



**CHARLES LANGSTON**

**1817 - 1892**



# CHARLES LANGSTON

One of the earliest advocates for African American male suffrage, Langston successfully petitioned Governor Samuel J. Crawford to include both African Americans and women on the 1867 Kansas suffrage referendum. Despite Langston's efforts, the referendum ultimately failed. Langston—an educator, journalist, and superintendent for the Freedmen's Bureau—had first gained national attention as an abolitionist. His grandson, the poet Langston Hughes, became a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance.

*Photo courtesy Prints and Photographs Division,  
Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-73349*



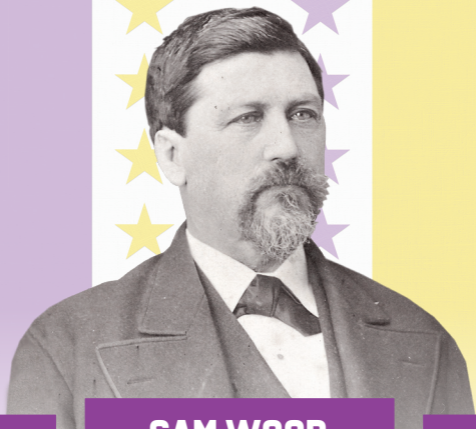
**CLARINA NICHOLS**

**JANUARY 25, 1810 -  
JANUARY 11, 1885**



# CLARINA NICHOLS

Kansas' first advocate for full women's suffrage, Nichols argued that the female vote would tip the scales for the abolition of slavery. She also heavily lobbied delegates to the state's constitutional convention, helping secure liberal property rights for Kansas women, equal guardianship of their own children, and the right to vote on all school questions. Nichols' activism eventually drew the attention of national suffrage leaders to Kansas.



**SAM WOOD**

**DECEMBER 30, 1825 -  
JUNE 23, 1891**



# SAM WOOD

As a Kansas state senator, and despite the political risk, Wood introduced the first women's suffrage resolution in the nation. Originally coming to the territory in 1854 to support abolition, Wood soon became a champion for women's suffrage as well. He later served as an officer of the Kansas Impartial Suffrage Association. Never one to shy from a controversy, Wood was assassinated during the violent Stevens County seat war.



**LUCY STONE**

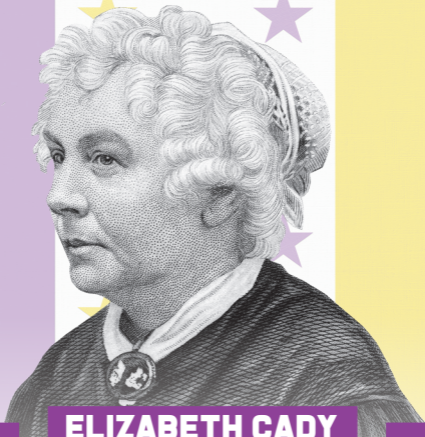
**AUGUST 13, 1818 -  
OCTOBER 18, 1893**



# LUCY STONE

In 1867 Stone and her husband Henry Blackwell became the first national suffrage leaders to campaign in Kansas. The couple formed the American Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. They also edited the *Woman's Journal*, founded as the official periodical of the association and published until 1931. Stone showed her commitment to women's equality by keeping her maiden name after marriage, a decision almost unheard of at the time.





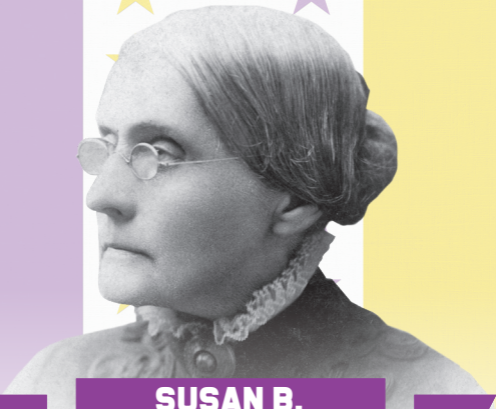
**ELIZABETH CADY  
STANTON**

**NOVEMBER 12, 1815 –  
OCTOBER 26, 1902**



# ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

Social activist, abolitionist, and suffragist, Stanton presented her Declaration of Sentiments at the first organized women's rights convention, held at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. In it she proclaimed the then radical idea that men and women were created equal. Stanton campaigned in Kansas in 1867, describing the state as "the young and beautiful hero of the West." She and lifelong friend Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869.



**SUSAN B.  
ANTHONY**

**FEBRUARY 15, 1820-  
MARCH 13, 1906**



# SUSAN B. ANTHONY

As part of her extensive campaigns across the country in support of women's suffrage, Anthony made several visits to Kansas. Her brother, abolitionist Daniel R. Anthony, published a newspaper in Leavenworth. In 1869 she co-founded the National Woman Suffrage Association. Anthony trained younger activists, who she called her "nieces." Two of them, Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw, later served as presidents of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.



**ANNA C. WAIT**

**MARCH 26, 1837 -  
MAY 11, 1916**



## ANNA C. WAIT

In 1879, eight years after moving to Kansas, Wait started a suffrage column in her husband's newspaper, the *Lincoln Beacon*. She also co-founded the Lincoln Auxiliary of the National Woman Suffrage Association, one of the few Kansas groups actively working for women's suffrage between 1867 and 1884. Wait helped form the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association in 1884. In 1887 she was instrumental in the Kansas legislature granting women the right to vote in city elections.



**MARSHALL  
MURDOCK**

**OCTOBER 10, 1837 -  
JANUARY 2, 1908**



# MARSHALL MURDOCK

Not everyone believed woman's suffrage was a good thing. Murdock, founder of the *Wichita Eagle* newspaper, wrote regular editorials against suffrage. He claimed that “good” women—housekeepers, mothers, and wives—did not want to vote, so only “bad” women would vote. Besides, they did not need to vote, as men would protect women's interests at the polls. Murdock was not alone in his opinions about suffrage and women's proper position.





**LAURA JOHNS**

**DECEMBER 18, 1849 -  
JULY 22, 1935**



# LAURA JOHNS

Shortly after moving to Salina, Johns and her husband worked with the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association to secure the municipal suffrage bill of 1887. At the state convention that same year, Johns proposed the yellow ribbon as the badge of suffrage, in honor of Kansas' sunflower. The National Association later adopted the symbol, recognizing Kansas as the most progressive state for women. Johns also campaigned actively for the 1894 Kansas women's suffrage amendment.



**ANNIE DIGGS**

**FEBRUARY 22, 1853 -  
SEPTEMBER 7, 1916**



# ANNIE DIGGS

Diggs traveled to almost every state in the union lecturing on Populism, prohibition, and woman's suffrage. She began her career in Lawrence as a journalist and worked closely with Laura Johns during the failed 1894 women's suffrage amendment campaign. Frequently attacking mainstream Protestant theology, particularly its male leadership, Diggs had a reputation as a "free thinker." She also served as Kansas state librarian from 1898 to 1902.



**NAOMI ANDERSON**

**MARCH 1, 1843 -  
JUNE 9, 1899**



# NAOMI ANDERSON

In 1888 the Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union hired Anderson—an African American suffragist, civil rights activist, and temperance leader in Wichita—to speak to African American women about prohibition. Later she worked for the National American Woman Suffrage Association as an organizer and campaigner in Kansas among African Americans. Even though black and white women were both fighting for the same cause, their efforts remained largely segregated.

*Photo courtesy New York Public Library*



**CARRIE  
CHAPMAN CATT**

**JANUARY 9, 1859 -  
MARCH 9, 1947**



# CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

As president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association when the 19th Amendment passed on August 26, 1920, Catt and her “Winning Plan” were credited with its success. The plan called for work at the state level to encourage senators and representatives to support the suffrage amendment, thus building support at the local and national level simultaneously. Catt then founded the League of Women Voters, which encouraged women to use their hard-won right.

*Photo courtesy Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-109793*





**MARY ELIZABETH  
LEASE**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 1850 -  
OCTOBER 29, 1933**



# MARY ELIZABETH LEASE

One of the more radical voices for suffrage, Lease took a leading role in Wichita's civic and social activities after moving there with her family. By 1890 Lease's involvement in the growing revolt of farmers against the banks and railroads had placed her in the forefront of the Populist party. A powerful speaker, publisher William Allen White declared, "she could recite the multiplication table and set a crowd hooting and harraging at her will."



**ANNA HOWARD  
SHAW**

**FEBRUARY 14, 1847 -  
JULY 2, 1919**



# ANNA HOWARD SHAW

After joining the National Woman Suffrage Association at the encouragement of Susan B. Anthony, Shaw played a key role in its merger with the often-competing American Woman Suffrage Association. The resulting National American Woman Suffrage Association finally provided a unified voice to the cause. Shaw, a Methodist minister and physician, later served as president of the new organization. She lived to see Congress pass the 19th Amendment but died before it was ratified.

*Photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of University Women's Club, Inc.*



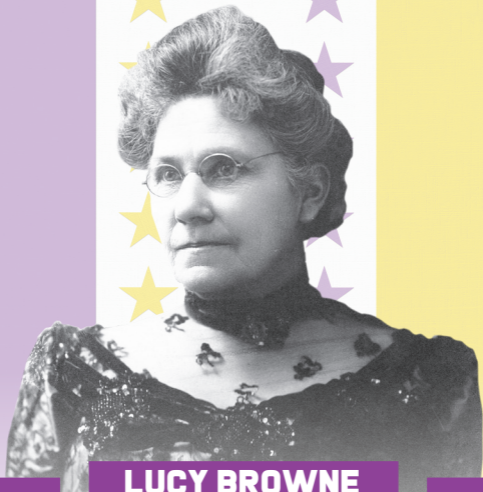
**LILLA  
DAY MONROE**

**NOVEMBER 11, 1858 -  
MARCH 9, 1929**



# LILLA DAY MONROE

Journalist, lawyer, historian, and one of the most prominent suffragists of the early 1900s, Monroe served as president of the Kansas State Suffrage Association. She returned from the 1907 national convention upset that, in her opinion, the national leaders were ignoring the western states. Monroe urged Kansas to withdraw from the national association. From 1908 through 1912 she also heavily lobbied legislators to pass the amendment for full women's suffrage.



**LUCY BROWNE  
JOHNSTON**

**APRIL 7, 1846 -  
JANUARY 23, 1937**



**LUCY**

# **BROWNE JOHNSTON**

On November 5, 1912, Kansas voters ratified the Woman's Suffrage Amendment to the Kansas Constitution, thanks largely to the efforts, organization, and direction of Johnston. She and her husband, Chief Justice William Agnew Johnston, served as leaders in the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association and the Men's Equal Suffrage League of Kansas respectively. She organized the state into districts through which she distributed literature and encouraged speakers to seek out audiences.