

Susan B. Anthony Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78011049>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms997009>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 1998
Revised 2021 December

Collection Summary

Title: Susan B. Anthony Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1846-1934

Bulk Dates: 1846-1906

ID No.: MSS11049

Creator: Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906

Extent: 500 items

Extent: 7 containers

Extent: 3 linear feet

Extent: 7 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78011049>

Summary: Reformer and suffragist. Correspondence, diaries, daybook, speeches, scrapbooks, and miscellaneous papers relating primarily to Anthony's writings, lectures, and other efforts on behalf of women's suffrage and women's rights. Includes material pertaining to the National Woman Suffrage Association, after 1890 the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and to the New York State Woman Suffrage Association.

Online Content: The papers of Susan B. Anthony are available on the Library of Congress website at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000065>.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Anthony, Mary S. Mary S. Anthony papers.

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906.

Avery, Rachel Foster, 1858-1919.

Bloomer, Amelia Jenks, 1818-1894.

Brown, Olympia, 1835-1926.

Johnson, Adelaide, 1859-1955.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.

Mott, Lucretia, 1793-1880.

Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884.

Pillsbury, Parker, 1809-1898.

Shaw, Anna Howard, 1847-1919.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, 1815-1902.

Stone, Lucy, 1818-1893.

Organizations

American Anti-Slavery Society.

National American Woman Suffrage Association.

National Woman Suffrage Association (U.S.)

New York State Woman Suffrage Association.

Subjects

African Americans--Suffrage.

Antislavery movements.

Slavery.

Social problems.

Temperance.

Women's rights.

Women--Education.

Women--Suffrage.

Titles

Susan B. Anthony Papers at the Library of Congress
Susan Brownell Anthony papers

Occupations

Reformers.
Suffragists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Susan B. Anthony, reformer and suffragist, were given to the Library of Congress by Lucy E. Anthony, Ann Anthony Bacon, and others from 1940 to 1987. Additions to the collection include items received by the Library through purchases in 1990 and 2020.

Processing History

The papers of Susan B. Anthony were arranged and described by Frank Tusa in 1971 and reprocessed, described, and prepared for microfilming by Mary M. Wolfskill in 1978. Nan Ernst processed and described the 1997 Addition. A letter received in 2020 was incorporated into the collection as the 2021 Addition by Pang H. Xiong.

Transfers

A photograph has been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as a part of these papers.

The Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division has custody of Susan B. Anthony's personal library. Among the more than 250 volumes are thirty-four scrapbooks compiled by Anthony, some of which were transferred from the Manuscript Division together with related printed matter and newspaper clippings. The scrapbooks are available on seven reels of microfilm for purchase or loan through the Microform Reading Room.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Susan B. Anthony is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.)

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Susan B. Anthony are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on seven reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.*

Online Content

The papers of Susan B. Anthony are available on the Library of Congress website at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000065>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Susan B. Anthony Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1820, Feb. 15 | Born near Adams, Mass. |
| 1837-1838 | Student, Friends seminary near Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1839 | Teacher, Eunice Kenyon's Friends Seminary, New Rochelle, N.Y. |
| 1846 | Headmistress, Female Department, Canajoharie Academy, Rochester, N.Y. |
| 1848 | Joined the Daughters of Temperance in Canajoharie, N.Y.; by Mar. 1849 had become Presiding Sister of the Montgomery Union, No. 29, of the Daughters of Temperance in Canajoharie, a position she also held after moving to Rochester, N.Y., and joining that city's union in mid-1849 |
| 1849 | Managed family farm |
| 1851 | Met Elizabeth Cady Stanton |
| 1852 | Formed the Woman's New York State Temperance Society |
| 1853 | Helped organize the "Whole World's Temperance Convention" Helped a group of Rochester, N.Y., seamstresses draft a code of fair wages for working women in the city |
| 1854 | Organized and participated in a canvass to obtain signatures on petitions demanding woman suffrage and improvement of the Married Woman's Property Law in New York |
| 1856 | Principal New York agent, American Anti-Slavery Society |
| 1866 | Corresponding secretary, American Equal Rights Association |
| 1868-1870 | Published the Revolution, a weekly periodical edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others |
| 1869 | Organized a woman's suffrage convention, Washington, D.C. Formed, with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the National Woman Suffrage Association |
| 1872 | Voted illegally for president |
| 1876 | Presented a "Woman's Declaration of 1876" with two colleagues at the Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1881-1902 | Financed and coedited first four volumes of History of Woman Suffrage (New York, Fowler & Wells, 1881-[1922] 6 vols.) |
| 1888 | Founded the International Council of Women |
| 1890 | Settled in Rochester, N.Y. Vice president at large, National American Woman Suffrage Association |
| 1892-1900 | President, National American Woman Suffrage Association |
| 1892 | Trustee, State Industrial School, Rochester, N.Y. |
| 1895-1896 | Campaigned in California to secure the vote for women |
| 1898 | Collaborated in the preparation of The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony (Indianapolis, Bowen-Merrill Co., 1898-1908. 3 vols.), by Ida H. Harper |
| 1900 | Helped open the University of Rochester, N.Y., to women |
| 1904 | Founded, with Carrie Chapman Catt, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance |
| 1906, Mar. 13 | Died, Rochester, N.Y. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) span the period from 1846 to 1934, although the bulk of the material dates from 1846 to 1906. The papers include [correspondence](#), a [daybook](#), [diaries](#), [scrapbooks](#), [speeches](#), and [additions](#).

A volume of [correspondence](#) is dated 1846-1905 and consists primarily of Anthony's letters to Rachel Foster Avery concerning the details of Anthony's extensive lecture circuit, her finances, the activities of the National Woman Suffrage Association, and her work on the multivolume History of Woman Suffrage which she coedited with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others. The file also includes several letters from Anthony to the Reverend Anna Howard Shaw and letters from Wendell Phillips. Although most letters concern suffrage, a few deal with personal and family matters.

A [daybook](#), 1856-1860, records the financial account Anthony kept of her work for the American Anti-Slavery Society, woman's rights, and personal expenditures for postage, room and board, travel, advertising, rent for lecture halls, and other items. Twenty-five volumes of [diaries](#) span the period from 1865 to 1906 with some gaps and omissions. For the most part, the diaries contain brief notations of Anthony's activities and a financial record kept in the back of each volume. Other topics noted in the diaries include family matters, African-American and woman suffrage, lecture tours, and important events of the day, such as Lincoln's assassination. Among her associates mentioned in the diaries are Amelia Jenks Bloomer, Lucretia Mott, Parker Pillsbury, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucy Stone.

Six [scrapbooks](#) assembled by her sister, Mary S. Anthony, contain clippings from newspapers published in all parts of the United States with a heavy concentration of those from New York state and Washington, D.C. Memorabilia for the period 1876-1934 is also included. The scrapbooks primarily document the activities of Susan B. and Mary S. Anthony in behalf of woman suffrage, especially the conventions of the National Woman Suffrage Association and the New York State Woman Suffrage Association. The scrapbooks also contain biographical articles on Anthony and her associates in the suffrage movement and articles on women in higher education and professional employment, particularly in law, medicine, and journalism.

Manuscripts of [speeches and other writings](#) complete the collection. Anthony's early focus was temperance and abolition as well as women's suffrage and education. The manuscripts date from her first public address in 1848 to 1895 when she was presented with part one of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's The Woman's Bible (New York, European Pub. Co., 1895-1898).

[Additions](#) include letters added to the collection in 1997 and 2021. Two letters were added to the collection in 1997. A photocopy of a letter dated 1883 from Anthony to Mary Kimball Rogers concerns a speech she thought had been lost in Omaha, Nebraska. A typed letter dated 1896 from Anthony to Adelaide Johnson concerns the charges of illegality that were raised when Johnson's marriage ceremony was performed by a woman. Anthony's lobbying effort to have statues placed in the United States Capitol of herself, Stanton, and Mott as the founders of the woman suffrage movement is also noted in her letter to Johnson. The 2021 Addition includes a letter from Anthony, written in 1876 on National Women Suffrage Association letterhead, to Reverend E. P. Powell concerning suffragist Olympia Brown and the "Woman's Declaration."

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1846-1905](#)
- [Daybook and Diaries, 1856-1906](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1876-1934](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1848-1895](#)
- [Additions, 1876-1896](#)

Description of Series

| Container | Series |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | <u>Correspondence, 1846-1905</u> Letters to and from Anthony. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 2-3 REEL 1-5 | <u>Daybook and Diaries, 1856-1906</u> One daybook and twenty-five diaries. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 4-6 REEL 5-6 | <u>Scrapbooks, 1876-1934</u> Six volumes and two folders of clippings and memorabilia. |
| BOX 7 REEL 6-7 | <u>Speeches and Writings, 1848-1895</u> Speeches by Anthony. Also includes The Woman's Bible, part one, by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 7 not filmed | <u>Additions, 1876-1896</u> Letters by Anthony. Arranged by year of addition and therein by format. |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Correspondence, 1846-1905 Letters to and from Anthony. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Bound volume Digital content available |
| BOX 2-3 REEL 1-5 | Daybook and Diaries, 1856-1906 One daybook and twenty-five diaries. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 2 REEL 1 | Daybook, 1856-1860 Digital content available |
| BOX 2 REEL 1 | Diaries 1865 Digital content available 1870 Digital content available 1871 Digital content available 1872 Digital content available |
| BOX 2 REEL 2 | 1873 Digital content available 1874 Digital content available 1876 Digital content available 1877 Digital content available 1878 Digital content available 1883 Digital content available 1888 Digital content available |
| BOX 2 REEL 3 | 1890 Digital content available |
| BOX 3 REEL 3 | 1892 Digital content available 1893 Digital content available |

Daybook and Diaries, 1856-1906

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|---|
| | 1894 Digital content available |
| | 1895 Digital content available |
| | 1896 Digital content available |
| BOX 3 REEL 4 | 1897 Digital content available |
| | 1898 Digital content available |
| | 1899 Digital content available |
| | 1900 Digital content available |
| | 1901 Digital content available |
| | 1903 Digital content available |
| BOX 3 REEL 5 | 1904 Digital content available |
| | 1906 Digital content available |
| BOX 4-6 REEL 5-6 | Scrapbooks, 1876-1934 Six volumes and two folders of clippings and memorabilia. |
| BOX 4 REEL 5 | 1876-1903 Digital content available |
| BOX 5 REEL 5 | 1892-1902 Digital content available |
| BOX 5 REEL 6 | 1902-1903 Digital content available |
| BOX 6 REEL 6 | 1905-1906 [Vol. 1] Digital content available [Vol. 2] Digital content available [Vol. 3] Digital content available |
| BOX 7 REEL 6 | Clippings, 1890-1934 Digital content available National American Woman Suffrage Association Convention programs, 1905-1906 Digital content available |
| BOX 7 REEL 6-7 | Speeches and Writings, 1848-1895 Speeches by Anthony. Also includes The Woman's Bible, part one, by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Arranged chronologically. |

Speeches and Writings, 1848-1895

Container

Contents

| | |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 7 REEL 6 | List of speeches Digital content available 1848, first public address Digital content available 1852, speech delivered at Batavia, N.Y., in company with Emily Clark (2 copies) Digital content available 1852, "The Church and the Liquor Traffic" Digital content available 1853 Apr. 17, "Maine Law" Digital content available |
| BOX 7 REEL 7 | June 27, "Expediency" Digital content available 1856, "Report on Educating the Sexes Together," written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and delivered by Anthony at the New York State Teachers Convention, Troy, N.Y. Digital content available 1858, speech, Union Agricultural Society, Yates County Fair, Dundee, N.Y. Digital content available undated 1859, "Make the Slave's Case Our Own" Digital content available 1861 "The No Union with Slave-holders Campaign" Digital content available "What Is American Slavery?" Digital content available "Judge Taney" Digital content available 1862, Speech during Wadsworth Campaign (emancipation) Digital content available 1877, "Homes of Single Women" Digital content available 1895, The Woman's Bible (part 1) by Elizabeth Cady Stanton Digital content available |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Additions, 1876-1896 Letters by Anthony. Arranged by year of addition and therein by format. |
| BOX 7 not filmed | 1997 Addition, letters, 1883, 1896 |
| BOX 7 not filmed | 2021 Addition, letter, 1876 |