

# BIRTHPLACE BANNER

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

DECEMBER 2010

Thank You, Volunteers

## Gift Shop Volunteers

Bet Azar  
Jim Beaudin, Jr.  
Carol Cain  
Prudy Gravel  
Dot Kirby  
Nancy Lescarbeau  
Jim Loughman  
Robin Loughman  
Diana Margolis  
Roz Pietres  
Emily Pious  
Regina O'Hearn  
Ginger Thompson  
Tina Rotollo  
Sarah Strzepek  
Jean Swift  
Sharon William



*Birthplace gift shop volunteers honored at a special luncheon, November 6.*



*Diana Walczak and Travis Pinsonault of Synthespians Studios, using digital imaging to create the childhood image of Anthony for the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum.*

A childhood image of Susan B. Anthony was created by Synthespians Studios and presented to the Birthplace on August 19, 2010, when artists, historians, and descendants of the Daniel Anthony family gathered to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment," the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



The Synthespians Studios specializes in 3D design and character animation. Their credits include a 3D stereoscopic film for Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular, as well as ride films for Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA (Corkscrew Hill), and Universal Studios, Orlando, FL (*The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man*).

Pictured left are Lucy Anthony Czaja, and her sister Linda Anthony MacDonald and their families; Patricia and Eric Anthony; and Susan B. Anthony MacDonald.

Donors who contribute \$125 or more will receive an 11"x17" copy of the childhood image.

## BRING THE TRAVELING WALL TO YOUR TOWN

The Birthplace Museum's Traveling Wall is a strong history teaching tool. Using photographs and illustrations, it recounts the dramatic struggle to win women's suffrage. After many decades of marching, civil disobedience, and lobbying, the 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, giving women the right to vote and hold office.

The attractive, attention-getting Traveling Wall is suitable for:

- Schools
- Libraries
- Museums
- Historical societies
- Conferences/events
- Town halls/town buildings

Replicating images, ephemera, and posters on display in the Birthplace Museum, the Traveling Wall includes names of women jailed during the struggle under the leadership of Alice Paul. The Wall also includes an informative timeline leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment.

*Wall Exhibit on display at the Yale Club, New York City, August 2010.*



The Traveling Wall is affordable and easy to use. The Wall measures approximately 90"x90" and can be rented for short- and long-term exhibits.

For information on rates and available booking periods, contact the Birthplace, 413.743.7121.

## WINTER/SPRING HOURS

Thursday, Friday,  
& Saturday

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

To arrange a private tour, call the Birthplace at 413.743.7121.

## NO "MINOR" TRIAL: A SUPREME COURT CHALLENGE IN 1875

Most American history students learn that Susan B. Anthony was tried, convicted and fined \$100 (which she never paid) for voting in the elections of 1872. Some may also know she was unable to appeal that conviction, and so never had the opportunity to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court. However, relatively few are aware that a woman named Virginia Louisa Minor was able to take her case before the nation's highest court, and argue (albeit unsuccessfully) that the 14th amendment, adopted in 1868, guaranteed women the right to vote.

Born in Caroline County, VA on March 27, 1824, Virginia Minor married her distant cousin, Francis Minor, a lawyer, in 1843. A year later they moved to St. Louis, MO. During the Civil War, she was active in the pro-Union St. Louis Ladies Union Aid Society. In 1867, she became the first president of the Woman's Suffrage Association of Missouri.

In October of 1872, Virginia Minor tried to register to vote in St. Louis. When the local registrar, Reese Happersett, turned her away because Missouri law only allowed men to vote, she sued him for depriving her of her civil rights under the U.S. Constitution.

Ironically, the initial proceedings in her lawsuit were held in the same St. Louis courthouse as the infamous Dred Scott case. When the State trial court ruled against her, she appealed to the State Supreme Court, and when it affirmed the trial court, she appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In arguing her case, Virginia's husband, Francis, asserted (1) as a "citizen" of the United States, his wife was entitled to all of the "privileges and immunities" guaranteed by the 14th Amendment recently adopted in 1868, (2) those privileges and immunities necessarily included the right to vote and (3) to the extent Missouri law restricted that right to males, it conflicted with, and therefore was void under, the U.S. Constitution.

While granting Virginia Minor's status as a citizen, the Supreme Court denied "suffrage was coextensive with citizenship." It noted (1) the Constitution left each State free to determine voter qualifications for itself, (2) none of the States (with the exception of New Jersey before 1807) had ever allowed women to vote and (3) some States even permitted certain resident aliens to vote. As a result, it concluded the U.S. Constitution "does not confer the right of suffrage upon any one and [State laws] which commit that important trust to men alone are not necessarily void." This holding remained in force until the 19th Amendment was adopted in 1920. See *Minor v. Happersett*, 88 U.S. 162 (1875).

In 1889, Virginia Minor testified in favor of women's suffrage before the U.S. Senate. On August 14, 1894, Virginia Minor died in St. Louis, and was buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery there.

*James Loughman is an attorney, a founding board member of the Birthplace Museum, and a member of the Adams Historical Society Board of Directors. Loughman resides in Adams, MA with his wife Robin and their four children.*

## BECOME A BIRTHPLACE MEMBER TODAY

Become a member today and help support the Birthplace and its many educational programs.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

#### **Individual Membership \$25**

- Free admission to the SBABM for one year
- Advance notice to any special event, such as a speaker, dinner, or wine and cheese evening, and a 10% discount off the price of admission.

#### **Family Membership \$50**

- Includes all of the above privileges for two adults in a household, plus all under 18 who accompany them.

#### **Sustainer Membership \$125**

- Includes all the benefits of a Family Membership
- North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) privileges. NARM membership extends the standard set of membership benefits to a network of over 400 other museums in the U.S. and Canada. A member in any participating museum gains the free admission and store discount of a museum member at that institution.
- Four complementary passes for use by other adults.
- An 11x17" copy of Susan B. Anthony's childhood image.

For more information, contact the Birthplace at 413-743-7121, [info@susanbanthonybirthplace.org](mailto:info@susanbanthonybirthplace.org).

## SUPPORT THE BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM WITH YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION!

Help spread the story of Susan B. Anthony, life in her times, and the struggle for women to win the vote! Your donation, along with our many volunteers, allows us to expand the museum hours and work with schools and civic groups on many inspiring programs. Send your donation today in the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

*Did you know*

The Birthplace Museum has had 1692 visitors since its opening!  
Thank you for visiting us!



# NOVEMBER ELECTIONS MARK 90 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

On election day in 1920, another November 2, 90 years ago, the polls swelled almost beyond capacity by voters who had never before done such a strange thing.

They were women proud and eager who rushed to their polling location as early in the morning as possible, as if they vied for the first row seat at the theater. Some were so flustered by the idea of a secret ballot, that one woman in Massachusetts thought she needed to sign the back of the card.

After 72 years of agitation, the day finally arrived. Single and married women, young and old, exercised a right they fought for in their homes and churches, in town halls and on the streets. It's hard to imagine what some of the arguments were before 1920 that prohibited an amendment liberating 50 percent of the population from exercising this right.

Anti-suffrage ephemera collections provide insight. Some are humor at its best: Handbills claimed inferior female brain size. Postcards portrayed women taking too long to get all their petticoats on.

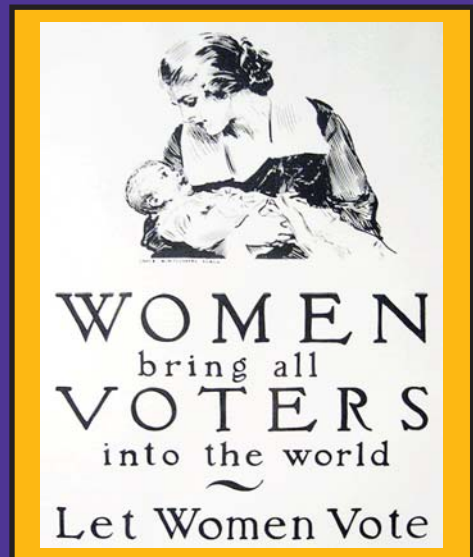
Besides, women would only vote the way their husbands told them to anyway. Comically, men were pictured struggling with diapers and cooking pots as women puffed up in suits left the home.

My favorite is a picture of Madonna and child, except the Madonna is a man holding a doll, not sure what to do with it.

Against this backdrop, suffrage leaders took seriously these portrayals of power and domination, characteristics they actually opposed. Child labor laws, poverty, and universal education were issues for which women sought the vote.

It was their maternity that they saw as their greatest gift of citizenship. The 1912 Susan B. Anthony Birthplace acquisition, a poster by James Montgomery Flagg (as pictured above), states it best: Women bring all voters into the world.

*Democrat and Chronicle*, October 24, 2010. By Carol Crossed, founder and president of the Birthplace Museum.



## OUR STAFF

### MARY LOU BEAUDIN

GIFT SHOP MANAGER/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Mary Lou Beaudin worked for 31 years at the Berkshire County Savings Bank as a loan clerk, in human resources, and as a municipal officer. She currently owns and manages Belle's Victorian bed and breakfast in Adams, MA.



### SEAN CAROLLO

SITE MANAGER

Sean Carollo is a 2007 graduate cum laude from Williams College, with a major in English and history. Before coming to the SBABM, Sean worked as an assistant at the Chapin Library of Rare Books and an historic interpreter at the Hancock Village Shaker Museum.



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### Board of Directors

Emily Pious has a B.A. in history, with a concentration in public history and museum studies. She interned with the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. Emily currently teaches at Drury High School in North Adams, MA.

### Board of Historical Advisors


Jennifer Popiel, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at Saint Louis University in the Department of History. Popiel is trained as a European historian.



### Board of Directors

Patricia Anthony is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Boston University School for the Arts. She teaches music to young students and performs primarily as a flutist with her guitarist/luenist husband, Eric Anthony, in the Anthony Duo and in other New England venues.

The Anthonys are members of the Rhode Island Anthony Family descendants.



# The Susan B. Anthony BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

Cradle of Equal Rights  
Child of Adams

Home Plan A Visit Contact Us

## Welcome to the Birthplace Museum



**2010-2011 SEASON**  
October 14<sup>th</sup> - May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Shop Hours**  
Saturday 10am - 4pm  
request a special tour.

**Admission**  
Adults: \$5  
Seniors & Students: \$3  
Children 6 & Under: Free

- HOME
- THE BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM
- EVENTS
- MEDIA
- ABOUT US
- GET INVOLVED

- History of the Birthplace
- Renovation & Restoration
- The Anthony Family
- Susan B. Anthony, Daughter of Adams, MA
- Exhibits
- Gift Shop & Visitor Center

## IN APPRECIATION

We are grateful for our major donors and their role in the opening of the Birthplace Museum.

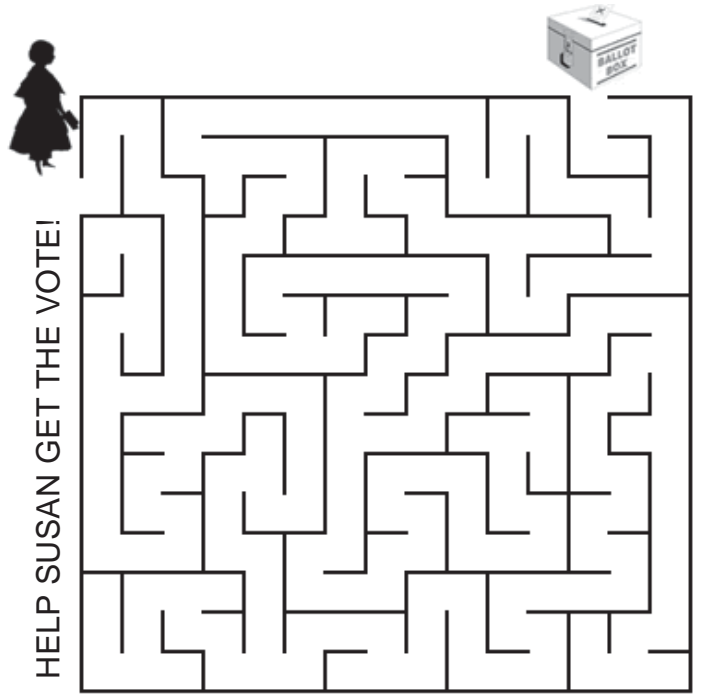
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**OVER 300,000 WEB HITS CAN'T BE WRONG...**  
Visit our Website [www.susanbanthonybirthplace.org](http://www.susanbanthonybirthplace.org)

THE GIFT SHOP IS OPEN

Printed images of Susan B. Anthony as a child, created by local digital artists, make the perfect gift and are now available in the gift shop!

Also available: Reading materials, textiles by local Berkshire women artists, children's toys, and more!



SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM  
P.O. BOX 244 - 67 EAST ROAD  
ADAMS, MA 01220  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

