

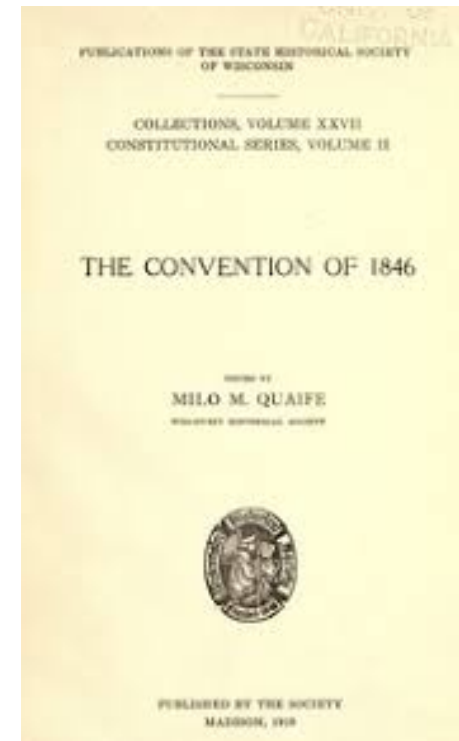
WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

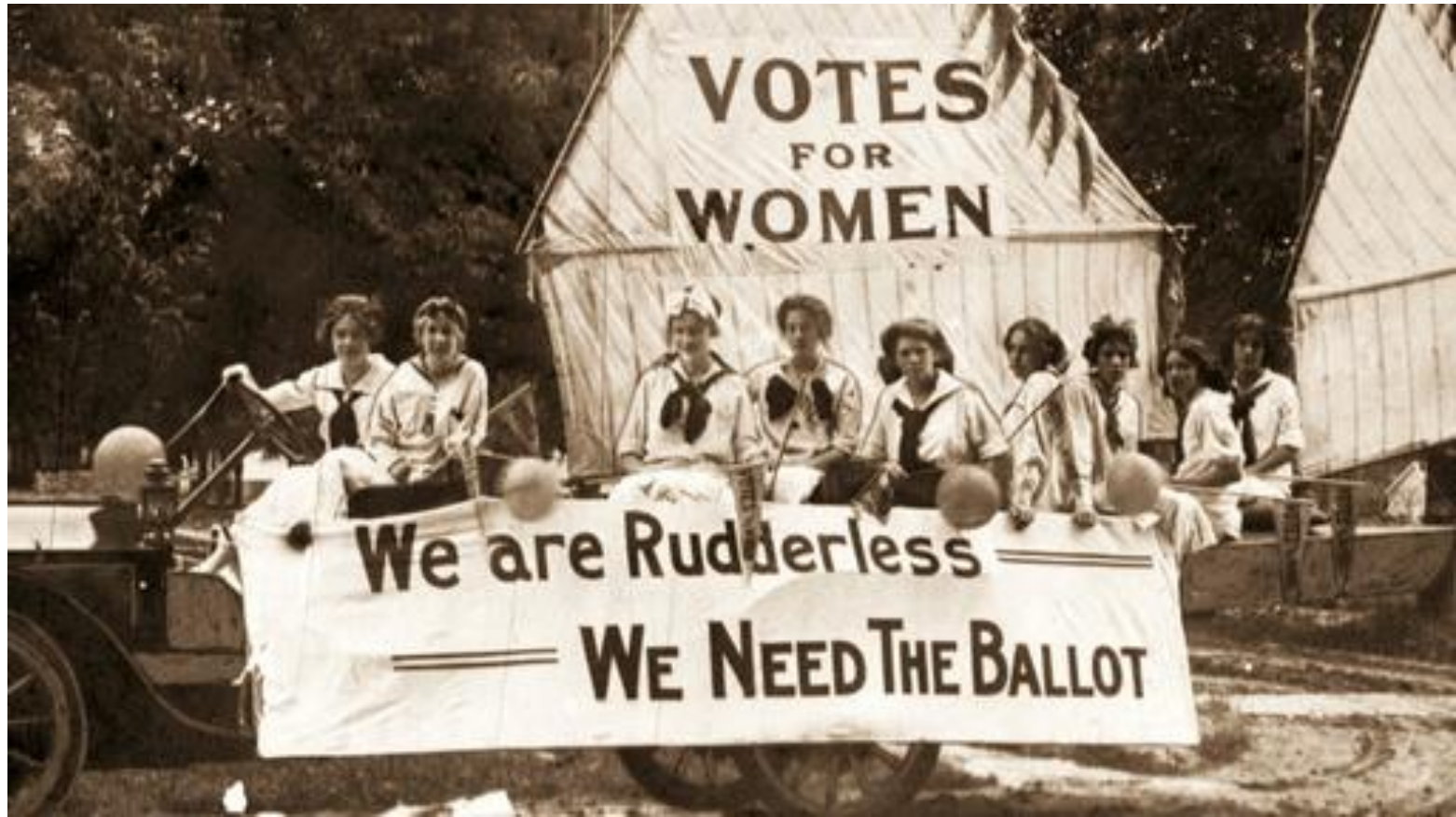


The Wisconsin Territory

At the Wisconsin Constitutional Convention in 1846 a proposal that the word “male” be omitted before the word “suffrage” was met with laughter.

Wisconsin entered the union in 1848 without women’s suffrage.





The Wisconsin leaders

Reverend Olympia Brown

The first woman to be ordained a minister in the US. She was president of the Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association and later worked for passage of the a federal constitutional amendment. She lived to cast a vote in 1920 at age 85.



Belle Case LaFollette

The first woman to graduate from Law School in Wisconsin, she served as First Lady of Wisconsin and was an outspoken writer and orator for women's right to vote. She traveled the country between 1915 to 1919 giving speeches in support of women's right to vote. She was in the US Senate gallery in 1919 when the 19th Amendment was approved.



Dr. Laura Ross Wolcott

The first woman physician in Wisconsin; active in the early women's suffrage movement. She was denied admittance to the medical society of Milwaukee in 1857. She then went to Paris where she attended lectures at the Sorbonne and worked in a hospital. Upon her return to Milwaukee, she was accepted as a physician. She organized meetings in Milwaukee and Madison at which she met Susan B. Anthony.



Jesse Jack Hooper

Women's suffrage leader and president of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters; she ran for the US Senate in 1922 as a Democrat against Robert LaFollette and won a remarkable 16% of the vote only 2 years after the passage of the 19th amendment; she was an ardent peace activist as well.



Ada James

Women's suffrage leader who was very active in the 1912 referendum efforts and other reforms in the early 1900s. She was president of the Political Equality League in Wisconsin which combined with the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association after the failure of the 1912 referendum on women's suffrage in Wisconsin.



Theodora Winton Youmans

A journalist and active member of the women's club network which subtly advocated for women's rights in society. The articles she wrote provide some of the best sources on the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association. A lifelong Republican, she remained politically active all her life.



1886: Wisconsin women can *sometimes* vote



1888: Brown V. Phillips

In this case, in a unanimous opinion, the Wisconsin Supreme Court declined to expand women's suffrage, reversing the Racine County Circuit Court. In doing so, the Court narrowly interpreted a state statute which gave women the right to vote only on school-related matters. In the opinion, the Court emphasized that the power to grant suffrage belonged to the Legislature.



1912 referendum



1916 parade in Chicago



First to ratify!



On Wisconsin

On Wisconsin, On Wisconsin,
Grand Old Badger State,
We shall surely win the ballot,
Freedom

Be it soon or late.

On Wisconsin, On Wisconsin,
“Forward” be the cry,

Slow but surely, late but coming
equal.

Bound for Victory.

*Lyrics by Theodora Winton Youmans for the 1914 Convention of the Wisconsin
Women’s Suffrage Association*

On Wisconsin, On Wisconsin,
We thy daughters true,
Bound to make a land of

We are, our of you.

On Wisconsin, On Wisconsin,
Cannot stop of stay

‘Til thy children all are

Hail the mighty day!