

ISCHUA VALLEY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

ABOLITIONIST, WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST, SUFFRAGIST

Susan Brownell Anthony was born February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts to Quaker parents. Her family was committed to social equality and Susan became active in the American Anti-Slavery Society. Her family later moved to Rochester, New York and became friends with Frederick Douglass, a former slave and important abolitionist. She and Susan became life-long friends.

Susan became a school mistress and in 1846 the headmistress of the female department of Canajoharie Academy. She was not at the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in 1848 but her parents and sister attended and signed the Declaration of Sentiments that was adopted there.

She moved home and assumed operation of the family farm in Rochester. In 1851 she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton and formed a friendship that became pivotal to the Women's Rights Movement. She was also largely responsible for the organization of the Women's State Temperance Society.

She became a controversial public speaker advocating resolutions that called for admission of blacks to public schools and colleges, equal pay for women teachers with that of their male colleagues, the right of a wife of an alcoholic to divorce her husband, and for improved property rights for married women. In 1866 Susan and Elizabeth organized the Eleventh National Women's Rights whose purpose it was to campaign for the equal rights of all citizens, especially for the right to vote.

In May 1869 Susan and Elizabeth formed the National Woman Suffrage Association. Susan began to be recognized as a national female leader and decided to dedicate her life to the cause of suffrage for women. She traveled throughout the country giving speeches and became a national celebrity, averaging 75 to 100 speeches a year.

She organized national conventions, lobbied Congress, and took part in endless suffrage campaigns.

Susan was arrested for voting in the presidential election in 1972. She was found guilty in a celebrated trial and fined. She refused to pay and the matter was dropped.

Susan traveled to Europe on speaking campaigns and spent 8 months in California. She came to speak in Franklinville before her journey west. During the remainder of her life she competed four

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volumes of THE HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE. Her fame grew and her 80th birthday was celebrated at the White House at the invitation of President McKinley.

She died of heart failure and pneumonia in her home in Rochester on March 13, 1906. Although she did not live to see the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, it is known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment. In 1936 the first postage stamp was issued honoring her. In 1979, the Mint printed the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin, the first U.S. coin to honor a woman.

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