

WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE IN IOWA SCRAPBOOK

About

1854 – 1869

1870 – 1890

1891 – 1915

1916 – 1919

1920 & On



Welcome to the Women’s Suffrage in Iowa Online Exhibit and Resource Guide created by the Iowa Women’s Archives!

Women gained the right to vote when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on August 26, 1920. But the struggle for the ballot began decades earlier.

The story of Iowa women mirrors what happened on the national level. The Hawkeye state was often looked to as an example because of its ties to national suffrage leaders, a history of liberalism, and visionary organizing tactics.

In honor of the 90th Anniversary of women’s suffrage, the Iowa Women’s Archives (IWA) received a grant from the State Historical Society, Inc. to digitize documents, photographs, and artifacts highlighting Iowa’s unique heritage.

Materials from the [Iowa Women’s Archives](#), the [State Historical Society of Iowa](#), and the Special Collections Departments of [The University of Iowa](#) and [Iowa State University](#) libraries are now available in the [Iowa Digital Library](#).

In addition, the Iowa Women’s Archives has created this scrapbook exhibit to provide a brief introduction to Iowa’s suffrage history and point to local and state suffrage Resources. Questions can be directed to the Iowa Women’s Archives staff at lib-women@uiowa.edu.

Project Manager: Christine Mastalio
Project Assistant: Kayla Pollock
IWA Curator: Kären Mason

Special thanks to staff at the University of Iowa Libraries, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and other Iowa cultural heritage institutions for their help in making this project happen.

The digital images in this exhibit have physical counterparts preserved by various institutions. Abbreviations used are as follows:

IWA - Iowa Women’s Archives
SHSI DM - State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines
SHSI IC - State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City
ISU - Iowa State University Special Collections

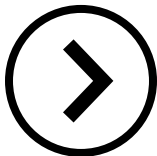
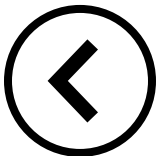


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Social Movements

Anelia Bloomer



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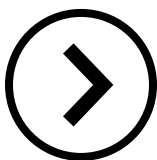
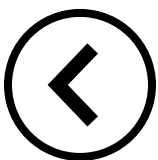


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1920 & Beyond

In the long struggle for voting rights, Iowa’s efforts had been well-respected across the nation. Although women could vote as individuals, their organizing days were not over.

In the fall of 1919, the suffragists met in Boone and formed the League of Women Voters of Iowa (LWV). That organization continues to educate voters today.

To commemorate their struggle, veteran suffragists formed the Iowa Suffrage Memorial Commission in 1922. Fourteen years later, a bronze bas-relief was installed in the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines.

The right to vote did not bring about the sweeping freedoms for American women that some suffragists had expected. Women continued to fight for equality in the workplace, the political arena and the home. Much of that work continues today.



Flora Dunlap (1872-1952) served as the first president of the Iowa LWV, but she had been breaking ground in women’s rights long before that.

1872: Born in Ohio

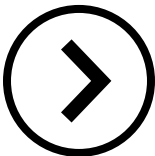
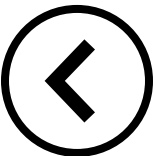
1904: Moved to Des Moines to head the Roadside Settlement House after working with Jane Addams at Hull House in Chicago

1912: First woman elected to the Des Moines School Board, but refused to run again in 1915 because her male colleagues had ignored her, making her an ineffective board member

1913-1916: Served as president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association, participating in the 1913 automobile tour and spearheading the 1916 referendum campaign

1919: Elected first president of the Iowa LWV for a one-year term

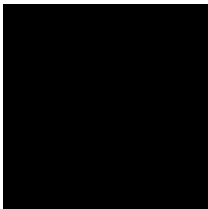
1930s: Held several Polk County government positions during the Great Depression - often as the first woman



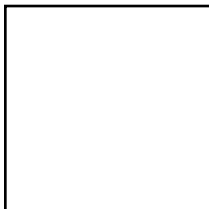
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FONTS

WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE IN IOWA SCRAPBOOK

WORDMARK
Barlow Condensed - SemiBold

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MENU
Beth Ellen - Regular

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Gotham - Bold

In the long struggle for voting rights...

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