

Organizers enrolled suffragists throughout the state; by 1909, they were poised for an onslaught in Olympia to influence the legislature to pass a measure that would allow a vote to amend the State Constitution to enable women's suffrage. Lobbying efforts by women influenced a coalition of Progressives in the legislature to pass legislation in February, 1909 amending the Washington Constitution to enable women to vote, pending a ratification vote of the male voters in November, 1910.

The ballot measure to amend Article VI of the Washington Constitution won by majority of 22,623, on November 8, 1910, a favorable vote of nearly 2 to 1. Every county voted in favor of the amendment.

The Fight for Washington Women's Suffrage: A Brief History by Shanna Stevenson, WHC Coordinator

“A Ballot for the Ladies”

- The 1910 campaign for woman suffrage in Washington State is often seen as a key event in the history of woman suffrage in the United States. As the first state in the twentieth century to grant women the right to vote—and the first state to adopt woman suffrage in almost fifteen years—Washington revitalized the suffrage movement and inspired the national campaign that led to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.
- Washington women's right to vote was not easily won, however. In a struggle that spanned over 50 years, women wrote petitions, lobbied the legislature, published suffrage newspapers, and delivered speeches. They won the right of franchise several times only to have it taken away each time, but continued to fight for their right to vote as citizens of the United States.
- <https://content.lib.washington.edu/exhibits/suffrage/>

<https://www.suffrage100wa.com/>

- “Because Washington was the fifth state in the nation to acknowledge voting rights for women, the women of Washington played an important role in inspiring the rest of the nation to adopt women’s suffrage. When we celebrate national women’s suffrage, we are also celebrating the bravery and leadership of Washington women then and now who have fought for women’s rights,” said Jennifer Kilmer, executive director of the Washington State Historical Society.

<https://www.suffrage100wa.com/post/today-marks-100-years-since-washington-state-ratified-the-19th-amendment>

“There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make the laws and elect lawmakers.”

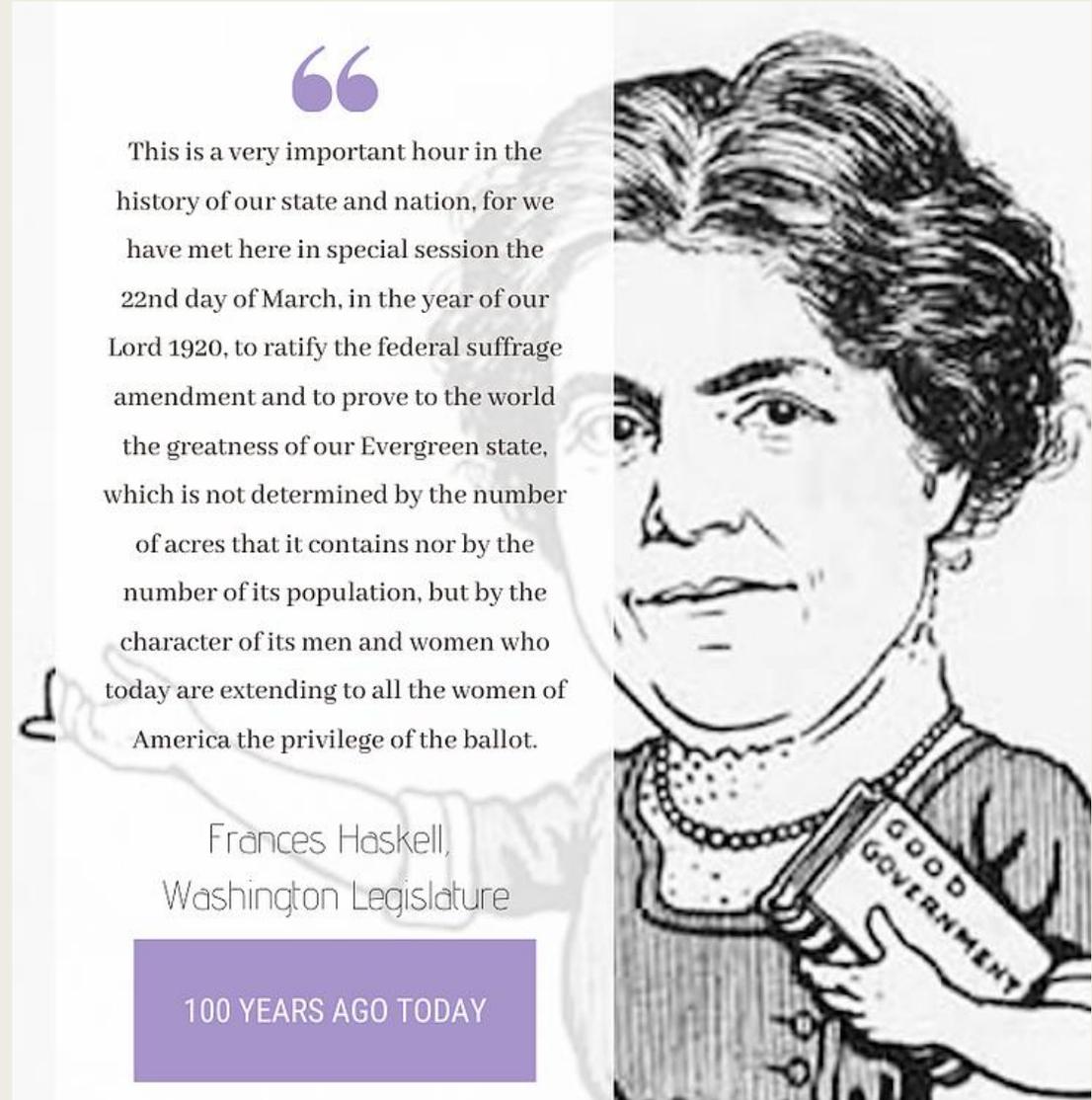
-Susan B. Anthony

“

This is a very important hour in the history of our state and nation, for we have met here in special session the 22nd day of March, in the year of our Lord 1920, to ratify the federal suffrage amendment and to prove to the world the greatness of our Evergreen state, which is not determined by the number of acres that it contains nor by the number of its population, but by the character of its men and women who today are extending to all the women of America the privilege of the ballot.

Frances Haskell,
Washington Legislature

100 YEARS AGO TODAY



Washington Places of Women's Suffrage: William H. Seward Statue in Volunteer Park

- In 1909, the city of Seattle hosted the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, which featured hundreds of educational exhibits. The exposition also featured a women's suffrage day. State and national suffrage organizations set up booths promoting women's suffrage. One of the enduring icons of the exposition can be found in Volunteer Park. The statue of Secretary of State William H. Seward, unveiled at the exposition in 1909, is now located in the park. It serves as a reminder of the importance of the exposition in Washington history, including its connection to the women's suffrage movement. Volunteer Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



An NPS Story Map

Women's Suffrage and the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Ratifying the 19th Amendment (by state)

Women in America fought for suffrage – the right to vote – for over a century. Organized efforts to demand the vote began in 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention in New York. By 1919, women pressured Congress to pass the 19th Amendment, which recognized women's voting rights. In order for the amendment to become law, at least 36 states needed to ratify it. When did your state ratify the amendment? (The places on this map are recognized for their historic significance and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a National Park Service program. Some of these places are open to the public while others are privately owned.) Use the Story Map to digitally explore places associated with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

U.S. National Park Service

[Map Tour from the US NPS](#)

Women's Suffrage in Washington Trivia Answers

- 1) The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution empowered women to vote nationally. Washington was the 35th state to ratify.
- 2) July, 1848, at Seneca Falls, New York
- 3) 62
- 4) In 1854 Seattle legislator Arthur A. Denny introduced the women's suffrage legislation in Washington.
- 5) In 1883 by a bill passed through the Territorial Legislature, but in 1887, the Territorial Supreme Court overturned that law. Another was passed in 1888, that bill also was overturned.
- 6) The 5th Amendment to the Washington Constitution was approved November 1910. It included the following language: *"There shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any election on account of sex."* Article VI, Section 1 of the Washington state constitution.
- 7) 4. Washington was the 5th state to allow women to vote. Other states were Wyoming in 1890, Colorado in 1893, Utah in 1896 and Idaho in 1896. When Washington finally allowed the vote, that sparked the movement again across the country that led to the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.