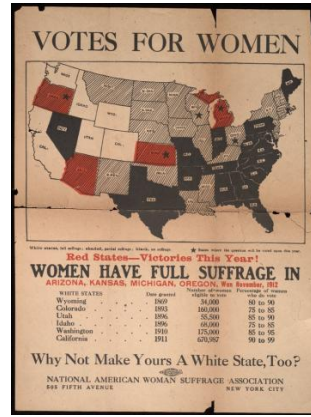


0. VICTORY - Story Preface
1. THE FIGHT BEGINS
2. FAMOUS SUFFRAGISTS
3. DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS
4. NO RIGHTS
5. WOMEN OUGHT TO VOTE
6. VICTORY



Not all American states waited until passage of the 19th Amendment to grant female citizens the right to vote. This map, prepared and released by the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1912, shows the four additional states—Arizona, Kansas, Michigan and Oregon—in which male voters approved female suffrage during the election of 1912. Map [online via the University of Virginia Library](#).

In 1880, a baby born in Montana (which, following the lead of its neighboring states, granted women the right to vote before 1920) would grow up to become the first woman in the United States Congress.

Jeannette Rankin, who had graduated from Montana University in 1902 with a biology degree, made a fundamental career change in 1916. At thirty-nine years old, she was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives.

At a time when other American women had no right to vote at all, Rankin voted against the United States joining World War I. (Later, in 1940, she was the only member of Congress to vote against declaring war on Japan after Pearl Harbor was attacked.)

Although Rankin and 48 other members of Congress voted against U.S. involvement in World War I, the country joined the war effort in 1917. Earlier that year - in January - Lucy Burns had the idea that women should picket the White House. Their message was explicit: Mr. President ... When will women get the right to vote?

With American soldiers fighting and dying in Europe, however, Alice Paul did not participate in the White House picketing. Lucy Burns continued with her efforts, but it wasn't long before she, and others, were arrested for obstructing sidewalk traffic. Imprisoned in the Occoquann Workhouse, the women began hunger strikes.

Meanwhile, millions of American women were replacing men-turned-soldiers, working (for the first time) in businesses throughout the country. They produced war materiel. They were paying taxes. They were (to use words made popular during the American Revolution) paying taxes without representation.

Then Alice Paul was arrested. Protesting the treatment of women, and still advocating for women's suffrage, she began a hunger strike. Prison handlers fed her against her will with a tube (which they forced into her mouth).

On November 15, 1917 - now known as "The Night of Terror" - Lucy Burns (who had resumed her hunger strike to protest how Alice was being treated) was beaten. Her hands were cuffed above her head. After that, forced feedings were particularly brutal.

While American men fought and died in Europe, their wives and daughters supported the war effort at home. Without their production of war materiel, the outcome of battles may have been different. When the war was over, how could the country continue to deny such women full rights of citizenship?

Once the 19th Amendment was proposed on 4 June 1919, it had to be ratified by three-quarters of the states. At first it seemed easy with more than half the states approving in the first year. Kentucky was the 24th state to ratify when Governor Edwin P. Morrow signed the "Anthony Amendment" on January 6, 1920.

Then the momentum shifted. Among growing opposition elsewhere, a six-week battle raged in Tennessee, Kentucky's southern neighbor. The right of American women to vote ultimately turned on the decision of a 24-year-old Tennessee legislator, Harry Burn (a Republican). He had received a letter from his elderly mother, telling him:

Hurrah, and vote for suffrage! Don't keep them in doubt.

On August 18, 1920 - switching his position from "no" to "yes," - Burn pushed ratification over the top. Tennessee became the crucial 36th state to approve the amendment. Suffragists in Washington, waiting to hear the news from Tennessee, celebrated their long-sought victory.

On 26 August 1920, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified ratification. The 19th Amendment, granting all female American citizens over the age of 21 the right to vote, was finally law.

Most of the early pioneers did not live long enough to personally experience this basic human right. Charlotte

Wood was the only surviving suffragist who had signed the 1848 Declaration of Sentiments. And the state of Maryland, which finally ratified the 19th Amendment in 1941, did not submit its ratification papers to the State Department until ... 1958.

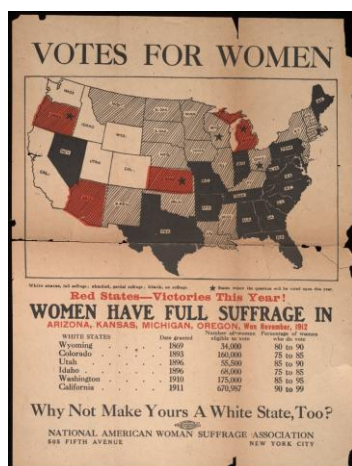
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/VICTORY-Suffragists-Heroes-of-the-Civil-Rights-Movement>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/VICTORY-Suffragists-Heroes-of-the-Civil-Rights-Movement>

Media Stream



Votes for Women - 1912

National American Woman Suffrage Association map, produced and released in 1912, online via the University of Virginia Library. Public Domain.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Votes-for-Women-1912>



Harry Burn. Photo courtesy of family of Harry Burn.

Harry Burn - Voted for the 19th Amendment

Photo, courtesy Library of Congress via the Burn family.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Harry-Burn-Voted-for-the-19th-Amendment>



Jeannette Rankin

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jeanette-Rankin>



Kentucky - Ratifies the 19th Amendment

Photo, American Memory Collection at the Library of Congress - image
pnp/ppmsc/00000/00036r. PD

Information, from the Kentucky Historical Society.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kentucky-Ratifies-the-19th-Amendment>



Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at:

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Ratification of 19th Amendment - Tennessee

Image of historic marker in Nashville, Tennessee.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ratification-of-19th-Amendment-Tennessee>



19th Amendment Becomes Law - Vote in Tennessee

Image online, courtesy [Tennessee State Library and Archives](#), Library Collection.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/19th-Amendment-Becomes-Law-Vote-in-Tennessee>

Lucy Burns and Alice Paul - Advocates for Women

Clip from "[Iron-Jawed Angels](#)" (2004), an [HBO film](#) about suffragettes fighting for a constitutional amendment, giving American women the right to vote.

Clips online, courtesy HBO and YouTube. All copyrights/ownership rights belong to HBO. Provided here as "fair use" for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the program.

Director:

Katja von Garnier

Producers:

Len Amato
Lydia Dean Pilcher
Robin Forman
Paula Weinstein

Writers:

Sally Robinson
Eugenia Bostwick-Singer
Raymond Singer
Jennifer Friedes

Starring:

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Frances O'Connor - Lucy Burns
Molly Parker - Emily Leighton (a fictional character portrayed as a senator's wife)
Laura Fraser - Doris Stevens
Lois Smith - Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw
Vera Farmiga - Ruza Wenclawska (also known as Rose Winslow)
Brooke Smith - Mabel Vernon
Patrick Dempsey - Ben Weissman (a fictional character)
Julia Ormond - Inez Milholland
Adilah Barnes - Ida Wells-Barnett
Anjelica Huston - Carrie Chapman Catt

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Reinhold Heil
Johnny Klimek

Cinematography:

Robbie Greenberg

Editing:

Hans Funck

Distributor:

HBO Films

Release date:

February 15, 2004

Running time:

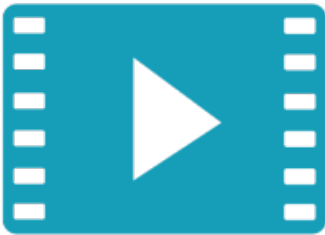
125 minutes

Quoted passages from an article by Sheridan Harvey, online at the [Library of Congress - American Memory - web site](#).

For more details about this period of American history, as women struggled for the right to vote, see this [American Memory story](#) (in PDF format) from the Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

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Lucy Burns - Imprisoned at the Occoquan Workhouse

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Alice Paul - Imprisoned

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Alice-Paul-Imprisoned>



Alice Paul - Forced Feeding

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