



Thompson Suffrage100



Six Months of Suffrage



INTRO

The Thompson Suffrage100 Committee is proud to present this program of events, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to shine a spotlight on the importance of voting and to increase voter registration. We believe that the commemoration of the work of the Suffragists is more than a historical curiosity. Taking note of this centennial of the expansion of voting rights, we hope to illustrate that the struggle for full representation in American democracy is ongoing, and is in fact fundamental to the preservation of our radical experiment in self-governance. Each of these events and performances is intended to demonstrate the relevance of our shared history, in a manner that is accessible to all residents of Thompson.

PARALLEL CHALLENGES – PARALLEL HOPES

“The past is never dead. It isn’t even past” – William Faulkner

During the height of the Women’s Suffrage movement in America, in the early years of the 20th Century, the entire world was reeling from a deadly influenza pandemic. Communities enacted quarantines to slow the spread of the virus, and as the weeks and months passed, those isolated from their friends and families found themselves lonely and anxious, faced with the uncertainty of when, if ever, life would return to “normal”.

Here in the early years of the 21st Century, we find ourselves haunted by the echoes of the past with the emergence of a new global pandemic. Now, as then, we are confined to our homes, waiting for a sustained period of decline in infection rates, wondering what the world will be like on the other side of this latest medical crisis.

If there are parallel challenges between these two eras, there are also parallel hopes. The Women’s Suffrage movement did emerge from the 1918 pandemic, and did progress to victory in the bid for full representation. Here in our time, we will soon be faced with the opportunity to shape our world to reflect how we want our future to unfold. 1918 and 2020 were and are presidential election years, the time when we as citizens make our wishes known at the ballot box. We hope the spirit of the Sister Suffragists will inspire you to let your voice be heard, despite the obstacles ahead.

Please note: as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, adjustments may be made to any of the events scheduled in this program.

Please see <https://www.thompsonct.org/suffrage100> for updates on any events you may wish to attend.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND SPONSORS



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NEW ENGLAND

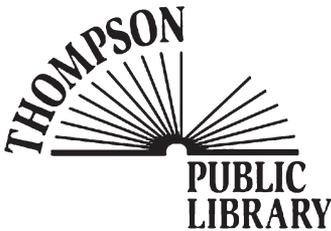
Defining the past. Shaping the future.



Thompson Historical Society



THE THOMPSON
LIONS CLUB



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LIST OF EVENTS



May 20th - 6:30 p.m.

“Votes for Women” Sash Making

Hosted by: Thompson Recreation and Thompson Public Library,
Participate from home via Zoom

June 14th - 4:00 p.m.

Prudence Crandall’s Legacy by Don Williams

Participate from home via Zoom

July 17th - 6:30 p.m.

Tyra Penn and the Snakes of Amazonia

Riverside Park

August 22nd - 1:30 p.m.

No More Pink Teas

Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169, Woodstock.

September 17th - 6:00 p.m.

The Proper Ladies

Ryscavage Auditorium,
Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Riverside Drive

October 3rd - 12:00 p.m.

**TMHS National Anthem Singers
and Modern Ensemble Band**

Perform at Thompson Community Day

October 8th - 6:00 p.m.

TMHS National Anthem Singers

Opens for Sheryl Faye
Ryscavage Auditorium,
Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Riverside Drive

October 8th - 6:30 p.m.

Susan B. Anthony played by Sheryl Faye

Ryscavage Auditorium,
Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Riverside Drive

“Votes for Women” Sash Making Workshop and Fashion Presentation

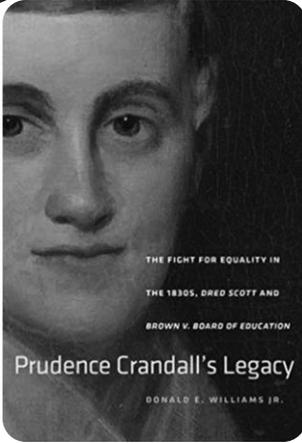


May 20th - 6:30 p.m. • Sash Making

Hosted by: Thompson Recreation and Thompson Public Library,
Participate from home via Zoom.

FREE take-home sash making kit with instructions for you to make your own “Votes for Women” sash. Create your own sashes in the style of 19th Century Suffragists while hearing about the role fashion played in the suffrage movement. Thompson Recreation, Thompson Public Library, and Historic New England host this first of nine events, at no charge to the public, on May 20th at 6:30 p.m. Marissa Dufault, Historic New England events coordinator and freelance theatrical costumer, will present a live Zoom talk on the role fashion played in the suffrage movement. Early suffragists, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, believed that fashion was holding women back. Their efforts led to many changes in acceptable women’s fashion, including the introduction of “bloomers” (so named for the woman that popularized them, Amelia Bloomer). Later suffragists believed it was important that they continue to dress in traditionally feminine clothing, to dispel the idea that they were “too masculine”, and to make being suffragists seem as something “fashionable”. This led to the white outfits that came to be known as the uniform of the suffrage movement. The sash itself was a major symbol of the movement and the idea of maintaining one’s femininity as a suffragist. The colors all had meaning (purple for loyalty, gold to represent the work of suffragists like Stanton, who adopted the color of the Kansas state flower, sunflowers, as their color, and white for purity), and wearing the sash made one immediately identifiable as a suffragist.

***Register for the Zoom Sash-Making Presentation @thompsonrec.org.
Upon registering you will be emailed the Zoom link.***



Prudence Crandall's Legacy

by Donald E. Williams

June 14 - 4:00pm

“Prudence Crandall’s Legacy”

Participate from home via Zoom

Don Williams, author and presenter

A discussion of Connecticut’s state heroine, and her role in the anti-slavery and American civil rights movements. Crandall opened a school for young women in Canterbury, in 1831. It was an immediate success. After her first full year, a young black woman, Sarah Harris, asked if she could enroll at the school. Crandall’s decision to integrate her school resulted in racist action by the state legislature, protests, and vandalism. Crandall was arrested, and the first full-throated civil rights court case in American history took place in northeastern Connecticut.

Learn about Crandall’s life and journey, the allies who supported her and worked for equality and change throughout their lives, and her legacy. Crandall’s court case influenced two pivotal U.S. Supreme Court cases—one paved the way for the Civil War, and the other helped end segregation in public schools.

About the presenter: Donald Williams researched Prudence Crandall for eight years and wrote the book, *Prudence Crandall’s Legacy—The Fight For Equality In The 1830s, Dred Scott, and Brown v. Board of Education*, published by Wesleyan University in 2014. An attorney and former journalist, Williams served as President of the Connecticut State Senate, Thompson First Selectman, and is currently the Executive Director of the Connecticut Education Association. Don and his family reside in Brooklyn, Connecticut.

Register for the Zoom Presentation @thompsonrec.org.

Upon registering you will be emailed the Zoom link.



Tyra Penn and the Snakes of Amazonia present The United Snakes of America

**July 17 - 6:30 p.m.
“The United Snakes of America”**

Tyra Penn and the Snakes of Amazonia, perform at Riverside Park

As a musical commemoration of the centennial of women’s suffrage in America, vocalist Tyra Penn brings her band, The Army of Snakes, to Thompson in a special all-female lineup, The Snakes of Amazonia! To honor those brave Victorian ladies who marched shoulder to shoulder into the fray, the Snakes will present a patriotic program of song, from their own particular perspective. We shall review the founding documents, and share the greatest American folk songs. Follow our heroines on their trip across the sea to reach these golden shores, and as they travel that ribbon of highway, all the way to a possible dystopian agrarian future. They will meet many mysterious strangers, from a lady in a harbor, to a man with a hammer, until at last they find their way home. Songs by Bob Dylan, the Gershwins, Woody Guthrie and, of course, Tom Waits.

Tyra Penn - vocals; Molly Flannery - keyboards; Melanie Howell Brooks - sax; Nicole Sutka - bass; Miki Matsuki - drums





August 22 - 1:30 p.m. • “No More Pink Teas”

at Roseland Cottage, Woodstock, CT

A partnership between Historic New England and
the Thompson Suffragists 2020, Joanie DiMartino, presenter

Celebrate the hundredth anniversary of a woman’s right to vote. It is right and proper to do so with an afternoon tea! Joanie DiMartino of the Prudence Crandall Museum joins the tea party to explain why women wanted no more “pink teas” and to highlight Connecticut women’s roles in the suffrage movement, including some who lived in Roseland Cottage. Enjoy two kinds of tea (one of them pink), scones, cookies, fresh fruit, and finger sandwiches. After tea, take a tour of the cottage, with emphasis on the women who lived and worked there.

Advance registration required. Please call 860-928-4074 for more information. Thompson residents please call to receive a discounted rate.



The Proper Ladies



September 17 - 6:00 p.m. • The Proper Ladies

at Ryscavage Auditorium, 785 Riverside Drive, Thompson.

Thompson Historical Society museum rooms at TMHS will be open to tour as well. Rooms open at 6 and close at 8 p.m.

The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

Anabel Graetz and Deborah Goss, performers

The nineteenth century saw incredible changes in society and technology. Women were in the vanguard of some of the most important social movements of the day. They worked tirelessly to change one of the greatest injustices of the era, the lack of universal suffrage. Relive some of the joy, anger, humor and righteous indignation experienced by Victorian women with *The Proper Ladies*. Hear and join in on the songs that women sang as they led the major social struggles of the period, as they grew up and coped with the restrictions they faced. In gorgeous Victorian dress, *The Ladies* capture the nineteenth century in a-cappella song. Women who led the fights for universal suffrage come to life through period music and their own words. The songs for Women's Suffrage include "Vote it Right Along" and "Another Star." Enjoy songs written by women, such as "I'm Afloat" and the rousing "Room Enough For All." Sing to the familiar favorites, "Grandfather's Clock" and "Daisy Bell." Sigh to the rare gems! *The Ladies* read from diaries, reminiscences, speeches and journals of the prominent and the obscure including the Smith sisters of Glastonbury, CT., who became suffragists in their eighties; May Arkwright Hutton, the first woman elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and many others. *The Proper Ladies* invite you to experience the Passion & Pathos, Humor & Nostalgia of American songs of 100, and more, years ago.





Susan B. Anthony Brought to Life by Sheryl Faye

October 8 - 6:30 p.m.

**“Susan B. Anthony – Failure Is Impossible”
at Ryscavage Auditorium**

Sheryl Faye, actor & historical interpreter

Location: Ryscavage Auditorium, 785 Riverside Drive, Thompson.

Thompson Historical Society museum rooms at TMHS
will be open to tour as well. Rooms open at 6 and close at 8 p.m.

The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

Sheryl Faye presents the story of Susan B. Anthony in her one-woman performance “Failure is Impossible.” In this multi-media program, she will start as an adult and take you back to her childhood and then back to an adult again. Ms. Anthony was an American social reformer and women’s rights activist who played a pivotal role in the women’s suffrage movement. She worked on many state campaigns and worked internationally as well. In this program you will get a sense of her struggles and her persistence. She did not see women get the vote in her lifetime; however, she knew it would come. Her 45- minute performance is followed by an in-character question and answer period with the audience. This performance will take place in Thompson’s historic Ryscavage Auditorium, a venue contemporaneous with the time period of the early suffragists. The auditorium is located in the original Tourtellotte Memorial High School building, a public educational institution funded by the Tourtellotte family in 1905, as a direct result of Mrs. Harriet Tourtellotte’s shock at learning that young girls of the town were engaged in millwork, rather than attending school. Audience members will also have the opportunity to visit the museum rooms that share the site, and learn more of the history of Thompson in that period from volunteers with Thompson Historical Society. Sheryl is a graduate of Emerson College with a BFA in Acting. In addition to her work with her own production company, Sheryl Faye Presents Historical Women, she regularly works in the very successful and long running “Clue - Live” in the Boston area. She also performs and writes with Stagecoach Improv. Sheryl has been portraying historical women for the past 17 years, and currently portrays 9 different ladies from history. This show, “Failure is Impossible” is her newest show.



2020 PERFORMANCES

The TMHS National Anthem Singers and
Modern Music Ensemble
will be performing for two Suffrage100 events.
Stay tuned for the details.

OCTOBER 3RD
12:00 P.M.
TMHS NATIONAL
ANTHEM SINGERS
AND MODERN
ENSEMBLE BAND
PERFORMS AT THOMPSON
COMMUNITY DAY

OCTOBER 8TH
6:00 P.M.
TMHS NATIONAL
ANTHEM SINGERS
OPENS FOR SHERYL FAYE
RYSCAVAGE AUDITORIUM





Sarah Amelia Munyan



One of the more public figures involved in the women's suffrage movement was Sarah Amelia Munyan, the Thompson Public Librarian. Sarah was born September 10, 1857 in Thompson, the daughter of Harriet A. (Wakefield) and James Munroe Munyan. Her siblings were Fred, Oscar and Clara Munyan.

Sarah was a member of the Thompson Book Club which originated November 16, 1882. "Miss Munyan replaced Miss Knight on the original 1882 committee."

On March 1902, she and the other members of the Book Club Library Standing Committee signed a statement "willingly" to "make over

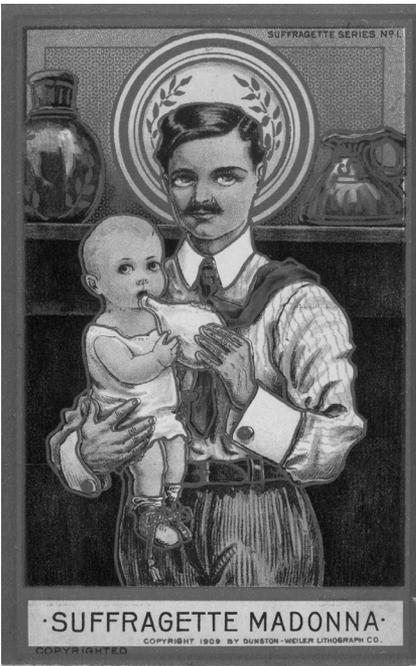
the Book Club Library to the Thompson Library." Thus was born the Thompson Library on Thompson Hill.

With the formation of the Library, Sarah became the assistant librarian to Harriet Lewis. Sarah stayed in this position for sixteen (16) years at which time she was appointed head librarian. In 1940, she broke her hip and was no longer able to serve as the librarian. Sarah died in Pomfret, CT at The Haven on March 1, 1944; she is buried in the East Putnam (Munyan) Cemetery.

Sarah's name is found on page 25 of the 1884 Connecticut Women Suffrage Association Membership book along with other recognized Thompson family names such as Cortiss, Cunningham, Tourtellotte and Elliott, to name a few.



Suffragette MADONNA

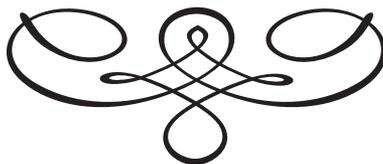


"In 1909, at the height of the woman suffrage controversy and during the golden age of postcards, the Dunston-Weiler Lithograph Company of New York produced a twelve-card set of full-color lithographic cartoon postcards opposing woman suffrage. The postcard images reflect, and depart from, verbal arguments concerning woman suffrage prevalent during this period. They reflect arguments against suffrage that highlighted the coarsening effect the

vote would have on women. The postcards also present an argument that was absent in the verbal discourse surrounding suffrage: that men (and the nation) would become feminized by woman suffrage."

Journal, Quarterly Journal of Speech

Volume 91, 2005 - Issue 4



ERLUNIA JANE (TOURTELLOTTE) ROSS

Erlunia Jane (Tourtellotte) Ross was born October 20, 1863, in East Thompson. After graduating from Thompson schools, she became a teacher and held teaching certificates from Thompson, CT, Dudley, MA, and Burrillville, RI. She married Fernando Ross and had four children. She and Fernando owned and managed a lumber mill, one of the largest in N.E. Connecticut and Rhode Island. Erlunia managed the accounting side of the business.



Fernando was elected to the Connecticut State Legislature for one term. Erlunia herself had an interest in politics, but women were prohibited from voting and holding political office at the time. The women's suffrage movement had fought for years for the right to vote and participate in political office. By 1917, legislation was passed allowing women to serve on school boards. Two Thompson women, Erlunia J. Ross and Grace T.B. Noyes, ran for school committee and were elected to office in the town of Thompson during the October 1, 1917, election, the first in Thompson history.

REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATIC	BLANK COLUMN
X FOR THREE YEARS 174 CHARLES Y. JOHNSON	FOR THREE YEARS 108 FRANK J. BARRHILL	FOR THREE YEARS
X TO FILL VACANCY FOR TWO YEARS CHARLES J. JOHNSON 21	TO FILL VACANCY FOR TWO YEARS FRANK J. BARRHILL 98	TO FILL VACANCY FOR TWO YEARS
X BOARD OF RELIEF GEORGE S. WELLS 102	BOARD OF RELIEF 10 WILLIAM W. WHELAN	BOARD OF RELIEF
X SELECTMEN LEON S. WALKER 117	JOHN WELLES 107	SELECTMEN
X CLERK A. HASTON 115	MARCH A. ELLIOTT 122	
X TOWN CLERK HYER S. BLAGOT 143	TOWN CLERK NO NOMINATION	TOWN CLERK
X TOWN TREASURER HYER S. BLAGOT 140	TOWN TREASURER NO NOMINATION	TOWN TREASURER
X AUDITOR OTA S. EWARD 142	AUDITOR AMBER BELLEIGH 84	AUDITOR
X GRAND JUROR GEORGE S. WELLS 148	GRAND JUROR AMBER BELLEIGH 59	GRAND JUROR
X AMBROSIO VIELANO 144	X H. J. KERRY 51	
X TIMOTHY J. DAVIES 120	X FRANK BATES 82	
X COLLECTOR OF TAXES E. HERBERT ORTWO 139	COLLECTOR OF TAXES E. HERBERT ORTWO 139	COLLECTOR OF TAXES
X CONSTABLES WILLIAM S. DAVIES 163	X SPHI ORTWO 142	CONSTABLES
X VERT ORTWO 138	X CLARENCE W. STEVENS 29	
X ANDREW BOSKES 162	X BYRON W. TAPP 127	
X SHERIFF COOPERATORS 122	X WILLIAM B. FLESHMAN 24	
X REGISTRAR OF VOTES FRED J. BOHN 112	X CLARENCE W. STEVENS 29	REGISTRAR OF VOTES
X TOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE HYER S. BLAGOT 134	TOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE WESLAND M. DONOHUE 111	TOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
X SUPERVISOR A. ALDRICH 163	X ERLUNIA J. ROSS 112	
X WILFRED C. MILBY 141	X ASA M. BOSS 101	
X WILLIAM C. CLARK 135	X WILLIAM S. WHELAN 10	
X GRACE T. B. NOYES 147	NO NOMINATION	

10-1-1917
K. Blaine 19

After 1920 and the passage of the 19th amendment, Erlunia continued in politics and was once nominated by the Democratic Party to run for state representative. A small woman with strong convictions, her surviving letters illustrate her humor, wit, intelligence, and compassion; all excellent attributes that helped her succeed in a pioneering role in politics. Erlunia died February 2, 1939, and was buried in the East Thompson Cemetery, next to her husband Fernando.

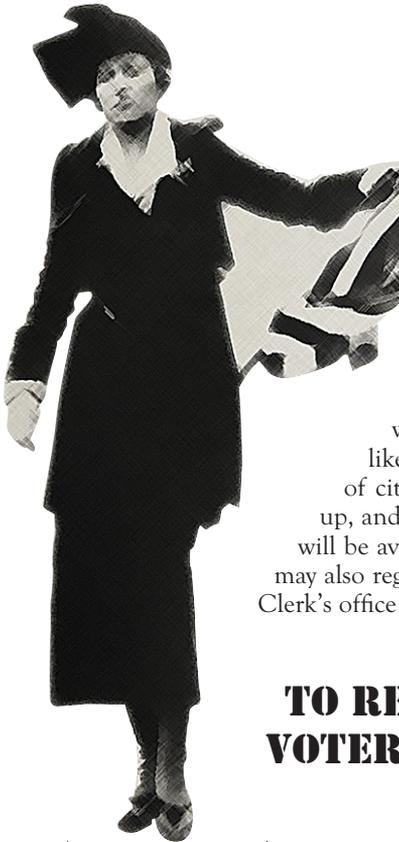


This election form has a handwritten note at the bottom "October 1 1917-The first ladies holding town office," Erlunia Ross and Grace Noyes. Erlunia's son, Seth Ross, was a local historian and knew that his mother's election was a significant step for women's rights. Courtesy of Burton Rhodes.

This page comes from an "Echoes of Old Thompson II" copyright 2006 by The Thompson Historical Society, Inc. Joseph Iamartino, Editor.



REGISTER TO VOTE!



The women's suffrage movement was a decades-long fight to win the right to vote for women in the United States. It took activists and reformers nearly 100 years to win that right, and the campaign was not easy: disagreements over strategy threatened to cripple the movement more than once. But on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified, enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. We encourage first time voters to sign up, and make their voices heard! Voter registration cards will be available at all Six Months of Suffrage events. You may also register in person in the Registrar's Office or Town Clerk's office in Town Hall.

**TO REGISTER ON LINE GO TO
VOTERREGISTRATION.CT.GOV.**





THOMPSON SUFFRAGE100 COMMITTEE

Renee Waldron, Committee Chair, Town Clerk, Town of Thompson

Alison Boutaugh, Director, Thompson Public Library

Marissa Dufault, Historic New England, Events Coordinator
and Freelance Theatrical Costumer

Ginny Flood, Thompson Historical Society

Beth Goldsmith, President, Thompson Together

Erica Groh, Educator, Committee Volunteer

Sara Laughlin, Vice-President, Thompson Together

Charlene Langlois, Thompson Business Association, Community Volunteer

Lucille Langlois, Committee Volunteer

Virginia Livernoche, VFW Post10089, Women's Auxiliary President

Laurie Masciandaro, Site Manager, Roseland Cottage/Historic New England

Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Community Volunteer

Lesley Munshower, Director of Recreation, Town of Thompson

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Grant Preparer, Director of Planning & Development,
Town of Thompson

Ida Ransom, Thompson Historical Society, D.A.R.

Sue Vincent, Thompson Historical Society

Board of Selectmen:

Amy St. Onge, Susanne Witkowski, Ken Beausoleil

Thompson Public Schools:

Kathleen Herbert, Board of Education, Chairperson
Melinda Smith, Superintendent of Schools.

