Women's Suffrage in Utah

Lesson Support for Material available on The Quill Project





Essential Question

What is suffrage and why is it important to democracy?

Should junior highs/middle schools and high schools use the block schedule?

Vote



Vocabulary

- Suffrage-The right to vote in political elections.
- Enfranchised-The privilege or right to vote.
- Petition-A formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority with respect to a particular case.
- Constitutional Convention-A gathering of delegates who share the purpose
- of creating a Constitution.
- Polygamy-The practice or custom of having more than one wife or
 - husband at the same time.



History of Suffrage in Utah

Right to Vote in Utah Territory:

Women had the right to vote In Utah Territory from 1870-1887

First to Vote:

Though Wyoming was the first territory to grant women's suffrage in 1969, Utah was the first territory to hold an election which women were allowed to vote.





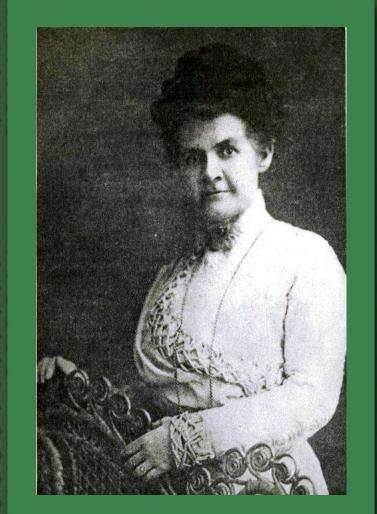
Edmunds Tucker Anti-Polygamy Act

In the territory of Utah, women had the right to vote until 1887 when the Edmund Tucker Act was passed. This act was meant to end polygamy within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but also took away women's right to vote within the territory. This right was later restored when it was included in the Utah State Constitution which says,

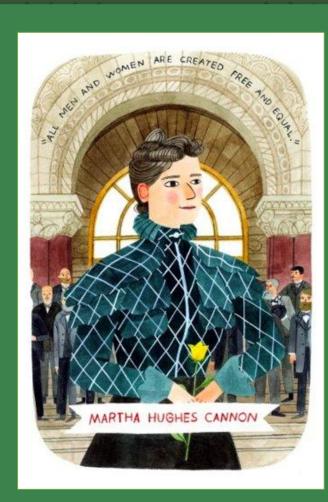
"The right of citizens of the State of Utah to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex." - Utah Constitution, Article IV

Martha Hughes Cannon

First Female State Senator in the United States



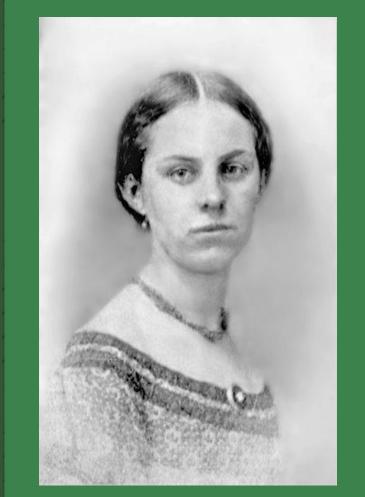
Evans, John Henry; Kimball, Mary Connelly, ed. (1932-10). "Martha Hughes Cannon



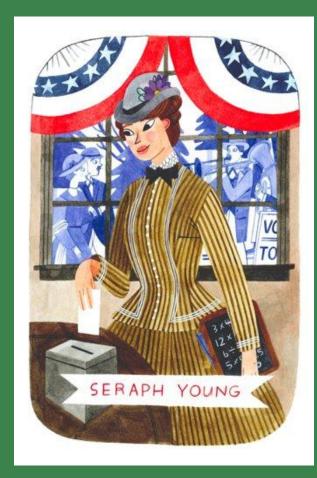
Smart, Brooke. *Portrait of Martha Hughes Cannon*. Utah Women's History, <u>https://utahwomenshistory.org/the-women/marthahughescannon/.</u>

Seraph Young

First Women in the United States to Vote under a Women's equal Suffrage law



Deseret Evening News, March 8, 1902



Smart, Brooke. *Portrait of Seraph Young*. Utah Women's History, <u>https://utahwomenshistory.org/the-women/seraph-young/</u>.

B.H. Roberts

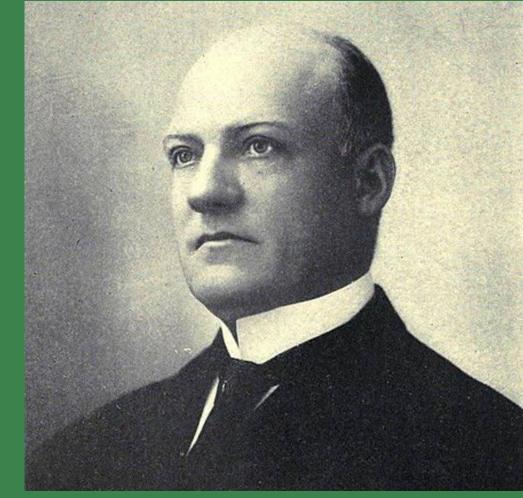
Delegate in the Utah Constitutional Convention. Opposed Women's Suffrage in debates on the Suffrage article of the Utah Constitution. Roberts was an LDS scholar who wrote many books on the history of the LDS church.



Jenson, Andrew (1901) <u>Latter-day Saint biographical encyclopedia</u>: A compilation of biographical sketches of prominent men and women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Heber M. Wells

First Governor of the State of Utah. Argued in favor of Women's Suffrage in the debates in the Convention.



The Salt Lake Tribune, <u>Sketches of the Inter-Mountain States</u>. 1909. Page 93



Class Discussion

• What is suffrage and why is it important to democracy?

- Although these debates occurred over 100 years ago, what role have they played in US history and history of the state of Utah?
- Can you think of examples of challenges to voting rights in the United States today?

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