

Chapter 18 An Era of Reform

Introduction

- Between 1820 and 1850 American reformers devoted themselves to ending slavery, promoting women's rights, and improving education
- Sojourner Truth was an effective reformer especially with her speech "And ain't I a woman".



Anthony



Douglass

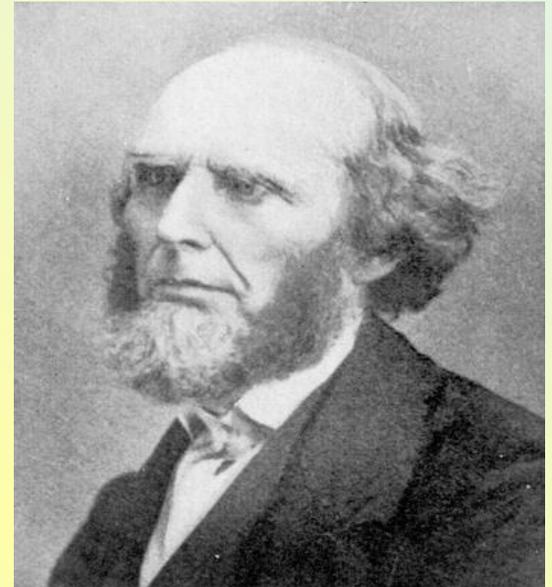
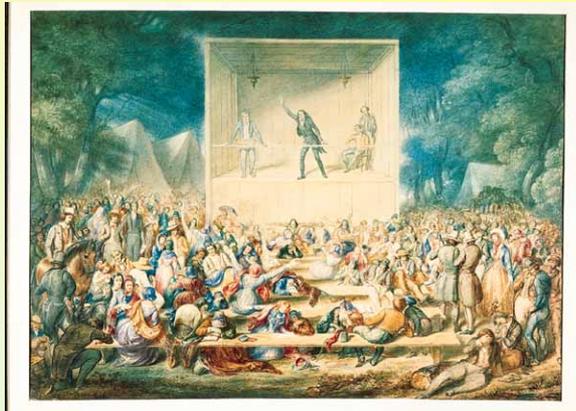


Ain't I a Woman



18.2 The Spirit of Reform

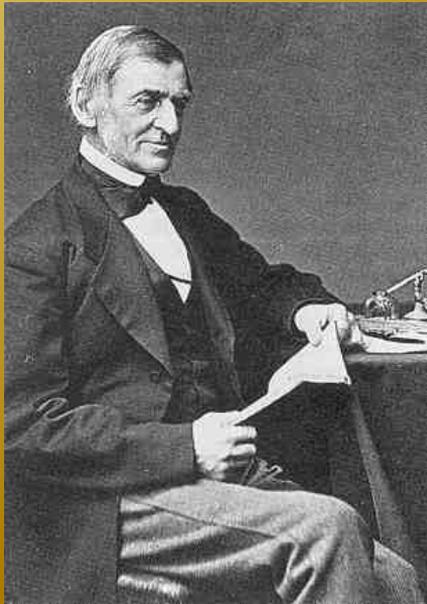
- New religious movements played a key role in inspiring Americans to remake society
- **The Second Great Awakening was a religious revival in the 1820s and 1830s**
- Leader of the movement was Charles G. Finney
- The revival fired people's emotions



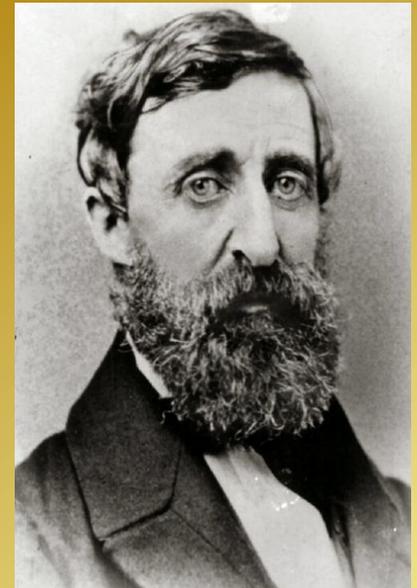
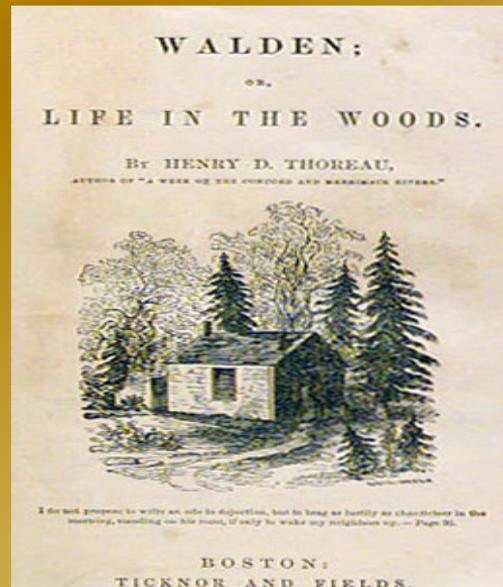
- Preachers told people that they could gain forgiveness and be saved by doing good works
- * **It gave men and women a reason to work for the improvement of society**

18.2 Optimistic Ideas

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson was a central figure in a movement called transcendentalism**
- Said people had to “transcend” or go beyond logical thinking and find answers to life’s mysteries by learning to trust their emotions and intuition (felt people were basically good and would do the right thing)
- **Urged people to question society’s rules and institutions**
- Henry David Thoreau (Emerson’s friend) spent 2 years in solitude to learn to be without rules of society

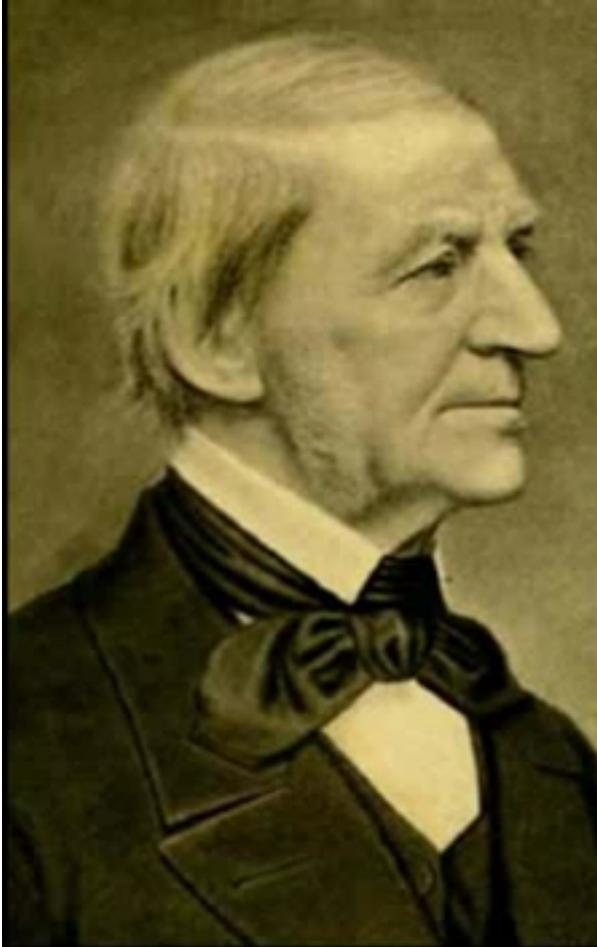


Ralph
Waldo
Emerson



Henry David Thoreau

Quotations from Emerson



Creative Quotations from Ralph Waldo Emerson

(1803-1882)

born on May 25

US philosopher, poet, essayist;
He was the main spokesman of
his age for moral optimism and
belief in the individual;

Self-Reliance, 1844.

Biography of Thoreau



18.2 Model Communities

- **Brook Farm was an experiment in creating a perfect community**
- Residents shared the labor of supporting themselves by farming, teaching, and making clothes
- **Most of these communities lasted only a few years**
- They did symbolize the belief that people of good will could create an ideal society



Brook Farm



Brook Farm String Quartet

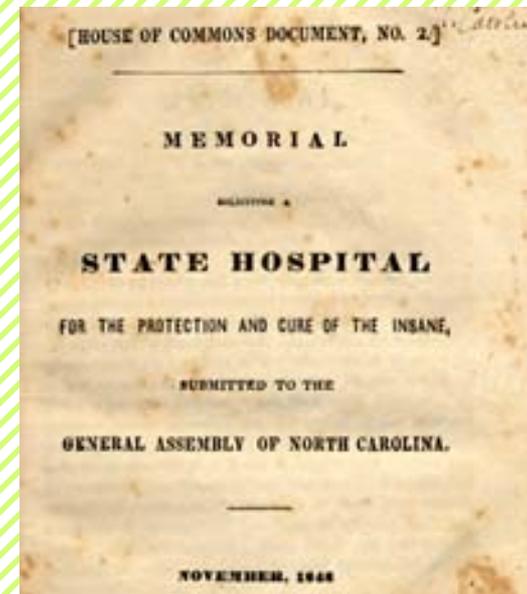
18.3 Reforming the Treatment of Prisoners and the Mentally Ill

- Dorothea Dix was instrumental in reforming conditions of prisoners
- Saw inmates bound in chains and locked in cages
- Children were jailed with adult criminals
- Dix visited jails, prisons, and hospitals to witness conditions



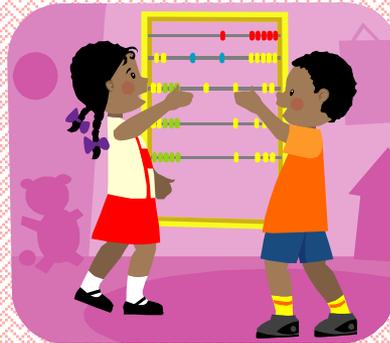
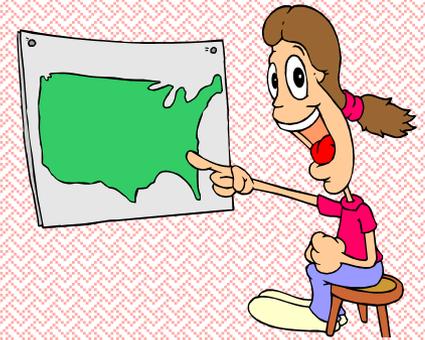
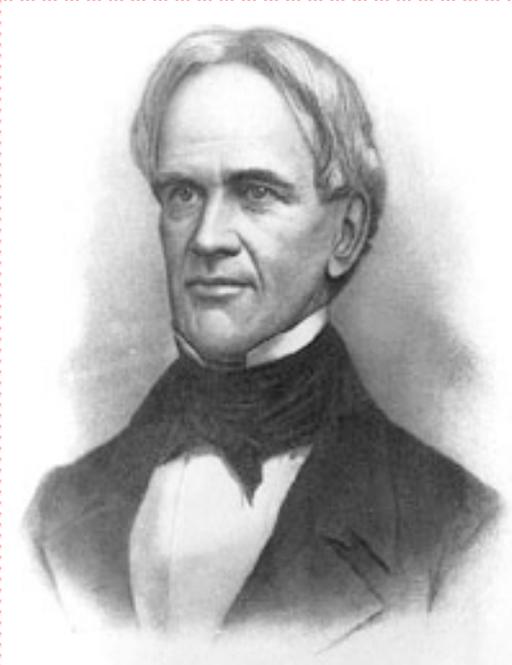
18.3 Plight of the Mentally Ill and Campaigning for Better Conditions

- Dix was shocked at the way mentally ill were treated
- **Believed that the mentally ill needed treatment and care, not punishment**
- **Dix prepared a report for the Massachusetts state legislature**
- Lawmakers voted to create public asylums
- Dix campaigned for the rest of her life
- **By 1887 debtors were no longer put in prison; special justice systems were created for children in trouble; and cruel punishment was outlawed**



18.4 Improving Education

- Next reform movement was to make education available to more children
- Led by Horace Mann “the father of American public schools”



18.4 Need for Public Schools



- Puritans established town schools
- A few areas had public schools
- Wealthy parents sent their children to private schools
- **Most children simply didn't go to school at all**
- Reformers believed education would help children in cities escape poverty and become good citizens
- **New York was first state to make public schools in every town**
- **Massachusetts voted to pay taxes to build better schools, pay teachers higher salaries, and establish training school for teachers**



18.4 An Unfinished Reform

- By 1850, most white children, ESPECIALLY BOYS, attended free public schools
- Most high schools and colleges didn't admit women
- Most blacks were kept out of public schools
- Blacks were made to go to separate schools that received less to no money
- Horace Mann encouraged students to become involved in improving society:
“Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity”



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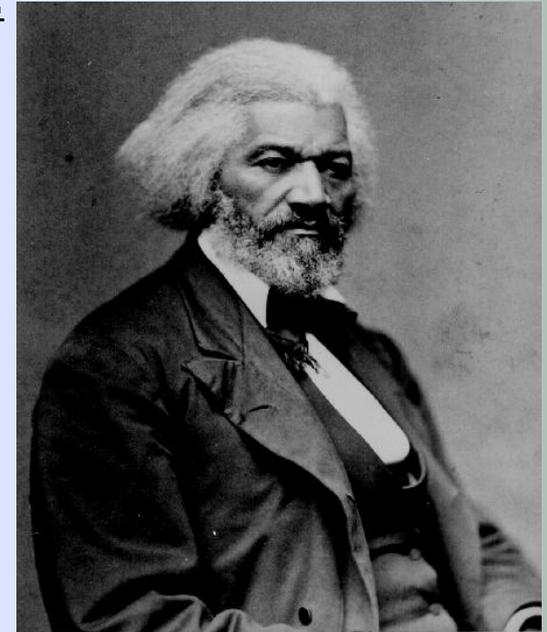
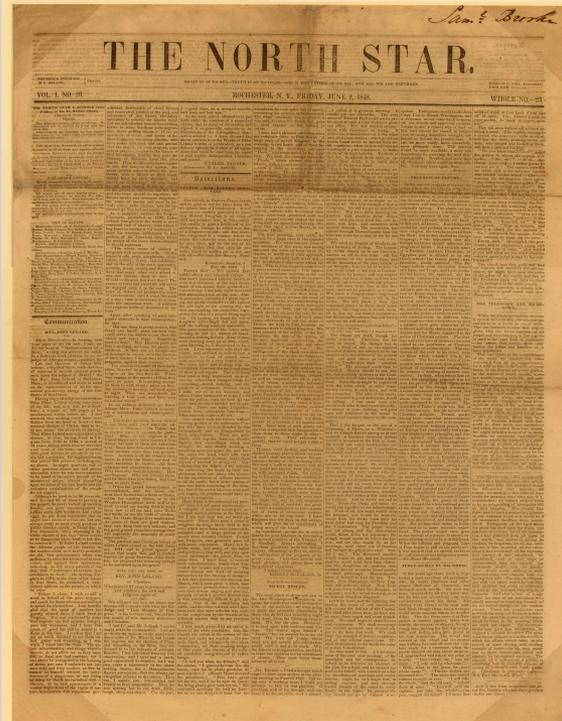
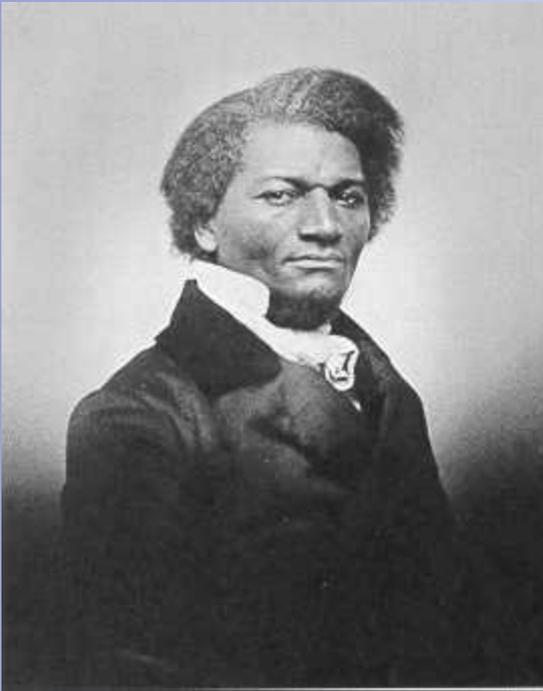
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18.5 Fighting Slavery

- If America was the land of the free, how could it allow slavery?
- **People who wanted to end slavery were called abolitionist**
- By 1792, majority of states had anti-slavery societies
- Slave trade ended in 1808
- Northern shipping communities didn't have any more interest in slaves but liked the cheap cotton that the south provided using slave labor
- **Disagreement on how to end slavery:**
 - a. radicals: inspire slaves to rise up in revolt**
 - b. pacifists: find a peaceful solution immediately**
 - c. moderates: give slaveholders time to develop new farming methods that didn't need slaves**
- **In 1831, William Lloyd Garrison started an abolitionist newspaper the *Liberator***
- **Said "I will be as harsh as truth"**

18.5 Frederick Douglass Speaks Out

- Douglass became a leader in the abolitionists movement
- Started a newspaper the *North Star*
- Newspaper's motto was "Right is of no sex – truth is of no color – God is the father of us all, and we are all Brethren."



Biography of Douglass

bio.

James Earl Jones reads Frederick Douglass



18.5 Women Get Involved

- Angela and Sarah Grimke spoke out about the poverty and pain of slavery
- They led the way for other women to speak in public



Angelina Grimke

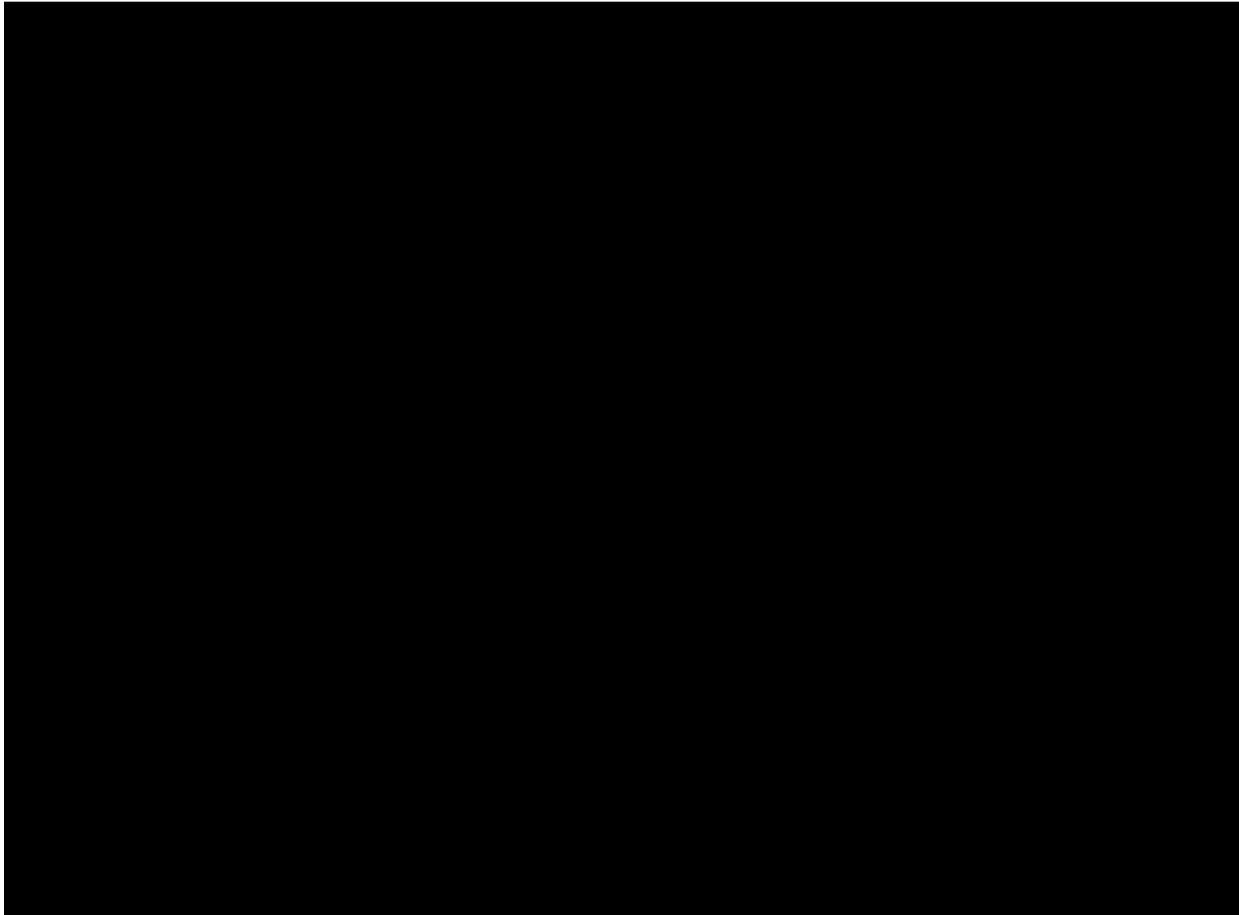


Abolitionist meeting

Sarah Grimke



Grimke Sisters

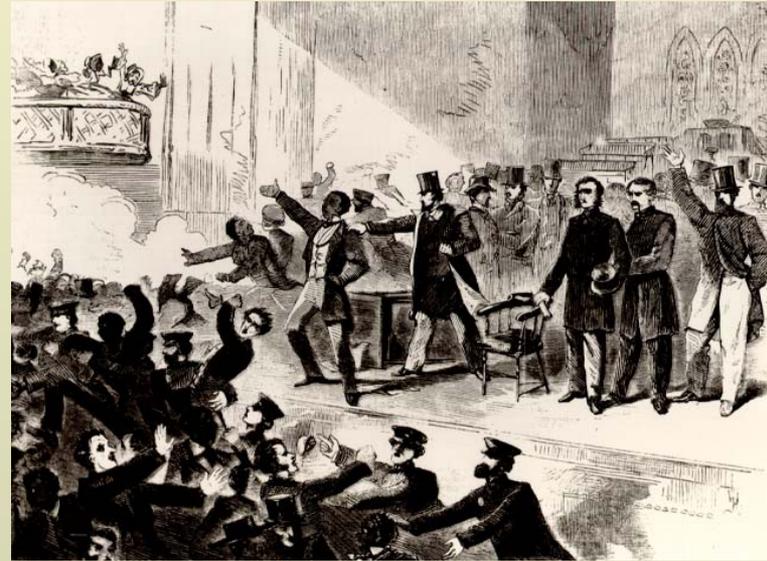


18.5 Women Get Involved

- Sojourner Truth, a former slave, was an abolitionist
- She argued that God would end slavery peacefully
- Abolitionists were a minority and there was violence directed toward them
- The violence helped change northerner's attitude toward slavery
- **Women's anti-slavery fight started the next reform movement for women's rights**

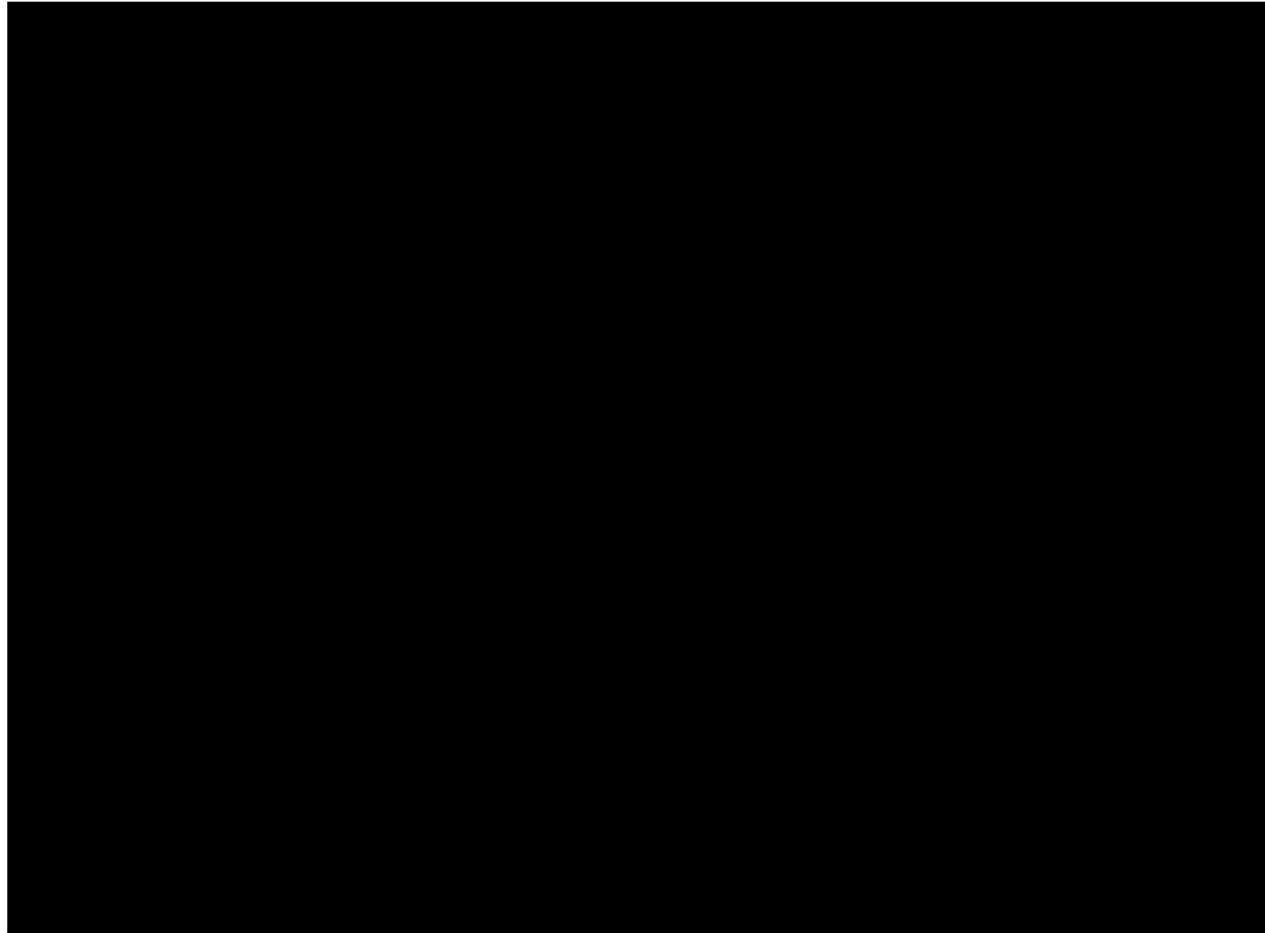


**Sojourner
Truth**



**Abolitionist meeting turned
violent**

Sojourner Truth



18.6 Equal Rights for Women

- Women abolitionists tried to convince lawmakers to make slavery illegal but they couldn't vote or hold office
- Women's money and property were controlled by fathers and husbands
- Husbands could discipline wives whenever they wanted
- Struggle for women's rights began with Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Lucretia Mott



Elizabeth Cady
Stanton

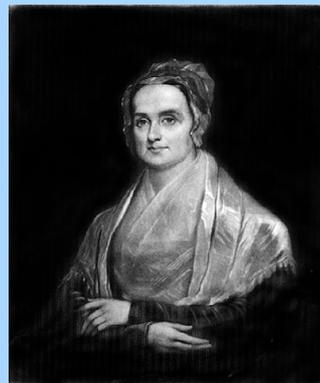
18.7 The Seneca Falls Convention and the Declaration of Sentiments

- Lucretia Mott announced a women's convention in Seneca Falls, New York
- The convention started on July 19, 1848
- Abolitionists, Quakers, local housewives, farmers, and factory workers attended
- Wrote up a proposal called the Declaration of Sentiments based on the Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal”

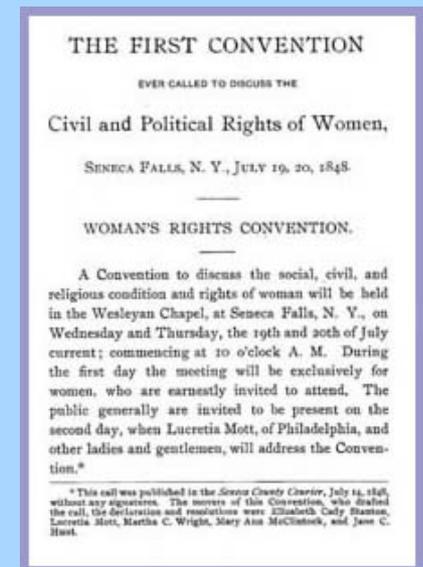


Cady and
Stanton

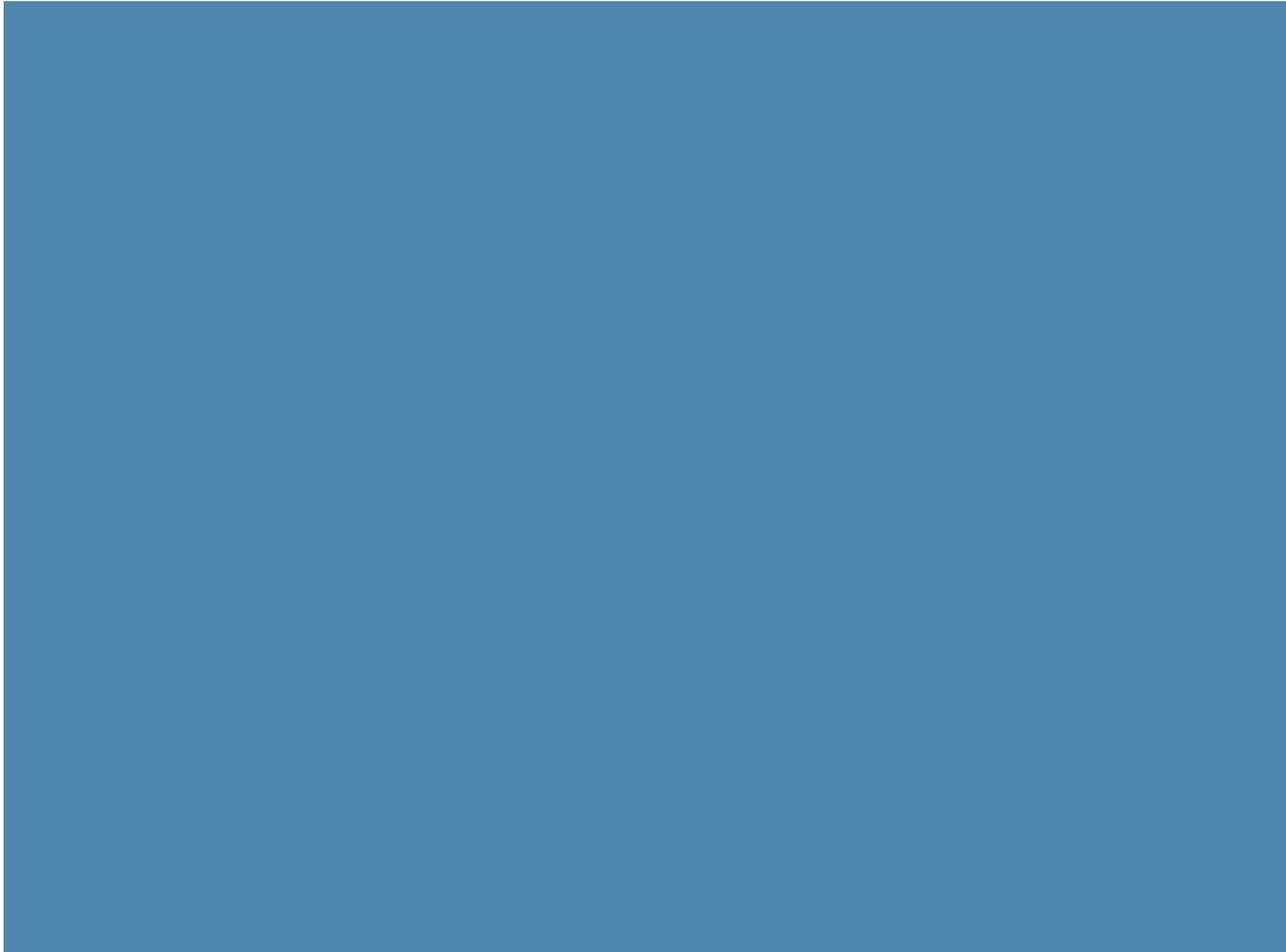


Lucretia
Mott

Declaration of
Sentiments



Women's Suffrage



18.7 Legacy of Seneca Falls

- Convention voted to approve the idea that women should have the right to vote
- The Convention helped to create an organized campaign for women's rights
- Susan B. Anthony traveled from town to town speaking for women's rights
- Reformers for women's rights made progress
- New York gave women control over their property and wages
- Some states passed more liberal divorce laws
- Blackwell started her own hospital to train female doctors

