

## CELEBRATING SUFFRAGE

# SOCIETY RECOGNIZES WOMEN'S VOTING RIGHTS IN 2018-2020

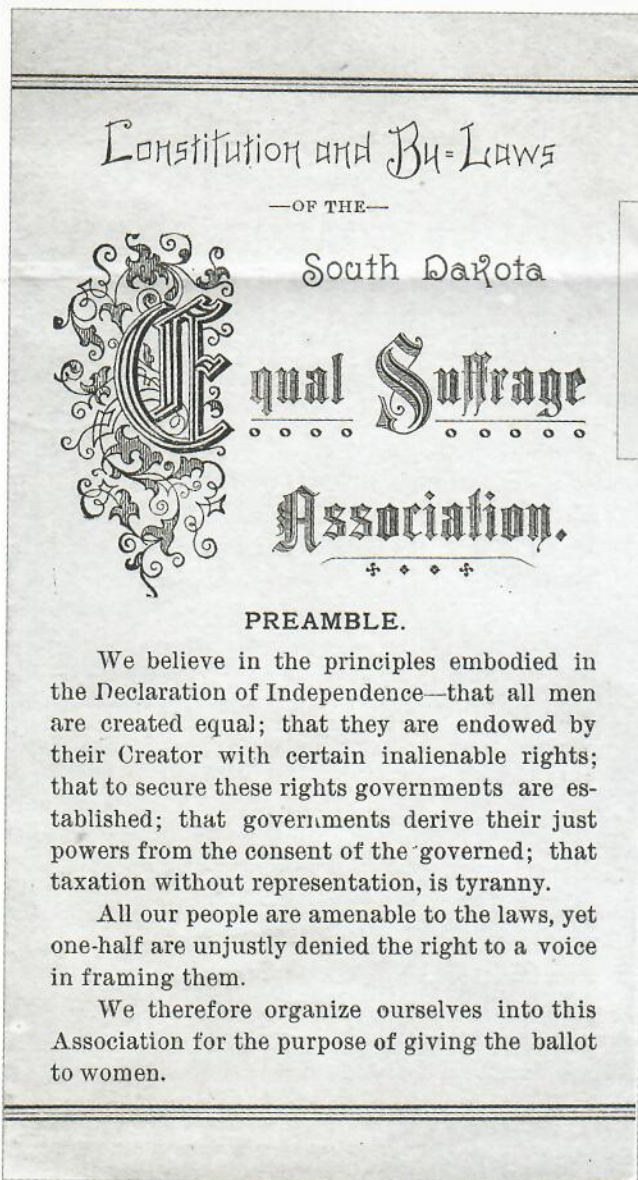
The South Dakota State Historical Society is celebrating women's right to vote by commemorating three centennials over the next three years. Activists in Dakota Territory started working for woman suffrage in the mid-1880s, but it was not until 1918 that South Dakota's suffragists triumphed when an amendment to the state constitution granted voting rights to most women. One year later, Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment for national woman suffrage. The states ratified it in 1920, making it the law of the land.

This year, the Historical Society Foundation launched the South Dakota State Historical Society Suffrage Project, which supports the publication of three books by the South Dakota Historical Society Press. The first publication, *Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist* by Angelica Shirley Carpenter, came out in September. In 2019, the Press will release a children's picture book, *The Voice of Liberty* also by Carpenter, which covers a suffragist protest over the Statue of Liberty in 1886. Finally, an upcoming anthology compiled by Lori Lah-

lum and Molly Rozum will include essays by noted scholars examining suffrage activity throughout the Northern Great Plains. Every donation to the project

are a suffrage button and ribbon from the collections of the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society. An adjoining case highlights books on woman suffrage and women's rights from the State Archives library. The South Dakota Digital Archives will also add multiple documents, such as the "Constitution and By-Laws of the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association," an anti-suffrage newsletter titled "The Remonstrance," and a "History of Woman Suffrage in South Dakota" written by Ruth Hipple in 1920, to its collections.

A new museum exhibit on the suffrage movement's statewide activities is planned for the Observation Gallery of the Cultural Heritage Center and will run from November 2019 through 2020. Claire Jerry, curator of political history at the Smithsonian Museum of American



will be recognized during the books' state and nationwide promotional campaigns. In addition, the society's quarterly journal, *South Dakota History*, will carry "Dakota Images" features and articles on the suffrage movement and the women who took part.

The State Archives is currently displaying suffrage artifacts, including a pamphlet from the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association convention held at the opera house in Mitchell in 1890, in its research room. Also featured

History, will speak on the national movement and South Dakota's place in it in November 2019.

The State Historic Preservation Office is participating in the National Votes for Women Heritage Trail, a project of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, through research on South Dakota's historic places connected to woman suffrage. Historic Preservation Officer Liz Almlie will serve as state organizer and contributor to the project and will also participate in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's PastForward conference in November 2018.

Stay tuned for additional projects that help tell the story of woman suffrage and the influential people who made it happen. For more information about the Suffrage Project, call (605) 773-6003.