"The glory of each generation is to make its own precedents."

One of the most gratifying and exciting aspects of celebrating the centennial of women finally gaining the right to vote in the United States is discovering these precedents.

Learning about women and events that largely aren’t or haven’t been taught in general history classes in school.

Meeting them, and what they did, for the first time, even if it’s 100 years after they did it.

We meet them. At long last.

For instance, the woman who originally made the statement above that opens this month’s Women Vote 100 newsletter was Belva Ann Lockwood.

If you’re like us, you have heard little to nothing about her outside of women’s history courses.

That’s more than a shame, because hers is as quintessential an American story as any in the self-made annals that are well-worn with repetition and repute.

Her statement was drawn from her own life:

Born in 1830 in New York, she attended school and became a teacher. After she was widowed, she went to college, graduating in 1857. She continued to teach and continued her own education, moving to Washington, D.C., where she ran her own co-educational, private school and studied law. She was refused admission to Georgetown and Howard universities, but finally gained admission to the new National University Law School, where she graduated in 1873. She was admitted to the District of Columbia bar the same year, but she still had to fight another six years to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the first woman to do so.

According to Britannica, Lockwood became one of the most effective women’s advocates of her time.

They wrote, “She drafted a bill for equal pay for equal work by women in
government employment, and the bill was enacted into law in 1872. After being denied admission to the Supreme Court in 1876 she singlehandedly lobbied enabling legislation through Congress and in March 1879 became the first woman to avail herself of the new law.

She gained national prominence as a lecturer on women's rights and was active in the affairs of various suffrage organizations.

She was the first woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court, in 1880. She also sponsored Samuel Lowery to the Supreme Court bar, and he became the first African-American attorney to argue before the Court.

Lockwood ran for president of the United States in 1884 and 1888 as the candidate for the National Equal Rights Party, and served as a delegate for the U.S. Department of State in the International Congress of Charities, Correction and Philanthropy in Geneva in 1896, and attended European peace conferences in the early 20th century. She also continued to work for equality and parity for women in the areas of property rights, equal guardianship of children and suffrage rights in new states being admitted to the union.

So what does all this have to do with today?

Well, at least this, per constitutioncenter.org:

"According to research compiled by the Supreme Court Historical Society and The Constitutional Sources Project, women had argued 1,430 cases at the Court as of December 2016. More than 700 women had presented cases at Supreme Court arguments since Lockwood appeared in 1880."

Impressive, to be sure, but context is all.

While women now make up more than 1 in 3 attorneys in the U.S., studies show that women attorneys make fewer than 20 percent of the arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court. You can read more about that here: https://empiricalscotus.com/2017/10/22/dearth-female-args/

We’ll let the estimable Ms. Lockwood have the last word on the precedent she set, and the ones she continues to influence:

"Reforms are slow, but they never go backward.”

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**Sixty-four years ago this month...**

Rosa Parks said no, and her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus helped to launch the civil rights movement.

“I had given up my seat before, but this day, I was especially tired,” she would say. “Tired from my work as a seamstress, and tired from the ache in my heart.”

She was arrested for civil disobedience, her mug shot showing her in hat, coat, glasses and holding
Among the awards she would collect for her courage were the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal and the Springarn Medal.

This week, a statue of Parks was unveiled in Montgomery.

Steven Reed, the city’s first African-American mayor, said, “This depiction will inspire future generations to make the pilgrimage to our city, to push toward the path of righteousness, strength, courage and equality.” Read more about that here: https://apnews.com/ce86981afb084577ac957cf275349131

Rosa Parks’ standing up by staying seated was yet another reminder that equality wasn’t shared by everyone in the United States, and a crucial component toward that end wouldn’t arrive for yet another 10 years — the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It’s why the Voting Rights Act is being commemorated along with the centennial of the 19th Amendment here in Louisville.

Ms. Parks was 92 years old when she died in 2005.

One-hundred fifty years ago this month...

On Dec. 10, 1869, lawmakers in the territory of Wyoming passed America’s first woman suffrage law, granting women the right to vote and hold office. (In 1870,
Wyoming also swore in the first all-woman jury.

The History Channel also reports that when Wyoming was admitted to the union in 1890, this 44th state also became the first state to allow women the right to vote.

It would be another 30 years, in 1920, before the U.S. Constitution was amended to allow women the right to vote, and another 45 years after that that the Voting Rights Act provided guarantees for people of color.

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**Save the Dates!**

Here’s a look ahead at 19th Amendment-related events already planned for next year. We will have more details on them, and other events, the closer we get to them.

First up, **Jan. 6 — 19th** – Amendment Kentucky Ratification Centennial, 5-7:30 p.m., Paul Sawyier Public Library, Frankfort; seating is limited so please RSVP by Dec. 20, scoffey7@mis.net. Sponsored by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration and Chorus.

**Jan. 16** — Black Girl Magic, 6-8 p.m. at the Frazier Museum, panel discussion providing an overview of African-American women as JCPS prepares for Females of Color Steam Academy in August 2020.

**Feb. 1-8** – Stage One in Louisville, “Lawbreakers!”

Described by Stage one as “a fast and furious history of women’s suffrage,” the venue also provides these details: “Stepsisters Maya and Kiara travel back in time to the beginning of the American women’s suffrage movement. Along the way, they meet many key figures – Susan B. Anthony, Ida B. Wells, Alice Paul, Sojourner Truth, and many more – as they explore the complexities, struggles, and heartache that led to women’s right to vote. Written by Diana Grisanti and commissioned by StageOne, Lawbreakers! (a fast and furious history of women's suffrage) honors and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment.”

For more information, go to Stage One: [https://stageone.org/our-season/lawbreakers/](https://stageone.org/our-season/lawbreakers/)

**March 19** — Opening of "What is a Vote Worth", a Suffrage Voting Rights Act Exhibit at the Frazier History Museum; panel and tours.

**March 20** — Public ribbon cutting at the Frazier

**March 26, 27** — Two-day event with the University of Louisville History Department; guest speaker is Ellen DuBois, a professor of history and gender studies known for her pioneering work in the same fields.

**April 21** — Trailblazers panel discussion with local women who have made a difference, at the Frazier.

**April 30** — The Pegasus Parade with a Celebration of Women

**May 21** — Angela Dodson, author of “Remember the Ladies,” appears at the Frazier
June 2— Elaine Weiss, author of “The Woman’s Hour,” appears at the Filson

June 8-11 — Suffrage Play Festival at the Frazier

Aug. 21 and 22 — Tina Cassidy, author of “Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait?,” appears at Women’s Equality Day events in Louisville

Let us hear from you!

We realize many organizations will be scheduling a variety of special programs throughout 2020 to honor suffrage, and we want to include your information in our newsletters. Please let us hear from you by filling out this form:

https://fraziermuseum.org/wsnewsletterideas

Stay in the loop!

We’re here to keep you in the loop about the Women Vote 100 commemoration.

• Please visit fraziermuseum.org/womenvote for everything related to
Women Vote 100

- The above details and more are found on the Women Vote 100 calendar that will be updated and kept throughout the commemoration.

- We encourage your organization to add an event to the calendar

- To get an idea of what has been planned for 2020, please read this overview by Penny Peavler, Frazier History Museum Board Member.

- And, of course, please keep current with the newsletter and if you would like your voice heard, fill out our form!

- Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter!

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**fun facts**

The first woman to run for U.S. president was **Victoria Woodhull**, who campaigned for the office in 1872 under the National Woman’s Suffrage Association. While women would not be granted the right to vote by a constitutional amendment for nearly 50 years, there were no laws prohibiting one from running for the chief executive position.

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In addition to **Rosa Parks** standing up (or sitting down) against social injustice and her help in sparking the civil rights movement, she also earned her high school diploma after previously dropping out to care for her grandmother – a distinction that only 7% of African Americans at the time earned.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

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**Wise Words**

“The fight for women’s rights hasn’t come in waves. Wonder Woman was a product of the suffragist, feminist, and birth control movements of the 1900s and 1910s and became a source of the women’s liberation and feminist movements of the 1960s and 1970s. The fight for women’s rights has been a river, wending.”

— Author, historian Jill Lepore, “The
Secret History of Wonder Woman