

Appendix II: The Trial of Susan B. Anthony

Events

1868 – Congress passed the 14th Amendment. 1870 – they passed the 15th.

On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony cast her vote in Rochester, New York

June 17-18, 1873 – Trial of Susan B. Anthony (SBA)

Documents in support of the Defense

Susan B. Anthony, "[Is it a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?](#)"

Susan B. Anthony's [speech before the circuit court](#), pp. 45-47

Her [letters and diaries](#) about the voting

[Defense argument](#) (legal issues)

[The case for the defense](#) (comes after the case for the prosecution)

[The defense's resistance to the guilty plea that the court tried to give the jury](#)

[Defense motion for a retrial](#) (you can incorporate this into your arguments)

[Susan B. Anthony's statement after her sentencing](#) (you can probably use this in part)

Documents for the Prosecution

[Opening speech](#)

[The case for the prosecution](#)

[Court's instruction to the jury that it return a guilty plea](#) (you can pretend that you are making this argument, not the court)

Minor v Happersett (1874) - Supreme Court decision holding that the 14th Amendment does not give the right to vote to women. (This happened after SBA's trial, but you may be able to use some of the arguments in your prosecution.)

Some [cartoons](#) that may help you make your case against female suffrage (n.d.)-

Discussion relating to Susan Ware's chapter on the trial

1. Anthony's claim to be supporting "national law over state law" (17). Think about how that tension between national and state laws is still with us in Covid Times.
2. Anthony used the 14th Amendment as her excuse to register to vote in 1872 (18). What exactly did the 14th Amendment say?
3. Anthony had been contemplating such a move (to try to register to vote) for years. How does US law rely on such "test" cases to advance?
4. What was the 15th amendment (1870)? Why didn't it apply to women? The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted African American men the right to vote by declaring that the "right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Other materials

[Public Audiences for a Federal Trial](#) - A Primary Sources Activity

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21H.983J / 21H. 109J / WGS.310J / WGS.303J "Gender: Historical Perspectives"
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