

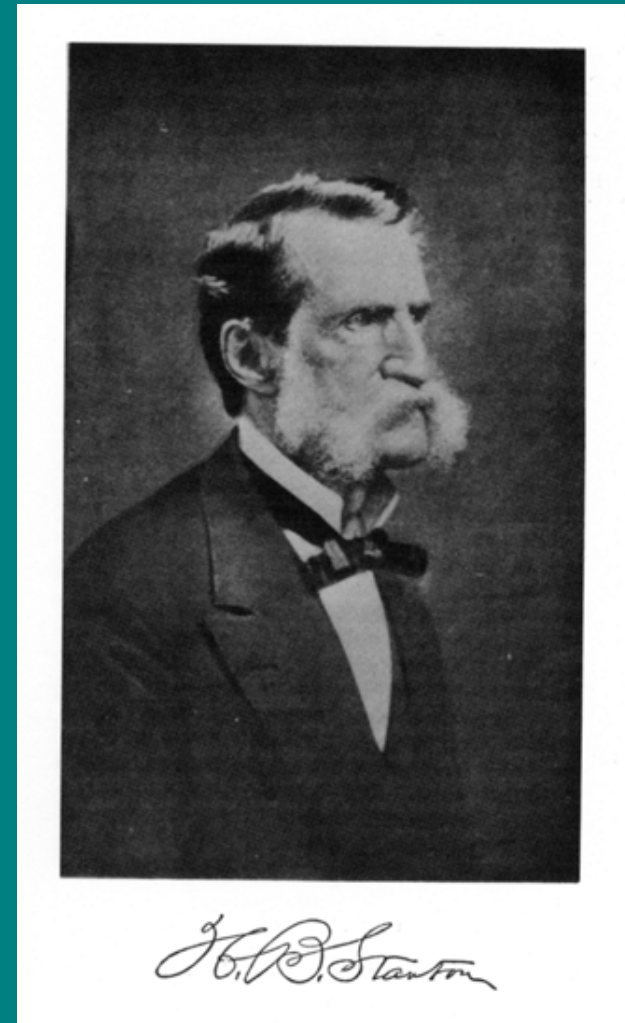
Elizabeth Cady Stanton



- Born in 1815 in Johnstown, New York
- Father was a prominent attorney, congressman, and judge
- Excellent education at Johnstown Academy

Marriage

- Married Henry Brewster Stanton in 1840
- Refused to have word “obey” in ceremony
- Refused to be known as Mrs. Henry Stanton



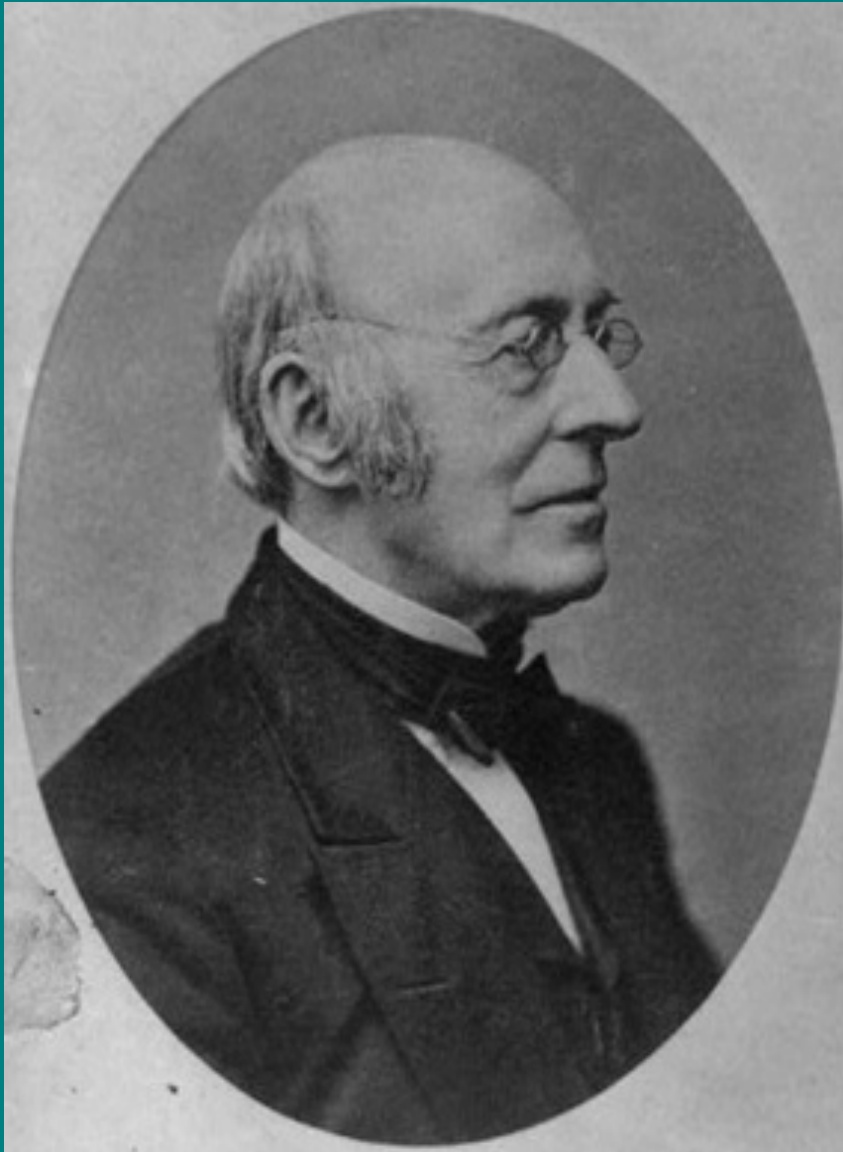


- They had 7 children
- Stanton was an active abolitionist
- Active as well in the Temperance Movement

1840 Anti-Slavery Convention



- Met Lucretia Mott
- Women forced to sit in roped-off area behind a curtain



- William Lloyd Garrison, famous abolitionist
- Refused his seat, sat with women instead

Seneca Falls Convention, 1848



- Stanton helped organize convention
- Drafted “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions” adopted there



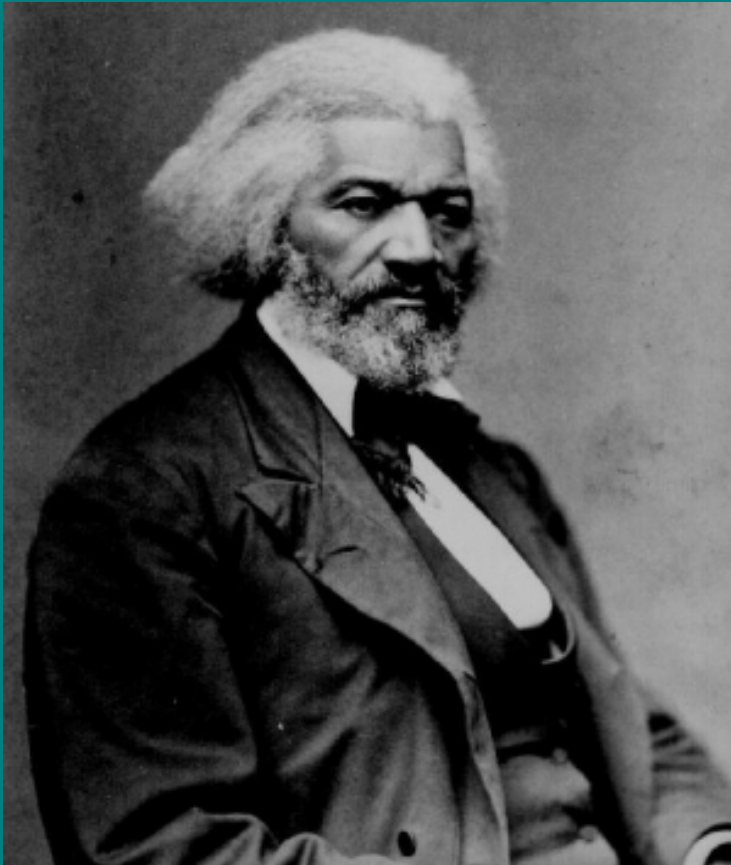
- Met lifelong friend and collaborator, Susan B. Anthony in 1851

Collaboration with Stanton



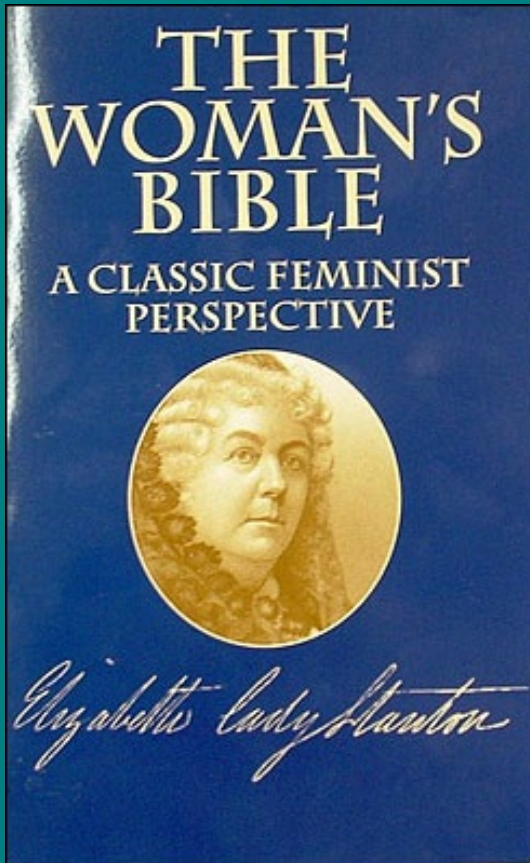
- Anthony single, thus better able to travel and give speeches
- Stanton often drafted these speeches

15th Amendment

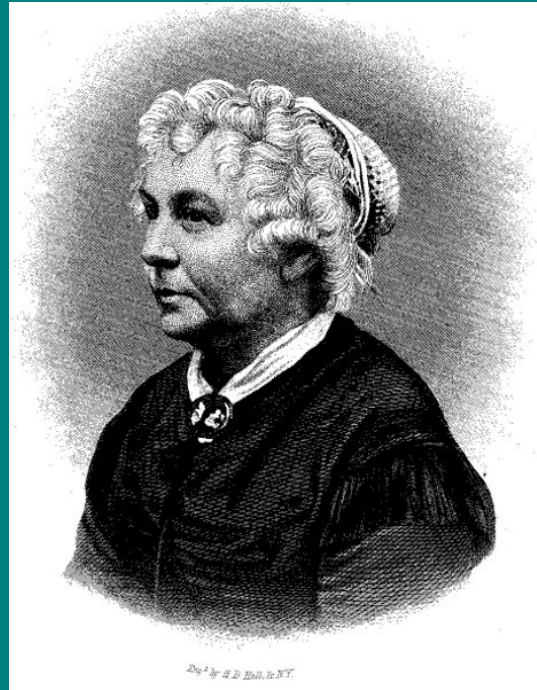


- Granted suffrage to African American men
- Both Stanton and Anthony argued against 15th Amendment w/o adding women
- Split with Douglass

Woman's Bible



- Stanton, in later life, criticized sexism in Christianity. Wrote a feminist version of the Bible (further antagonized conservative, Christian members of the AWSA)
- Continued to champion broader rights, including interracial marriage



Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Died 1902
(Before ever seeing passage of
19th Amendment)

“Civil Death” and Feme Covert Laws

- 18th C English law writer Sir William Blackstone (echoing earlier legal commentators described a married woman as “feme covert” (covered woman)
- These laws applied both in England and America
- “By marriage, the very being or legal existence of a woman is suspended, or at least it is incorporated or consolidated into that of her husband, under whose wing, protection, and cover she performs everything, and she is therefore called in our law a feme covert”



Status of married women:

- Could not own property (even what she herself brought to the marriage or inherited after the marriage)
- Husband could will his estate away from her
- Husband controlled any earnings his wife made
- Husband had sole rights in children's guardianship if the couple were separated for any reason, including moral turpitude
- Until past the middle of the 19th C, divorce was practically unobtainable (only by extraordinary decree of parliament or legislature)
- Could neither sue nor be sued

Public vs. Private Sphere

- Middle-class “domestic ideology” held that women who stayed home were in many ways morally superior to husbands.
- Protected from competition and scrambling for profit of the world of commerce and the professions
- Women could wield a positive ethical influence over husband and children
- Emphasized differences between the sexes

<i>MEN</i>	<i>WOMEN</i>
<i>Public</i>	<i>Private</i>
<i>politics</i>	<i>family</i>
<i>business</i>	<i>home</i>
<i>education</i>	<i>values</i>
<i>knowledge</i>	<i>morality</i>
<i>fact</i>	<i>religion</i>
<i>science</i>	

Belief in Sex Differences



- Women supposed to be more spiritual, more virtuous, less intellectual, and less sexual than men
- Supposed to have strong maternal instincts and no professional ambitions
- Supposed to be physically frail and delicate

Medical Beliefs



- 19th C medical science believed that the female brain and womb were intricately connected
- Overdevelopment of the thinking organ would result in the shriveling of the reproductive one

Fashion

- Elaborate corsets emphasized hour-glass figures and accentuated differences between men and women
- Often resulted in faintness and shortness of breath
- Sometimes even caused permanent damage to ribs and internal organs (led to difficulty in child-bearing)

