Historical Time Line

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony worked to break down barriers, but they weren’t the only ones shaking things up in the late 19th century. In 1849, the Forty-Niners were rushing to California to find gold. Levi Strauss invented blue jeans in 1850, and in 1897, the first package of Jell-O was sold. The time line below shows the important moments in Stanton and Anthony’s lives and significant events that occurred at the same time.

On July 19 and 20, the First Women’s rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York.

The American Civil War is fought.

The first World Series is played between Pittsburgh and Boston.

The first box of crayons is created.

New York’s Brooklyn Bridge opens to traffic.

The first can of Campbell’s condensed soup is sold.

The Wright brothers fly the first airplane.

Henry Ford develops the Model T automobile.

On November 12, Elizabeth Cady is born.

Susan votes and is arrested.

On February 15, Susan B. Anthony is born.

On May 1, Elizabeth marries Henry Stanton.

On May 21, Elizabeth and Susan meet.

Elizabeth and Susan form the National Woman Suffrage Association.

Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.

Teddy bears are introduced.

The first movie screening for a mass audience is held in New York City.

On October 26, Elizabeth dies.

On March 13, Susan dies.

On August 26, the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, becomes law.

1815 1820 1839 1840 1848 1851 1861-65 1869

1872 1876 1883 1896 1897 1902 1903 1906 1920

The expression O.K. becomes popular.

Dolls are mass-produced in America.
They crossed the country talking to people, convincing them to sign petitions to give to legislators. This was a new generation of suffragists built on the solid foundation that Elizabeth and Susan laid. Women marched in the streets and protested on the White House lawn. The result of their hard work was the 19th Amendment, which finally granted women the right to vote.

In 1919 Congress passed the amendment, which needed to be ratified by three-fourths of the states before it became law. By the time the amendment came up for a vote in the Tennessee legislature in August, 1920, 35 states had passed it. Eight states had rejected the amendment.

On the day of the vote, Tennessee legislators in favor of the amendment wore yellow roses in their lapels. Those against wore red roses. By a count of roses, it looked like the amendment would fail.

At 24, Harry Burn was the youngest legislator. He wore a red rose, but in his pocket he carried a letter from his mother. It said, “Vote for suffrage and don’t keep them in doubt.” And so he did. He felt it best for a boy to follow his mother’s advice.

At the first woman’s rights convention Elizabeth Cady Stanton suggested women should be given the right to vote. Seventy-two years later, the 19th Amendment, known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, became law of the land.

In Their Own Words
“Failure is impossible.”
—Susan B. Anthony’s last public words, speaking about the fight for women’s right to vote