

Women Leaders: Susan B. Anthony

By Biography.com Editors and A+E Networks, adapted by Newsela staff on 07.25.16

Word Count **514**



Public relations portrait of Susan B. Anthony as used in the *History of Woman Suffrage* by Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Volume I, published in 1881. *History of Woman Suffrage* by Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Volume I, published in 1881

Synopsis: Susan B. Anthony was born in 1820. At first she worked as a teacher. Later she joined up with Elizabeth Cady Stanton to speak out for a woman's right to vote. Anthony was also a writer, and she spoke to large audiences across the country. Anthony died on March 13, 1906, at age 86.

Early Life

Susan Brownell Anthony was born in Adams, Massachusetts. Anthony was the second-oldest of eight children. Her father was a cotton mill owner. She developed a strong sense of right and wrong when she was a young girl. She would spend much of her life bringing attention to unfairness in the country.

Her father's business failed in the late 1830s. Anthony had been at a Quaker school near Philadelphia. She returned home to help her family by taking a job as a teacher. In the mid-1840s, the Anthonys began working to help end slavery. Their farm became a meeting place for such famous people as Frederick Douglass, who also wanted slavery to stop.

Leading Activist

Anthony left her teaching job in 1849 to address some of the injustices that existed in the United States. In 1851, she attended an anti-slavery meeting. It was there that she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

She also spoke out against alcohol. Men who drank too much were a problem for women and children, she said. It is while doing this that she was inspired to fight for women's rights. At a meeting to talk about the problem of alcohol, she was not allowed to speak because she was a woman. She realized that no one would take women seriously unless they had the right to vote. Before long, Anthony and Stanton were not just fighting against drinking. They were also fighting for women's rights.

Women's Right To Vote

Anthony and Stanton helped to create the American Equal Rights Association in 1866. They also created a weekly newspaper that lobbied for women's rights. The newspaper's motto was "Men their rights, and nothing more; women their rights, and nothing less."

Anthony gave speeches around the country telling crowds that women had a right to vote. She even did something daring. In 1872, she voted for a president. At the time, it was against the law for a woman to vote. Anthony was arrested and fined \$100, but she refused to pay it.

In the early 1880s, Anthony published the first book about the history of the fight for women's rights. Several more books came after it.

Death And Legacy

Anthony never gave up on her fight for a woman's right to vote. In 1905, she met with President Theodore Roosevelt. She wanted him to change the U.S. Constitution to allow women to vote. She died the following year at her home in New York.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1920, 14 years after Anthony's death. It finally gave women equal voting rights.

Her many years of hard work were honored by the U.S. Treasury in 1979. Susan B. Anthony became the first woman to have her picture put on a coin.