

MOVEMENTS TOUR

MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION 2023 CONFERENCE

SELECTED IMAGES:



Mural of Seraph Young casting first vote in 1870. Utah State Capitol Collection, David Koch.



Utah suffrage leaders with Susan B. Anthony and Anna Howard Show at Rocky Mountain Suffrage Convention in Salt Lake City, May 1895. CHL.

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Silk culture in Utah, c. 1895. CHL



Susan B. Anthony's black silk "Utah dress."
Anthony Museum & House Collection.



Susan B. and her sister Mary Anthony wearing
the style of the Utah dress, c. 1898-99.
Woman Suffrage Collection, Schlesinger Library.

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Utah suffrage leaders and Sen. Reed Smoot with national Congressional Union leaders, Aug. 1915. NWP.



Utah suffrage leaders with Congressional Union envoy on steps of Utah State Capitol, Oct. 1915. NWP.

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Utah suffragist Lovern Robertson (4th from L) in NWP picket line on Nov. 10, 1917, prior to arrest. LOC.



Salt Lake City headquarters of Utah National Woman's Party, 1916. NWP.

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The Daughters of Utah Pioneers Silk Industry Monument, Salt Lake City, 2022.



“A Path Forward,” Utah Women’s History Memorial, Salt Lake City, 2020.

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TIMELINE

- **1776:** “All men are created equal” inscribed in the Declaration of Independence; Property-owning women and African Americans vote in New Jersey until 1807.
- **1842:** Organization of the Female Relief Society of Nauvoo.
- **1848:** At the Seneca Falls women's rights convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Frederick Douglas successfully passed a resolution seeking women’s suffrage.
- **1850:** Passage of the Fugitive Slave Law; Harriet Tubman began her first of many expeditions to free slaves through the Underground Railroad.
- **1856:** Newly-formed Republican Party adopted platform denouncing the “twin relics of barbarism” and sparked nationwide antipolygamy movement.
- **1850s and 1860s:** Latter-day Saints imported mulberry tree seeds and silkworms into Utah Territory.
- **1863:** Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln.
- **1866:** American Equal Rights Association formed to advocate for suffrage rights of both women and African Americans.
- **1868:** 14th Amendment granted citizenship to former slaves but also introduced the word “male” into the constitutional description of voters.
- **1869:** National suffrage movement split into NWSA and AWSA; Latter-day Saints first established ties with national suffrage leaders when Augusta Cobb Young and Charlotte Cobb (Godbe) met with Lucy Stone in Boston; Utah-based silk production expanded with the inception of the retrenchment movement.
- **1870:** Utah Territory unanimously passed a women’s suffrage bill; Utah women voted in the nation’s first local and general elections held under an equal suffrage law; 15th Amendment prohibited denying right to vote based on race.
- **1871:** Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton visited Utah Territory for over a week to see suffrage in action; they balanced their time between Latter-day Saint suffragists and New Movement/Godbeite suffragists.
- **1872:** *Woman’s Exponent* began publication in Utah; Susan B. Anthony arrested in Rochester for voting; Victoria Woodhull and Frederick Douglas nominated for United States president and vice president on the Equal Rights Party ticket.

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- **1875:** Zina D. H. Young and others established Deseret Silk Association in Utah to raise money for cocoon bounties and silk reeling and weaving machinery.
- **1877:** Relief Society gathered nearly 7000 signatures for a NWSA petition supporting a national suffrage amendment, and Emmeline B. Wells published their desire to “be one. . .in this grand movement” in the NWSA newspaper.
- **1879:** Emmeline B. Wells and Zina Young Williams spoke at the annual NWSA convention and lobbied the congressional judiciary committee and President Rutherford B. Hayes to protect Utah suffrage against antipolygamy attacks.
- **1880:** Relief Society members presented a white silk collar to First Lady Lucy Hayes; the Utah territorial legislature approved funding for a silk factory.
- **1882:** Edmunds Act disfranchised polygamous men and women in Utah.
- **1886:** More than 2,000 Latter-day Saint women held a protest in the Salt Lake Theatre and signed a petition against anti-suffrage legislation; Emmeline B. Wells and Dr. Ellen Ferguson met with President Grover Cleveland, Congress, and NWSA leaders to deliver the petition and urge protection of Utah suffrage.
- **1887:** Edmunds-Tucker Act repealed suffrage for all women in Utah territory, regardless of marital status or religious affiliation.
- **1888:** Relief Society and YLMIA delegates attended the founding convention of the International and National Council of Women, organized by Susan B. Anthony in honor of the fortieth anniversary of the Seneca Falls convention.
- **1889:** Latter-day Saint leaders established the Utah Woman Suffrage Association (UWSA) as an official chapter of NWSA, with local and county branches throughout the territory; Emily S. Richards spoke at the NWSA convention and presented a petition with over 8,000 signatures of Utah women.
- **1890:** NWSA and AWSA merged into the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and accepted Utah’s membership despite much debate; UWSA president Sarah M. Kimball spoke at the first NAWSA convention; Woodruff Manifesto officially disavowed polygamy.
- **1892:** Susan B. Anthony became president of NAWSA and served until 1900; the city demolished the Salt Lake Silk Factory.

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- **1893:** Latter-day Saint delegates participated in the World's Congress of Representative Women at the Chicago World's Fair and featured silk goods from Utah in the Utah Building and the Woman's Building.
- **1895:** After much lobbying, Utah's constitutional convention included women's suffrage in the new state constitution; Susan B. Anthony and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw visited Salt Lake City for the Rocky Mountain Suffrage Convention; Utah suffragists voted to continue organized advocacy for national women's suffrage.
- **1896:** Utah statehood officially restored women's suffrage and introduced the right to hold office; Utah elected Martha Hughes Cannon as the nation's first female senator; Harriet Tubman and several Latter-day Saint women spoke at the NAWSA convention; Susan B. Anthony and Emily S. Richards testified before Congress; Zina D. H. Young, Ann Cannon Woodbury, Margaret A. Caine, and others formed the Utah Silk Commission.
- **1898:** Senator Martha Hughes Cannon testified before the congressional judiciary committee on behalf of a federal suffrage amendment.
- **1899:** Carrie Chapman Catt met with suffragists in Salt Lake City and formed the Utah Council of Women to replace the UWSA territorial suffrage association.
- **1900:** Utah suffragists and the Utah Silk Commission presented Susan B. Anthony with black silk for her 80th birthday celebration in Washington, D.C.
- **1905:** The Utah Silk Commission dissolved when the legislature decided not to renew the state-sponsored cocoon bounty.
- **1906:** Upon her death, Susan B. Anthony bequeathed a gold ring to Emmeline B. Wells as a token of friendship.
- **1915:** With broad support from Latter-day Saints and other Utah suffragists, Alice Paul organized a Utah chapter of Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, the precursor to the National Woman's Party and a rival organization to NAWSA.
- **1919:** Carrie Chapman Catt formed Utah League of Women Voters during a Salt Lake City convention; Utah was first suffrage state to ratify the 19th amendment.
- **1920:** NAWSA victory convention in Chicago honored Utah suffrage pioneers; success of the 19th Amendment prohibited restricting suffrage based on gender; ongoing efforts continued for decades to extend suffrage protections to all.

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RELATED PUBLICATIONS BY TOUR GUIDES:

- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, [*A House Full of Females: Plural Marriage and Women's Rights in Early Mormonism, 1835-1870*](#) (New York: Knopf, 2017, Vintage, 2018).
- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, [*Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History*](#) (New York: Knopf, 2007, Vintage Books, 2008). See especially Chapters 1, 4, and 6.
- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "[Women Suffrage West to East: The View from Puck,](#)" *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 164.1 (March 2020): 64-87.
- Sasha Coles, "[Homespun Respectability: Silk Worlds, Women's Work, and the Making of Mormon Identity,](#)" PhD Dissertation (2021).
- Rebekah Ryan Clark, "[The Fire of Civic Endeavor: Utah Suffragists After Statehood,](#)" *Utah Historical Quarterly* 88:4 (2020).
- Rebekah Ryan Clark and Katherine Kitterman, [*Thinking Women: A Timeline of Suffrage in Utah*](#) (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2019).
- Rebekah Ryan Clark, "[A Harmony of Voices: Negotiating Latter-day Saint Unity on Women's Suffrage,](#)" *BYU Studies* 59:3 (2020).
- Rebekah Ryan Clark and Katherine Kitterman, "[Building Better Days by Commemorating Utah Suffrage History,](#)" *Journal of Mormon History* 47:3 (2021).
- Better Days resources at www.utahwomenshistory.org

KEY ONLINE PRIMARY SOURCES:

- [*The First Fifty Years of Relief Society: Key Documents in Latter-day Saint Women's History*](#), ed. Jill Mulvay Derr, Carol Cornwall Madsen, Kate Holbrook, Matthew Grow (Salt Lake City: Church Historian's Press, 2016).
- [Women's Exponent, 1872-1914](#), Digital Edition, University of Utah, Special Collections.
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, [*Eighty Years and More: Reminiscences, 1815-1897*](#) (New York: European Publishing Company, 1898). Chapter 18, "Westward Ho!" describes her visit to Utah in 1871.

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- *History of Woman Suffrage*, vols. 1-6, ed. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joclyn Gage, Ida Husted Harper (New York: Susan B. Anthony, NAWSA, 1881-1922). [Vol. 4](#) and [vol. 6](#) contain chapters on Utah.
- [Emmeline B. Wells diaries](#), digital edition, CHL.
- Martha Hughes Cannon, [“Woman Suffrage in Utah,”](#) speech to U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee (1898), CHL.
- [Utah Constitutional Convention](#) transcripts, (1895). See March 18, 28, 29, and April 5, 18 in particular for women’s suffrage debates and votes.
- [Utah at the World’s Columbian Exposition](#) (1894).
- [Sericulture: Instruction in the Art of Producing Silk](#) (1896).
- [First Biennial Report of the Utah Silk Commission](#) (1900).