

## ROADS FROM SENECA FALLS PRESS RELEASE

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The State University of New York at Oswego and Syracuse University's School of Information Studies announce the release of a new website, Roads from Seneca Falls ([www.roadsfromsenecafalls.net](http://www.roadsfromsenecafalls.net)), funded by the Department of Education, designed to make web-based materials related to women's history and leadership easily accessible for K-12 students and teachers.

July 19 marks the 159<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation's first woman's rights convention, held at Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. Manuel Mendoza, teacher in Whittier, California, has found a way to make this event come alive for his computer-literate students at Whittier Union High School. They click on a new web-based project, Roads from Seneca Falls ([www.roadsfromsenecafalls.net](http://www.roadsfromsenecafalls.net)), where they find links to more than 2000 sites for some of the best material on the web related to women's history and leadership for K-12 students and teachers. Women's history is "a whole other world within U.S. history," reports Mendoza. This site will open that world. Whether you want to take a field trip to a women's history historic site, research a local Congresswoman, or find information on Native American women, begin your search here.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the State University of Oswego and Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, Roads from Seneca Falls catalogs sites by subject, grade level, and type of material. "We hope this transforms the way that students think about women's history and leadership," noted Judith Wellman, historian at the State University of New York at Oswego, the project's principal investigator. "Women make up 51 percent of the U.S. population. At the college level, women's history has been a major field of study for more than thirty years. Now K-12 students, too, can access some of this exciting material, even if their local textbooks have not quite caught up with what we know about women and men in the past."

Students can learn about Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the first woman's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. At Seneca Falls, one hundred people (68 women and 32 men) signed at Declaration of Sentiments, patterned after the Declaration of Independence, asserting that "all men are created equal." They were determined to work for equality for women and men in the law, work, the family, education, religion, and personal relationships. And, they declared, they would work for the right of women to vote. Seventy-two years later, after a national movement led by Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage, Lucy Stone, and many others, Congress and the American people officially ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote, on August 26, 1919.

Roads from Seneca Falls expands on all the themes identified at the Seneca Falls convention, and more. Here you can learn about Sara Winnemucca (first Native American woman to write a book in English), Jeannette Rankin (Montana suffragist and first woman elected to Congress), Lotta Crabtree (who entertained 19<sup>th</sup> century miners in California), women who served in the Vietnam war, Zora Neale Hurston (Florida African American novelist, anthropologist, and "genius of the South"), the Pioneer Woman Monument at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas; and thousands of other American women, famous and not-so-famous. Special features include links to more than 1000 women's historic sites across the country, as well as links to museums, archives, and libraries relating to women's history, and sites highlighting biographies of women.

Need specific help with your home work? Register with "Ask Mrs. Stanton" to receive a personal response to individual questions.

At Seneca Falls in 1848, one hundred people (68 women and 32 men) signed at Declaration of Sentiments, patterned after the Declaration of Independence, asserting that "all men are created equal." Most of these were from Seneca Falls (at least thirty-six), Waterloo (at least twenty-three), or the immediate surrounding towns. Five of them came from Rochester (Amy Post, Sarah Hallowell, Mary Hallowell, Catherine Fish Stebbins, and Frederick Douglass). Six more came from the area around Farmington and Macedon (Maria E. Wilbur, Caroline and William Barker, Susan and Elias Doty, and Eliab W. Capron). The only signer who lived to see the Nineteenth Amendment passed was Charlotte Woodward Pierce, who had been a teenager at the time of the Seneca Falls convention. She was ill on election day, however, so she did not go to the

polls. The only woman who signed the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and actually lived to vote was Rhoda Palmer of Geneva, New York, who voted in 1918, when she was 102 years old, after New York State granted women the right to vote two years before the U.S. passed the Nineteenth Amendment.

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