

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE — Conclusion

While most people know all women in the U.S. had won the right to vote by 1920, far fewer know that the quest for women's suffrage began at the now-historic, landmark 1848 Women's Rights Convention at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. (The convention is also known as the Seneca Falls Convention.)

This was the first such effort ever held in the U.S., and nearly 200 women attended. It was organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two abolitionists. Also there was Frederick Douglass. The women at the convention presented the "Declaration of Sentiments and Grievances," which itemized various rights women deserved, including the right to vote. Overwhelmingly approved, this declaration led eventually to the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, granting women suffrage.

Today, the National Women's Hall of Fame (<https://www.womenofthehall.org/>) is located in Seneca Falls. Five Michigan women are honored there, including former First Lady Betty Ford, and Martha Griffiths, one of the first women U.S. Representatives, who used her 25 years in Congress to advocate for all kinds of women's rights, most notably inclusion in the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Bill. Griffiths also was Michigan's first elected female Lieutenant Governor, under Governor James Blanchard in the 1980s.

(Compiled and written by Sheryl James Vigmostad, BAHS Member. 810-227-7506)



Betty Ford



Martha Griffiths