

A MESSAGE FROM TIOGA COUNTY HISTORIAN,

EMMA SEDORE

Emma has been the Tioga County Historian for 19 years and has a particular interest in the stories of women who shaped the history of Tioga County, NY. She has given many talks on this subject and has helped lead the Tioga County Women's Suffrage Committee when we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in New York State in 2017 and this year when we are celebrating the ratification of the 19th Amendment at the Federal level.

You may wonder, “What’s the big deal about women voting?” However, it really wasn’t so long ago that it was a big deal.

Here in NYS alone, it took 69 years for women to win their right to go to the polls. The vote was passed at the state level on November 6, 1917.

The 19th Amendment is also known as the Anthony Amendment, named for Susan B. Anthony. It was drafted by her and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and first introduced in the Senate in January 1878, but failed. Forty-one years later, in May of 1919, the House of representatives passed the amendment and in June of 1919, the Senate passed it and sent it on to the states for ratification. Thirty-six states had to ratify it for it to become a law. The thirty-sixth state was Tennessee, which passed by only one vote on August 18, 1920. It was formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920.

Ladies, it is important that you never forget to appreciate your freedom to vote and for the long, hard struggle by the women who led the way when they held their first Women’s Rights Convention at Seneca Falls way back in 1848.