HONOR A SUFFRAGIST KIT
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Women’s History Alliance extends our gratitude to all the women’s history advocates who encouraged the development of this toolkit. Inspired by your example and your persistence we developed this guide. Together we will expand the narrative of the women’s suffrage movement and continue as champions of the Women’s History Movement.

Special Thanks

NWHA Centennial Circle

This toolkit was made possible through the generous monetary donations of the NWHA Centennial Circle. The members of this group believe that the celebration of the Woman’s Suffrage Centennial is a valuable contribution to the women’s history movement. The circle members are dedicated to celebrating the heroic efforts of all suffragists and support the efforts to recognize suffragists in 2020 and beyond. To become a member of the Centennial Circle, see page 16.

2019 NWHA Conference Attendees

The attendees of the 2019 National Women’s History Alliance came together in the spirit of collaboration. Together we devised ways to celebrate the heroic efforts of the woman’s suffrage movement. The conversations and passion from that weekend encouraged us to put our research strategies into this comprehensive guide.

Leasa Graves, Researcher & Editor
Assistant Director
National Women’s History Alliance

Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library

As the Women’s Suffrage Centennial approaches, search for local suffragists has become a nation wide effort. In Sonoma County (the birth place of the National Women’s History Alliance) our early research began at the Sonoma County Genealogy Library in Santa Rosa, CA. Their dedication to the centennial and the rediscovery of women’s history has made them an important partner of NWHA. Their talented staff and wonderful facility helped to inform our early search for suffragists.
The National Women’s History Alliance (NWHA) invites you to join the national effort to research and record the local heroes of the suffrage movement. Your contribution will help identify local suffragists and provide information to expand the historical record. Your research and discoveries make the suffragists in your area visible again and highlight the important role these individuals and groups had on the campaign to expand women’s civil rights. Your contributions to this historical reclamation effort are a vital contribution to the expansion and celebration of women’s history.

**Goals**

Engage Local Communities in Local History

Expand the United State's Suffrage Narrative

Encourage Centennial Engagement

**Intended Use**

To provide assistance to novice and experienced researchers, schools, teacher, writers, community groups and historical organizations, who are interested in celebrating the women’s suffrage centennial with their contributions to the historic story of suffrage.
WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

In 1776, Abigail Adams implored her husband, one of the United State’s Founding Fathers, to “remember the women” as they wrote the constitution. “…If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.” It would be over 140 years before the Constitution would remember the ladies when the 19th amendment was ratified and stated, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton marked the moment many historians view as the beginning of the Women’s Suffrage Movement as she read aloud the Declaration of Sentiments. This document not only demanded that women have the right to vote but that they possess the same rights as men. For the next 72 years, women from across the nation joined forces to fight for their civil rights.

In 1920, the campaign for the vote won a landmark victory with ratification of the 19th Amendment. Although the amendment declared all women had the right to vote, it would not be until the 1965 Voting Rights Act extended voter protections to limit discrimination based on race and economic class.

HONOR A SUFFRAGIST CAMPAIGN

In more recent years, thanks to the digitalization and availability of historic documents, our current understanding of the suffrage narrative has expanded. This exciting time where technology and history have come together, has opened the door to incredible new discoveries. We invite you to join us in our “Honor a Suffragist” Campaign and highlight the countless women and some men who dedicated their time, their talents, and their resources to ensure the United States Constitution was amended to protect discrimination at the ballot based on gender.
Your research and findings will assist with the expansion of the United State’s historical suffrage record. Suffragists came from diverse backgrounds and their life experiences varied. We anticipate that your research will assist with a better understanding of the lives, circumstances, and experiences of heroic women and men who fought for suffrage.

As you begin your research, we offer this guide to help your discoveries.

**Keeping Records**

Historians rely on primary sources to draw conclusions about the past. Therefore, you will want to use primary source documents to support your claims regarding an individual, event or organization. Be sure to keep track of all of your sources that support the conclusions of your research.

**Spread Sheets**

Spread sheets are a great way to keep track of your sources connected to your research:

- web searches
- primary source documents
- articles and newspaper clippings

Recording your sources will allow you to share them with fellow researchers and save you time in case you need to revisit a particular source.

**Notebook**

Keeping a notebook is also helpful. It will be a useful place to record your notes, thoughts, quotes, conclusions and additional questions. The notebook can even act a scrap book where you can keep hard copies of printed articles and clippings.
RESEARCH TIPS

START WITH A BASIC SEARCH

A basic search to identify details of the town or county’s local history will assist you with your research. This first step will give you a chance to review previous research and identify possible gaps in the suffrage narrative in your local history. We recommend you start with the following questions to assist your initial research. As you research, note the dates, names, and key people on your spreadsheet.

Questions to ignite your research:

- What is the official date your county was founded?
- Which native communities inhabited your county or town prior to the founding date?
- When did your state ratify the 19th amendment?
- When did your state grant women the right to vote?
- Which local women’s organizations: clubs, political groups, and suffrage groups that were historically active in your community during 1848 and 1920?
- Who are the women who lead the community in voting rights, the women’s club movement, education, civic programs, etc...?
- What was the cultural and ethnic makeup of your community prior to 1920?
- Which civic and religious organizations were prominent in your community prior to 1920?

Identify Your Community Members

Check your local census and historical records to discover the racial and cultural make-up of your community during the years of the suffrage movement (1848-1920). Suffragists come from all sorts of backgrounds and it is important to consider all groups in your community when searching for women’s rights and voting activists.

The list below is not complete and is only intended to give you ideas of groups that have been overlooked in the standard suffrage narrative:

- African Americans
- Non-English Speakers
- Religious Groups
- Native Americans
- Business Owners
- Those Enslaved
- Immigrants
- LGTBQ
- Men
- Working Class Individuals
- Voting Organizations
- Suffrage Organizations
- Abolitionist
- Sororities
- Temperance Groups
- Women’s Clubs
- Faternal Organizations

Here’s a sample of groups that are commonly associated with suffrage and may offer opportunities with local suffrage discoveries:
Conceivably historical organizations in your state or area will have some sense of the suffrage movement record in your town or region.

The following checklist can help you identify the suffragists in your area. A review of your local history will help you find the ways you might be able to expand the local suffrage narrative.

If the suffragist is recognized as a notable historical figure, you may still find it useful to provide additional information to ensure the individual is clearly identified as a suffragist.

Helpful Tools for Discovering Recorded Suffrage History

- CONDUCT A GOOGLE SEARCH TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL SUFFRAGISTS
- VISIT: WWW.FINDAGRAVE.COM
- VISIT NATIONAL VOTES FOR WOMEN TRAIL (www.ncwhs.org)
- CONTACT HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS
- CONTACT LOCAL CIVIC AND EDUCATION CLUBS TO REVIEW THEIR ARCHIVES
- CHECK THE "WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE ONLINE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY"
With the development of the internet and time limits of copyright laws expiring after 75 years, there are an incredible amount of primary source materials easily accessible to the public. Key items such as town hall census data and voter registration can often be found online. Additionally, many diaries, club minutes, books, and speeches have become public domain items and are now accessible to the public. All of the exciting documentation makes it possible for the public to make valuable contributions to the historical suffrage record. We hope the following information helps you focus your research into a manageable and enjoyable experience.

**What do I hope to find?**
You hope to find people and organizations that contributed to the women’s suffrage movement, leading up to the ratification of the 19th amendment. Historians label the individuals that contributed to the suffrage campaign as "suffragist" or sometimes "suffragettes" or "women’s right activist.

**How do I know someone was a "suffragist"?**
A person who shared their time, talents and resources with local or national effort to ratify the constitution so that women could vote could be labeled a suffragist. Many active women of the 19th and 20th centuries were suffragists and women’s right activists.

If the person of interest participated in the following ways with a pro-suffrage message, you could conclude they were a suffragist:

- Member of a club or organization that was known to support suffrage
- Marched in a suffrage parade
- Participated in any suffrage activities; distributed fliers, sold newspapers, distributed flyers.
- Attended suffrage meetings
- Picketed or protested for women’s suffrage
- Publicly spoke or wrote with a pro-suffrage message
- Donated items such as space in their home, money, jewelry or use of their automobile to the cause
- Wrote suffrage poetry, wrote or performed suffrage plays and songs
- Organized or attended teas or dinners for the cause of suffrage
- Letters or diaries that recorded suffrage activity or pro-suffrage sentiments
- Recognized by local, state or federal pro-suffrage organizations

We recommend that you use primary source documents to support your conclusion that your person of interest was a suffragist. For example, if you find that the individual you are researching attended a suffrage meeting, you will want to verify their support of the cause by finding additional participation either through multiple meetings or some participation in a different activity.
RESEARCH & DISCOVERY TOOLS

Thanks to the efforts of researchers such as yourself, the suffrage narrative is being expanded daily. Researchers face many challenges including lost or destroyed records, name changes or misspellings or suffragists who moved from one state to another. We recommend that you access a combination of local, historical records and online resources for your research to give you the best chance at discovering previously undocumented suffragists in your area. The following is a sample of helpful research tools and is not a definitive list.

Research Tools

Local Libraries
Local libraries are a wonderful resource for local newspaper archives. They will generally have microfilm or digital copies of local newspaper archives, as well as subscriptions to newspaper databases that library members can access.

Newspaper Archives
Newspapers are a wonderful source for locating historical information. Articles can identify community leaders, dates and meeting attendees connected to the suffrage movement.

Subscription Needed
- Newspapers.com
- Ancestry.com

NO Subscription Needed
- Google News
  https://news.google.com/newspapers
- Library of Congress
  https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Historical Databases
Historical societies, universities, churches, granges and other community organizations, often keep historical records. The records can give insight into the activities of groups within your community and how these groups supported the women’s suffrage movement.

Subscription Needed
- Ancestry.com
- JSTOR

NO Subscription Needed
- National Archives via www.archives.gov
- Gutenberg Project via https://www.gutenberg.org/

Archives
Brick and mortar archives can often be located at a local library, college or historical societies and potentially have suffrage documents that may have previously been missed.

Subscription Needed
- Accessible Archives
  https://www.accessible-archives.com

NO Subscription Needed
- National Archives via https://archive.org/
Begin with a Recorded Notable Person

The goal is to find historical evidence that connects a notable woman or man to the local suffrage efforts. It is common to find notable individuals from a community who have yet to be recognized for their efforts in the suffrage movement. Your research can connect historic individuals in your community that were part of the suffrage campaign. This section and the toolkit can help you make the connection.

General Suffragist Search

The goal is to identify individuals who contributed to the suffrage movement who may not have been previously recognized as a community leader. Many suffragists continued their advocacy for civil rights after the passage of the 19th amendment and some suffragists were not recorded in community affairs after the campaign ended. The suffragists that seemingly returned to their daily lives at the end of the campaign, may have limited suffrage records and your research can uncover these local heroes and make them visible again.

Steps to Get You Started

Whether you are searching for evidence to connect a notable historic figure or a previously unknown local leader, the steps for locating your sources are the same:

- Search national historic databases
- Google individual’s name
- Search local newspaper archives to verify meeting attendance, writing, or public speaking at suffrage events.
- Search local and national archives
- Search databases such as Ancestry.com, census data, voting records, etc.

Make a Connection to the Suffrage Movement

Once you have identified an individual connected to the women’s suffrage movement, you will want to document the connections to primary source documents. We recommend three different sources to connect an individual to the women’s suffrage movement. (Refer to page 7 of this Toolkit for a list of possible connections).
Documenting the lives of suffragists helps expand the historical records of women and men who fought courageously for women’s rights. Below are several ways you can assist with the expansion of the suffrage narrative.

**Share the Biography**

Biographies are a great way to connect your community with your local suffragists. You will want to collect as much biographical information as possible. Then, be sure to demonstrate how the suffragist supported the campaign through their writing, meetings, speeches or other actions directly related to the movement. It is important to document your sources and include bibliographic sources.

**Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement**

Since 2015, the Online Dictionary has collected biographies for three distinct groups of women suffragists: the National Woman’s Party; Black women suffragists whose writings have been collected and published on the website; mainstream suffrage supporters affiliated with the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), whose names are listed in state reports printed in volume 6 of the History of Woman Suffrage. These biographies highlight the lives of suffragists and their contributions to the woman’s suffrage movement. *For more information on contributing a biography to this project see page 16.*

**Local or State Biography Collection**

Recording suffragist biographies through a local program is a simple way to ensure the suffragists from your town are remembered. Throughout the United States, towns are creating maps, books, and websites that highlight the contributions of the women and men from their city or state. A local program can use simple tools such as word processing, powerpoint, and web programs such as Wix to record and share the stories of local suffragists.

**Wikipedia Biography**

Wikipedia is a popular resource that allows the public to both post information and learn about suffragists who are being discovered each day. The national effort to expand the suffrage stories via Wikipedia is an important but detailed process. For a video tutorial and Wikipedia Biography Toolkit, visit the California Women’s Suffrage Project for resources.

https://cawomenssuffrageproject.org

**National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT)**

- Visit their website and fill out the survey form to have the burial location added to the national map.
- https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/
LOCAL RECOGNITION

Cemeteries with burial sites of suffragists provide an authentic way for community members to connect with local suffragists and their legacy. At the national level, efforts are being made to record historical locations connected to the suffrage movement; so burial sites are being recorded throughout the country. We invite you to share your discoveries with national and state projects to commemorate suffragists.

Identify Burial Locations
When you confirm the suffragist’s burial site, share your findings with the larger community. There are several key places to submit this location along with the suffragist’s contributions to the campaign. Whether you contribute to one or all of the databases your are ensuring that future researchers and historians can learn about yet another suffragist.

It is important to realize that suffragists who campaigned between 1848-1920, may be buried without a headstone. It can be helpful to work with the cemetery to identify and confirm the burial location of any suffragist. Places to consider when searching for a suffragist’s final resting place:

- Visit your local cemetery
- Obituaries
- Vital Records Office; death certificate
- Biographies
- County Clerks Office
- Local Historical Society

Help Build the Historical Record

Share with Local Historical Society and Clubs
It is important for local historical records, that you share your findings with your state and community historical societies. Contributions to historical society newsletters and journals are a great way to ensure the stories of the local suffragists are recorded and available to the wider audience.

Add to Findagrave.com
“Find a Grave’s” mission is to help people from all over the world work together to find, record and present final disposition information [as a virtual cemetery experience].
Suggested Steps:
- First, search to check if the suffragist is recorded or not.
- If not, add the suffragist’s biographical information and burial location to www.findagrave.com
- Include a picture of the women and men and the gravesite if possible.

Share With State Historical Societies
Many states are collecting the stories of local suffragists and identifying the locations where suffrage activity took place. By contacting your local state Centennial group, you can share your findings to ensure more suffragists are added to any state databases being developed.
REMEMBER THE SUFFRAGISTS

The final resting place of local suffragists can serve as historical landmarks that provide the community an opportunity to celebrate local heroes. There are several ways to bring your community together to celebrate suffragists and our voting rights history.

Host a Visit to the Cemetery

Gathering your friends, family, and members of your community for a visit to a cemetery is a simple way to bring attention to locally interred suffragists. Bring flowers or leave a suffragist flag to highlight the accomplishment at the suffragist’s final resting place.

Important women’s history dates connected to suffrage:
- Women’s Equality Day- Aug. 26th
- Election Day (local and national)
- States 19th Amendment Ratification Date

Organize a Cemetery Tours

This is a great event to host if you have multiple suffragists buried at your local cemetery. Some centennial suffragist organizations and historical societies have offered tours as a fundraising event.

**Suggested Steps:**
- Get permission from the cemetery
- Select a date
- Provide a pamphlet with the suffragist’s biographies

Remember the Suffragists

If the suffragist’s burial location is unmarked, you might organize a ceremony or fundraiser for a headstone for the suffragist. If funds provide, you can note that the individual contributed to the woman’s suffrage campaign. It’s important to note, that this type of event may require permission from the cemetery and the suffragist’s family. Your local cemetery can provide advice on this step.

Share Your Visit

Share your photos documenting the moment and to help bring recognition to the suffragists in your area. Visit www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org and print out the “Here lies a suffragist” sign and flag to mark the burial sites of suffragists.

To stay connected use the hastags: #hereliesasuffragist #rememberthesuffragists #remembertheladies #rememberthesuffragents #forwardtogether #2020suffragecentennial #nwha #suffraghistory
The following texts are a sample of some of the helpful resources that provide some historical context and key information on the suffrage movement.

**Case of Minor v. Happersette**
United States Supreme Court case in which the Court held that the Constitution did not grant anyone, and in this case specifically a female citizen of the state of Missouri, a right to vote even when a state law granted rights to vote to a certain class of citizens. The Supreme Court upheld state court decisions in Missouri, which had refused to register a woman as a lawful voter because that state’s laws allowed only men to vote.
https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/88/162/

**The Declaration of Sentiments**
The Declaration of Sentiments begins by asserting the equality of all men and women and reiterates that both genders are endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The document argues that women are oppressed by the government and the patriarchal society of which they are a part.

**An Essay on Slavery and Abolitionism**

**The History of Woman Suffrage, vol. 1 - vol. 6**
The History of Woman Suffrage is a book that was produced by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage and Ida Husted Harper. Published in six volumes from 1881 to 1922, it is a history of the women’s suffrage movement, primarily in the United States.

**Narrative of Sorjourner Truth**
Truth’s landmark slave narrative chronicles her experiences as a slave in upstate New York and her transformation into an extraordinary abolitionist, feminist, orator, and preacher.

**19th Amendment**
The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**The Progress of Colored Women**
"Fa Beginning in the 1890s, Mary Church Terrell spoke publicly on a range of civil rights which black Americans and black women were deprived. Throughout these efforts, Terrell helped coordinate a series of local movements which campaigned for suffrage and enfranchisement for the black population."

**Trial of Susan B. Anthony**
In 1872, Susan B. Anthony cast a ballot for a federal election in New York. She was arrested and put on trial. In court, she argued that her action was legal under the Fourteenth Amendment, which gave citizens the right to vote.

**1965 Voting Rights Act**
Voting Rights Act, U.S. legislation (August 6, 1965) that aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote under the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) to the Constitution of the United States. The act significantly widened the franchise and is considered among the most far-reaching pieces of civil rights legislation in U.S. history.
The following text is a sample of some of the helpful resources that provide biographical information on suffragists and can assist with your research. You can purchase these books through the NWHA Online store at www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote,</em> 1837-1965</td>
<td>Rosalyn Terbog-Penn</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Notable American Women,</em> Vol. 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Susan Ware</td>
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<td><em>National Women's History Alliance Gazettes</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement,</em> 1837-1965</td>
<td>Robert P.J. Cooney</td>
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*African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote,* by Rosalyn Terbog-Penn

A comprehensive portrait of African American women who fought for the right to vote. Terbog-Penn analyzes the women’s own stories of why they joined and how they participated in the U.S. Women’s Suffrage Movement.

*Notable American Women,* by Susan Ware

The publication of the first volumes of Notable American Women in 1971 was a watershed event in women’s history. By uncovering and documenting the enormous contributions that women had made—previously overlooked or underappreciated—this important reference work changed the way historians thought and wrote about American history.

National Women’s History Alliance Gazettes

The NWHA has several published gazettes that highlight the stories of suffragists across various volumes.

- "Women Win the Vote"
- "How Women Won the Vote", Vol. 1
- "How Women Won the Vote", Vol. 2

*Winning the Vote* shows how women have long been active participants in U.S. history, and how many became politically powerful before winning the vote.
National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT)

The NVWT is collecting sites from all over the country to tell the untold story of suffrage for all women, of all ethnicities, that extends well past the passage of the 19th amendment. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is complementing the efforts with the donation of 250 historic roadside markers nationally.

Website: http://ncwhs.org/
Email: contact@ncwhs.org

National Women’s History Alliance (NWHA)

Beginning in June 2015, Women and Social Movements in the United States launched the “Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States.” When completed in 2021 this resource will include about 3,500 biographical sketches of women supporters of woman suffrage campaigns in the first two decades of the twentieth century.

Contact: Professor Tom Dublin
Email: dublin@binghamton.edu

National Women’s History Alliance formerly, the National Women’s History Project, is a leader in promoting Women’s History and is committed to the goals of education, empowerment, equality, and inclusion.

www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org
Email: info@nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

Centennial Circle (NWHA)

To commemorate both the women’s suffrage centennial and the NWHA’s 40th anniversary, we are happy to announce the start of the NWHA Centennial Circle. This new opportunity offers several benefits including a chance to memorialize a special woman in your life on the new permanent “In Her Honor” tribute section on the NWHA website to be unveiled in 2020. Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in the NWHA Book Club initiative starting in February 2020. This bi-monthly online book club will incorporate our 2020 theme, Valiant Women of the Vote. There is a tremendous amount of published materials focused on the women suffrage movement and we are excited to create a space where we can explore these topics together.

We hope you will be able to join the NWHA Centennial Circle and to show our appreciation; all NWHA Centennial Circle members will receive a distinctive NWHA Centennial Circle lapel pin only available to NWHA Centennial Circle members. Members will also be acknowledged on our website and in our 2020 Women’s History Gazette.

Please visit our web store category on our www.nwhanews.org and enter NWHA Centennial Circle in the search engine (upper right hand corner). Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States

Women’s Vote Centennial (WVCI)

The 2020 Women’s Vote Centennial Initiative (WVCI) served as a organizing and information-sharing center for programs, projects and activities that commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The WVCI educates the public on the history and social advances resulting from the amendment and stimulates dialogue to address the ongoing fight for women’s rights.

Website: 2020centennial.org
Email: info@2020centennial.org