

**Toni Saldivar. "The League Looks at Public Monuments: League Offered Support for N.Y. Statue Project." *The Oxford Press*. 27 December 2015: A4.**

Statues as public monuments help us learn as well as remember. The League of Women Voters of Oxford supports the project to place in Manhattan's Central Park a statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her colleague Susan B. Anthony. There has never before been a statue of a real, historical woman in Central Park, the "heart of the island at the center of the world," visited by 25 million people a year. The dual bronze statue of Stanton and Anthony will stand across from the New York Historical Society at 77th Street. The base of the statue will be engraved with names of many women who worked with Stanton and Anthony for the cause of women's rights, names soon to be brought back into public memory.

A marble group portrait of Stanton, Anthony and Lucretia Mott stands in the rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, DC. That trio in marble, by the sculptor Adelaide Johnson, was a gift to the nation from the women of the United States to celebrate their winning the constitutional right to vote in 1920, but it stayed for 75 years in the Capitol's crypt before an act of Congress in 1996 made possible placing it where it belongs, in the rotunda among the movers and shakers of our history. It stands now not far from the statue of Abraham Lincoln holding in his hand a scroll representing the Emancipation Proclamation.

During the Civil War, Stanton and Anthony and other woman suffrage leaders used their organizational skills and energies to support the Emancipation Proclamation. They circulated thousands of petitions and gained more than 400,000 signatures, which they presented to Congress to demand an end to slavery. At the end of the Civil War, Stanton and Anthony's efforts also helped ratify the 13th Amendment. They could not, however, support the 14th, into which the word "male" had been inserted (the first time in the Constitution), nor could they support the 15th Amendment, which did not ensure voting rights for all citizens, both male and female. These Amendments granted the constitutional right to vote only to men. Newly freed slaves who were women-- along with all other women citizens-- were still denied that right. Only another Constitutional Amendment, the 19th, would enfranchise them. That Amendment took another fifty years of persistent, non-violent political struggle.

Statues of the founders and leaders of the woman suffrage movement help us to learn our history, to remember it, and, we hope, to continue to work today to ensure that no citizen is denied his or her constitutional right to vote.