

# **“Women's Suffrage: The Long Journey to the Vote”**

## **Part 1**

Suffrage - “The right to vote in political elections.” Suffrage has nothing to do with suffering, unless the wrong person is elected.

The Women's Suffrage movement was a decades long fight to win the right to vote for women in the United States. It took nearly 100 years to win the vote, and the campaign was not easy. Disagreement over strategy threatened to cripple the movement more than once. But on August 18, 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified allowing American women the right to carry all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including the right to vote.

In 1787, the US Constitution was adopted but there was no agreement on a national standard for voting rights. Voting qualifications was placed in the hands of the individual states. Women in all states except New Jersey lost the right to vote. The right for women to vote in New Jersey was revoked in 1807.

In 1848, the Suffrage Movement began in earnest at the Seneca Falls Convention, Seneca Falls, New York. Women's Suffrage was proposed by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and agreed to after an impassioned argument from Frederick Douglas.

Work on the issue continued with the first National Women's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts with more than 1,000 participants from 11 states meeting in 1850.

The American Civil War changed the focus from women's voting rights to the war efforts in the early 1860s.

More information about the journey to come in Part 2....

### ***Suffrage Trivia***

In what year was a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage first introduced in the U.S. Congress?

- a. 1868
- b. 1878
- c. 1913
- d. 1918

answer in next issue

Information source: [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

