Susan B. Anthony

Today, women in the United States have the same voting rights as men. American men and women tend to take those rights for granted. However, it was less than a hundred years ago that women actually gained equal rights as voters. American women owe thanks to many leaders who fought for women’s suffrage—the right of women to vote. One person to whom they are indebted is Susan B. Anthony. She was one of the first Americans to speak out in favor of women’s rights. It is largely because of her determination that women can vote.

Susan B. Anthony was born in 1820 to a Quaker family. The Quaker religion believed that the law should guarantee equal rights for both men and women. Quakers also opposed the practice of slavery. Susan learned these basic values at an early age. She was guided by these values throughout her life.

In 1851, she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, another fighter for women’s rights. The two women quickly became close friends and agreed to work together to fight for equal rights. Stanton had a huge impact on Anthony. Soon, Anthony became a tireless advocate of women’s rights in all possible ways. She even helped change the way women dressed in public.

At that time, women were expected to wear long skirts. Instead, Anthony wore a type of baggy pants called bloomers. Named after Amelia Bloomer, a colleague of Anthony’s, bloomers soon became a popular symbol for women’s rights.

In 1892, Anthony became president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She served for eight years and continued her struggle until her death in 1906.

Finally, in 1920, fourteen years after Susan B. Anthony’s death, the Nineteenth Amendment was adopted. It guarantees the right of all U.S. citizens to vote, regardless of gender.