

# Books on history of Suffragette Movement

*“We women demand an equal voice, we shall accept nothing less.”*

*Carrie Chapman Catt,  
Suffragette, 1902*

August 18, 2020 marks the One-Hundred-Year Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment to our Constitution giving all women the right to vote.

This hard fought endeavor took over 100 years to achieve. The first rumblings began as early as the American Revolution. Thomas Jefferson penned the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, in part stating “...all men are created equal.” When future President John Adams tells his wife Abigail of the phrase, she replied “don’t forget the ladies.” At this point in history, some women of the 13 colonies had limited voting rights. Ultimately,



*The museum’s 1995 4th of July parade entry celebrating the 75th anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote.*

“the ladies” were forgotten.

This led to the Suffragette Movement. Many of the suffragettes began as abolitionists during the Civil War and from there the struggle for equal rights for all grew. As part of reconstruction, the 15th Amendment made it illegal for the Federal or State Government to deny any US citizen the right to vote. This amendment was specific to black men. Women again were excluded.

Suffrage movements spread throughout the country due to the determination of women such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Carrie Chapman Catt, Ida B. Wells, Lucretia Mott & Alice Paul. Yet as they would gain momentum with some individual states and territories granting suffrage, the Supreme Court would intervene and strike down the law.

Suffragettes marched, protested, and carried

signs for decades while speaking to the crowds.

One of the most effective orators was Carrie Chapman Catt with her rallying cry “To the wrongs that need resistance, to the right that needs assistance, to the future in the distance, Give Yourselfes!”

Note: in 1919 the National American Woman Suffrage Association holds its convention in St. Louis, MO where Catt rallies to transform the association into the League of Women Voters. She succeeds in 1920, six months before the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Suffragettes were often beaten in the street, clothes torn from their bodies, arms broken, arrested and incarcerated. Not to be deterred, in 1913 Alice Paul organizes the Woman’s Suffrage Procession, the largest parade to date, in Washington, DC on the eve of Woodrow Wilson’s Inauguration. In January 1919, the National Women’s Party lights and guards a “Watchfire for Freedom.” It is maintained until the 19th Amendment to the Constitution passes the US Senate on June 4th.

Suffrage was not limited to the United States;

*See BOOKSTORE pg 4*

## MESSAGE

*Continued from page 1*

every two months, book sales continue online and by appointment, the Board responds to requests for information and comment on public issues related to history and historic preservation, and we have set up a raffle to substitute for the annual Instant Wine Cellar fund-raising event. We are working with the City on a plan for safely reopening and look forward

to the time when, once again, we can begin sharing our “little gem of a museum” with the public. All of these behind-the-scenes activities require financial support, so now is the time for you to renew your annual membership. Letters will go out to those members who need to renew annually. Mail your dues payment in the return envelope enclosed in the letter, or by going to our website at [www.sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://www.sharpsteenmuseum.org)