

RECOGNIZING
WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE
 IN NEW YORK STATE

1848

WILLIAM C. MILLER, PUBLISHER
 JOHN DEWEY, EDITOR
 WHOLE NO.

NORTHERN STAR

TRUTH IS OF NO SEX—TRUTH IS OF NO COLOR—GOD IS THE FATHER OF US ALL, AND ALL WE ARE BRETHREN.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1848.

THE FIRST CONVENTION
 EVER CALLED TO DISCUSS THE
 Civil and Political Rights of Women,
 SENECA FALLS, N. Y., JULY 19, 20, 1848.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION.
 A Convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of women will be held in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Seneca Falls, N. Y., on Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th of July current; commencing at 10 o'clock A. M. During the first day the meeting will be exclusively for women, who are earnestly invited to attend. The public generally are invited to be present on the second day, when Lucretia Mott, of Philadelphia, and other ladies and gentlemen, will address the Convention.

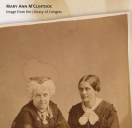
This notice published in the *Seneca Falls Courier*, July 19, 1848, and in the *North Star*, July 20, 1848. The names of the Convention, who signed the Declaration of Sentiments, are: Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Maria W. Chapman, Catharine Beecher, and John Jay C. Burleigh.



Women's Rights Activity in N.Y.

WOMEN LOST LEGAL GROUND WITH THE FORMATION OF THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. While women voted under some conditions in the colonies, when the states formed their constitutions between 1777 and 1807, women lost the right to vote in all states. New York State took the vote away from women in 1787. Suffragists maintained that they were not asking for a new right but for the restitution of a right their foremothers possessed.

Ernestine L. Rose and Paulina Wright [David] circulated petitions in support of an 1836 bill introduced into the New York Legislature by Judge Hertel, to secure married women their rights of property. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. John Savage, and Hon. John C. Spencer, one of the revisers of the statutes of New York, assisted in the writing of the bill. A married woman's property act finally passed the legislature in the spring of 1848.

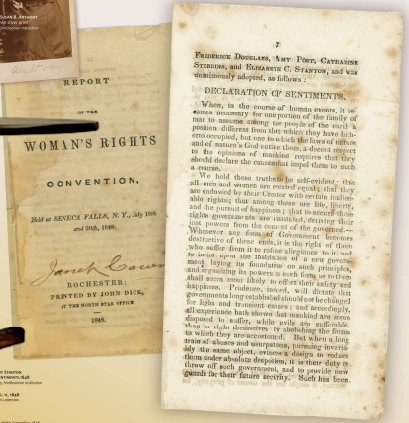


Women's Rights Convention
 IN SENECA FALLS & ROCHESTER

THE FIRST CONVENTION IN THE COUNTRY CALLED EXCLUSIVELY TO DISCUSS THE NEED FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS WAS HELD IN SENECA FALLS ON JULY 19-20, 1848. Visiting in the area, Lucretia Coffin Mott joined her sister, Martha Coffin Wright and Quaker friends Mary Ann McClintock and Jane Hunt, along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton for tea after a Sunday Quaker meeting July 9th at the home of Jane Hunt in nearby Waterloo. The women decided to hold a women's rights convention while Mott was in the area. Their announcement, calling for a discussion of the "social, civil, and religious condition and rights of woman," appeared two days later in the Seneca County Courier and was reprinted in other area papers, including Frederick Douglass's North Star.

The two-day convention resulted in the adoption of two documents, the Declaration of Sentiments and an accompanying list of resolutions. Drafted by the Quaker women and Stanton, the documents were discussed and modified by the convention before being adopted. The most contentious resolution was women's right to vote. Opposed by many of the attendees, Frederick Douglass, the only African-American present, argued so convincingly for its inclusion that the suffrage resolution was adopted. The convention adjourned to meet again in Rochester two weeks later.

Attracting widespread attention, this culmination of all the women's previous work launched the organized women's rights movement and led to other local conventions followed by yearly national women's rights conventions beginning in 1850.



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