

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born on November 12, 1815, in Johnstown, New York. Her father, Daniel Cady, was a well-educated and prominent man who served as a lawyer, state legislator, Congressman, district attorney and judge. When she was 11, her 20-year-old brother died. After losing his only surviving son, Daniel Cady was greatly depressed and said to Elizabeth that he wished she had been born a boy. As a result, Elizabeth spent many years trying to compensate for her brother's death by attempting to excel in all activities and interests her brother once held. She was educated at Johnstown Academy and at Emma Willard's Troy Female Seminary. Unlike most of the young ladies of her time, she was lucky to be born into a privileged life that allowed her to obtain an education, but she was not lucky enough to escape the sexism that permeated her society.

*Photo courtesy of The National Women's Hall of Fame.*



Between hearing her father wish she were a son, and being denied opportunities and rights simply because she was a woman, Elizabeth developed a strong commitment to promoting equality. A humanitarian, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was concerned for all people and all races to be equal. She was passionate about her work and was determined to help others. Elizabeth spent numerous hours with her cousin, the social reformer and abolitionist Gerrit Smith, learning about anti-slavery and temperance societies. Through these meetings, she met her future husband, Henry Stanton. Shortly after they married, the Stantons traveled to London in the 1840s to attend the World Anti-Slavery Convention. Although Henry was a delegate, Elizabeth was denied a seat at the convention because she was a woman. The Stantons moved from the Boston area to Seneca Falls, New York, in 1847, where Elizabeth felt stifled by the lack of what she called an intellectual community. At this time, she began actively pursuing her passionate views in support of women's rights. She helped spearhead the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848 and delivered the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments. Also in 1848, the New York State Legislature passed a bill granting property rights to married women. The unfairness of these laws had made a major impression on Elizabeth as a child, and she had circulated petitions and advocated for these changes. In 1851, Elizabeth was walking home from an anti-slavery meeting in Seneca Falls when she

*"We all felt that this son filled a larger place in our father's affections... than all his daughters together."*  
— Elizabeth Cady Stanton

first met Susan B. Anthony. This marked the beginning of a long friendship and working partnership. Like Mrs. Stanton, Ms. Anthony also had a connection to the Mohawk Valley because she taught for a couple of years in Canajoharie. An effective writer and orator, Elizabeth worked closely with her friend to campaign across the country for women's suffrage. In 1854, Elizabeth received an unprecedented invitation to address the New York State Legislature. Her advocacy resulted in the passage of new laws that granted women the rights to their wages and to equal guardianship of their children. She helped organize the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869, and in 1878 she drafted a federal suffrage amendment that was introduced repeatedly in Congress. The amendment, in substantially the same language, was finally ratified in 1920 as the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Elizabeth Cady Stanton died in 1902. Although it would be almost 20 more years before women were able to vote, her efforts had laid the groundwork and helped change laws and attitudes. On November 2, 1920, some eight million women legally voted in the United States for the first time. While she was unable to vote, her legacy persists today to touch strong women. Current Johnstown Mayor Sarah Slingerland used a historical Bible signed by Elizabeth when she was sworn into office in January 2006. Also in 2006, the New York State Legislature approved the recognition of November 12 as Elizabeth Cady Stanton Day in New York State.



Dear Friend:

In 2006, the New York State Legislature designated November 12 as Elizabeth Cady Stanton Day in this state. November 12 was chosen because it is the date

of Ms. Stanton's birthday.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815 - 1902) hailed from Johnstown, New York, which is in my Senate district, so I was especially pleased to see this day of commemoration created. Not only is she important in the history of Fulton County and New York State, but also Elizabeth Cady Stanton played a vital role in our nation's history.

As a former teacher and enthusiastic history buff, I am pleased to help promote local history and heritage tourism. I created this publication on Ms. Stanton to help people learn more about this amazing woman and her connections to our area.

Cordially,

*Hugh T. Farley*

Hugh T. Farley, Senator



*Pictured, from left, are Senator Farley, City of Johnstown Historian Noel Levee and Lee Lanois viewing Elizabeth Cady Stanton artifacts at the Johnstown Historical Society.*

*"The happiest people I have known have been those who gave themselves no concern about their own souls, but did their uttermost to mitigate the miseries of others."*

— Elizabeth Cady Stanton

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton*



*“Nothing strengthens the judgment and quickens the conscience like individual responsibility.”*

*— Elizabeth Cady Stanton*



*This historical marker, located at the corner of Main and Market Streets in Johnstown, proudly announces the birthplace of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.*



*Susan B. Anthony stayed at this house, at 9 South William Street, Johnstown, when she was visiting Elizabeth Cady Stanton and working with her on The History of Woman Suffrage.*

Elizabeth Cady Stanton is a vital part of New York State history, and many organizations besides the Johnstown Historical Society revere her. The National Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1969 and, when it began inducting women in 1973, Elizabeth was among the first group to be selected for this honor. In addition, her role in history is highlighted at the Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton places to visit in Johnstown, New York:**

♥ Birthplace of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, **corner of Main and Market Streets**. Although a bank building now stands where the Cady home once stood, a New York State historical marker announces the beginning of the Women's Movement: *“Women's Rights, Birthplace of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1902, Pioneer of women's rights, a leader in the women's suffrage movement.”*

*Whatever the theories may be of woman's dependence on man, in the supreme moments of her life he can not bear her burdens.*

*— Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

♥ Just across the street, in **Sir William Johnson Memorial Park** on Main Street, is a marker dedicated to Elizabeth: “Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815 - 1902, The Birthplace of Equal Rights for Women in this country, and the World, was right here in Johnstown. At the nearby sites of young Elizabeth Cady's home; her father's law office and her school, the Academy; she experienced the inspiration and the inception of that zealous crusade for the emancipation of women. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, The Greatest feminist reformer of 19th century America. The progenitor of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution which extended the right of suffrage to the women of this Republic.” This marker was erected by New York State and the Johnstown Constitutional Bicentennial Committee in 1989.

♥ **9 South William Street**. Susan B. Anthony rented a room at this address, and it was here that Susan worked with Elizabeth on volume three of The History of Woman Suffrage. While it is a private home, a marker outside declares: “Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1902, Susan B. Anthony, 1820-1906. The History of Woman Suffrage in Four Volumes is the documentary masterpiece from 50 years of cooperative teamwork between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Both were outstanding leaders in the campaign for women's equal rights. During the year 1884 Stanton and Anthony lived right here in Johnstown to write Volume III of their documentary. Mrs. Stanton lived with her sisters in the old family home; and Susan Anthony was only a block away, where she boarded at Mrs. Henry's house. Before you is Mrs. Henry's House, and in it the same pleasant 'Parlor Chamber' where Susan B. Anthony devoted the year 1884 preparing Volume III for The History of Woman Suffrage.” This marker was erected by the Johnstown Historical Society in 1997.

♥ **Johnstown Historical Society, 17 North William Street**, houses Elizabeth Cady Stanton's piano, a portrait of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other mementos.

**Visit Johnstown, New York, and walk in a young Elizabeth Cady Stanton's shoes:**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton grew up in Johnstown, New York, in the early part of the 19th century. If you visit Johnstown today, you can see or visit many buildings that she would have seen, including:

♥ **Johnson Hall State Historic Site** (762-8712), on Hall Avenue, is the restored 1760s home of Sir William Johnson, a prominent figure in Colonial New York. This National Historic Landmark is a Georgian-style building that is made of wood but looks like stone. The large estate, which included a mill, blacksmith shop, Indian store and barns, was established to encourage people to settle in this area. In her autobiography, Elizabeth remarks how, as a young girl, she had seen the tomahawk marks on the stair rails inside this house.

♥ **The Drumm House** (762-7419) is the oldest building in the City of Johnstown. Sir William had this building constructed in the 1760s for his tenants, one of whom was the local school master. A nearby plaque marks the location of this school, which was the first free non-sectarian school west of the Hudson River.

♥ **Fulton County Court House**, located at North William and East Main Streets and still in use today,

was built in the early 1770s by Sir William to serve what was then known as Tryon County. The courthouse was near her home, convenient for her father and his law practice. She would occasionally listen to the legal proceedings.

♥ **Union Hall Inn** (762-3210), located at 2 Union Place, was a stagecoach tavern built in 1798 and operated by Capt. Vaumane Jean Baptist de FonClaire, an officer in the French Army during the reign of Louis XVI. Today, it is a restaurant that offers lunch, dinner and catering.

♥ **Fort Johnstown**, which was once the Fulton County Jail and is currently home to the County Personnel Department, was built in 1771 and is on Montgomery Street. During the Revolution, it was fortified and used as an outpost. As a friend of the sheriff's daughter, Elizabeth often visited the jail.

♥ **James Burke's Inn**, located on the corner of Montgomery and South William Streets, opened in 1788 and is the current home of the Johnstown Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.).



*This bronze plaque, dedicated to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, is displayed in Sir William Johnson Memorial Park on Main Street, Johnstown.*

The photographs below come from: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/suffrquery.html>



*This photo, courtesy of the Library of Congress, is of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her daughter, Harriot.*



*This photo, courtesy of the Library of Congress, is of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (seated) and her dear friend Susan B. Anthony.*

If you enjoyed this booklet, you may wish to contact my office for other free publications, such as:

- ♥ [Honoring Women's History Month, Women of Distinction](#)
- ♥ [Senator Farley's Guide to Historic Sites and Museums in Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties](#)
- ♥ [Senator Farley Salutes History Month](#)
- ♥ [Snapshot New York](#)

**The following websites offer more information on Elizabeth Cady Stanton:**

- <http://johnstown.com/stanton.html>
- <http://www.pbs.org/stantonanthony>
- <http://www.nps.gov/wori/historyculture/elizabeth-cady-stanton.htm>

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*“Self-development is a higher duty than self-sacrifice.”*  
*— Elizabeth Cady Stanton*