COULD YOUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER VOTE?

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, SALEM, 1850

Betsy Mix Cowles, to the right, was the President of the 1850 Salem convention. From the Salem proceedings: "...women should be secured, not only the right of suffrage, but all the political and legal rights that are guaranteed to men."

WERE BLACK WOMEN INVOLVED IN SUFFRAGE? 1851

There are questions about the accuracy of Sojourner Truth's famous "Ain't I a Woman" speeches. One version was published in the Salem newspaper, the Anti-Slavery Bugle.

SUFFRAGETTES IN JAIL, 1872

In 1872, Susan B. Anthony was arrested and fined $100 for casting a vote in an election in New York. She refused to pay the fine: "I shall never pay a dollar of your unjust penalty" ("November 5th, 1872," National Geographic).

OHIO WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION, 1885

By 1885, the OWSA organized. This group was unique in that "Unlike many organizations of women in the late nineteenth century, the OWSA did not discriminate and encouraged African American women to participate in its efforts." (Ohio Women's Suffrage Association, Ohio History Central).

WOMEN GET THE VOTE, AUGUST 1920

By August, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment became law, ensuring "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 sex." Questions remain about how this law helped women in different racial and class groups.