

# History of The Lily

In 1849, Amelia Bloomer founded *The Lily*, which one of the first women suffragists' newspapers in American history. In the April 1851 issue, Amelia Bloomer advocated that women abandon their unhealthy tight stays, impractical long skirts, and restrictive petticoats for a new mode of dress consisting of a loose tunic and short skirt worn over Turkish-style pantaloons. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an early contributor to the paper, and it was probably her influence that caused Bloomer to include more and more articles on women's rights, transforming the basic nature of *The Lily* to a feminist perspective.

# **Biography of Amelia Bloomer**

Amelia Bloomer was one of the first women's rights advocate, prohibitionist, suffragist, and women journalist. She established a bi-weekly newspaper, *The Lily*. She was born in New York, in 1818, which was a time in history when women were largely excluded from attending school. Thus, Amelia only attended school for two years. By 22, she married a Quaker reformist named Dexter Bloomer. He co-owned the *Seneca County Courier* and urged Amelia to write articles for his newspaper which influenced her to establish *The Lily*. In addition to her passion for journalism and promoting women's rights, she also reshaped women's fashion by urging women to wear ankle-length pants, dresses cut to the knee, and looser tops. Interestingly, Amelia's passion for fashion greatly influenced American apparel by creating and promoting women to wear "bloomers," also known as girls' underwear.



Images from: http://www.pbs. org/wnet/historyofus/web04/features/bio/B23\_2.html

# The Revolution.

# The History of The Revolution

In 1868, Susan B. Anthony established *The Revolution*, which became one of the most radical women's rights newspapers of its time. The newspaper was first published in Rochester, New York. With the help of the newspaper's editor Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the two women only hired women typesetters and women printers to work for the company. *The Revolution* promoted women's suffrage. The articles also brought attention to controversial issues, such as discrimination against working-class women, and announced upcoming women rights conventions, events, campaigns, and protests. Demanding "Principle, not Policy; Justice, not Favors," *The Revolution* advocated not only universal suffrage, but also equal pay and an eighthour work day.

# Biography of Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was one of the most significant early women's right advocates. She traveled across the nation campaigning promote women's suffrage. She brought awareness to education reforms, the right for women to own their own property, and advocated for women's labor unions. With the help of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she organized a Women's National Loyal League and established *The Revolution* women's rights newspaper.



Images from www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/womens-suffrage/



### History of the Woman Citizen

The Woman Citizen was founded by Carrie Catt in 1917 and became one of the most influential women's publications of the early 1900s. Catt founded *The Woman Citizen* by merging three suffrage journals: *The Woman's Journal, the National Suffrage News*, and *Woman Voter. The Woman Citizen* was able to reach a wide and influential audience, including the congressman of the United States. *The Citizen*'s mission was to win the vote for American women, but the publication also reported on such issues as child labor. After American women won the vote in 1920, *The Citizen* continued publication, making its goal the political education of women.

# Biography of Carrie Catt

Carrie Chapman Catt was courageous, facing ridicule from people who believed a woman's place was in the home. As a young widow, she began lecturing and working for women's suffrage. She joined the Iowa Woman's Suffrage Association. Carrie traveled around the state giving speeches and organizing suffrage clubs. Catt served as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association during key years near the passage of the federal suffrage amendment. She also was a founder of the League of Women Voters, which evolved from the National American Woman Suffrage Association.



 $Images\ from\ \underline{www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primary source sets/womens-suffrage/}$ 



# History of the Woman's Journal

Woman's Journal was founded in 1870 in Boston, Massachusetts by Lucy Stone as a weekly newspaper. It was the most successful of all suffrage newspapers, running for 61 years. In addition to Lucy Stone, the newspaper was edited by Mary Livermore, Julia Ward Howe, and Henry Blackwell. Woman's Journal refused to carry advertisements for tobacco, liquor, or drugs. In 1910, Woman's Journal absorbed Progress, the official newspaper of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. In 1912, it was renamed Woman's Journal and Suffrage News. By 1915, circulation had reached 27,634, up from 2,328 in 1909 before the merger. Stone's journal made the women's movement seem increasingly respectable.

# **Lucy Stone**

Lucy Stone was a founding member of the American Woman Suffrage Association. In 1873, Stone and her husband became editors of the *Women's Journal*, a weekly newspaper that argued for women's rights. Stone preferred serving as editor to lecturing. While she was an advocate of women's rights, she enjoyed remaining at home with her family.



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