

Suffragists of New York State

Name	Who were they?	How did they work to help the women's movement?
Susan B. Anthony		
Mary Burnett Talbert		
Matilda Joselyn Gage		

**Susan B. Anthony (February 15, 1820, Adams, MA—March 13, 1906, Rochester NY)**  
*Abolitionist, Education Reformer, Labor Activist, Suffragist, Women’s Rights Campaigner*

Susan B. Anthony was born into a family that valued education, justice and equality. By the age of 17, Anthony was an abolitionist. In 1845, her family moved to Rochester, N.Y. After that, Anthony became a teacher. She saw that men were being paid more than women and began calling for equal pay. Susan B. Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1851. Together they published a suffragist newspaper, *The Revolution*. In the 1870s, Anthony traveled across the country speaking out in favor of giving women the right to vote. She was arrested for voting in the 1872 election in her hometown of Rochester, N.Y. She was found guilty, but she used the publicity from the trial to continue to spread her message. Anthony did not live to see women in the United States get the right to vote, but her work was not forgotten. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution is also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment because of her role in the women’s suffrage movement.

**Mary Burnett Talbot (September 17, 1866, Oberlin, OH—October 15, 1923, Buffalo, NY)**  
*Orator, Activist, Suffragist, Reformer*

Mary Burnett Talbot was one of the most famous African Americans of her time. She was the only African American woman in her graduating class at Oberlin College, at a time when a college education was uncommon for white women and even rarer for black women. In 1891, Talbot married and moved to Buffalo, N.Y. In Buffalo, she became a leader in both the anti-racism and women’s movements. In 1915, she spoke at a convention on voting rights for African American women in Washington D.C. and went on national and international tours to promote equality and human rights. Talbert was a founder of the Niagara Movement of 1905, the first national civil rights group for African Americans. The Niagara Movement later became the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or the NAACP, an organization that is still active today.

**Matilda Joslyn Gage (March 25, 1826, Cicero, NY—March 18, 1898, Chicago, IL)**  
*Suffragist, Native American Rights Activist, Abolitionist, Freethinker*

Matilda Joslyn Gage grew up in an abolitionist family, and her childhood home was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Gage later became a suffragist and women’s rights activist. Part of her inspiration came from the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people. In Haudenosaunee culture, women were respected as leaders and decision-makers. Gage became a leader of the women’s suffrage movement and worked closely with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Gage did speak out in public, but she was more comfortable expressing herself in writing. Gage was a founder of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association and co-wrote the *History of Women’s Suffrage*. In 1880, Gage helped women gain the right to vote in school board elections in New York. On Election Day, she sat at the polls to make sure no woman was turned away. She is buried in Fayetteville, and her tombstone reads “There is a word sweeter than Mother, Home or Heaven; that word is Liberty.”