

American Woman Interview

Duration: 4:21.

Description and Context:

For the past one hundred and sixty years, women have endured what had to be endured; they went through many trials and tribulations just to obtain the same freedoms that had already been granted to most men. As our country began to change in the mid-eighteen hundreds with the westward migration, the roles of women in American culture started evolving. Women were no longer confined to just their homes. It was not long before women began leaving their households and started working. This raised many questions about women's role in society, and women were challenged at every step along the way. But women pressed on, and eventually, moved freely in the job world, in academia, and in politics. This interview will observe and examine my interview candidate's responses to the questions I have formulated. These questions form a rough framework around women's history and their fight for the freedoms they earned and deserved.

Questions to Consider:

Who were these great women?

Who was Sarah Winnemucca?

Have you ever heard of Susan B. Anthony?

What about Margaret Sanger?

What exactly did they do with their life that was historically noteworthy?

Why was it so important that women be given job opportunities and education?

Why did women even want to leave their households in the first place?

What problems did they experience along the way?

Do you know what was significant about the 19th Amendment?

What about the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) efforts?

Transcript:

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<The Best Of Bach music>

00:00:05

Eddie Jackson: Are you ready to sit down and answer some questions and just talk about some women's history?

00:00:08

Dalia Stoffer: Yes, I'm ready when you are.

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Eddie Jackson: Alright. Our first question is, "Who were these great women?" Who are some historical women that you know about...or have heard about before? Take your time...

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Dalia Stoffer: There's Susan B. Anthony, Marie Curie, Hillary Clinton...

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Eddie Jackson: Yes, those are all great women for sure. What do you know about Susan B. Anthony?

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Dalia Stoffer: She fought for women's rights through the suffrage movement?

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Eddie Jackson: Yes, that's correct. Anthony basically started the suffrage movement after the Civil War. This was in response to Amendment 14 and Amendment 15 which gave African American *men* the right to vote. She also published the Revolution. The Revolution was a newspaper advocating eight-hour days and equality in the workplace. Throughout her entire life, Anthony advocated women equality.

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Eddie Jackson: What about Margaret Sanger? Do you know what her plight was?

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Dalia Stoffer: I believe she was part of the birth control movement.

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Eddie Jackson: Yes, that's correct. Sanger was actually *the* activist. She was a nurse, sex educator, and of course a birth control activist. Being an Irish immigrant herself, she founded the American birth control movement in the 1910s because of the many immigrant women's practical needs.

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Dalia Stoffer: Okay. What's next?

00:01:51

Eddie Jackson: Alright...let's talk about the Progressive Era, where women wanted to reduce corruption in government, join into politics, be able to vote, and really wanted general equality across the board. Leading up to the Progressive Era and during the Progressive Era,

why do you think it was important for women to be given job opportunities and proper education?

00:02:14

Dalia Stoffer: So they could get out of their houses and begin making a name for themselves.

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Eddie Jackson: That's correct. You had a few single women starting to work outside their households after the Civil War. And, with Susan B. Anthony basically starting the women's suffrage movement around that time, universities started admitting women, and work places (mostly factories), started hiring some women. Women pressed on...obtaining more education, and recruiting more women (and men) into their cause. And then came World War I. World War I introduced even more women to the industrial side of America. And when World War II rolled around, women entered the workforce at an exponential rate; some 5 million women! You basically had the government calling on women in a big way. Once women got a taste of work, there was no going back.

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Eddie Jackson: Okay, moving on. Do you know what was significant about Amendment 19?

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Dalia Stoffer: It gave women the right to vote.

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Eddie Jackson: That's correct. Many women fought long and hard to convince President Wilson that women would not be denied the basic right to vote; women like Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. So, all their hard work eventually paid off. August 18th, 1920 the 19th Amendment was ratified.

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Eddie Jackson: Why do you think the ERA efforts were even important?

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Dalia Stoffer: Because women deserved the right to vote. And if they didn't fight for it, it didn't look like they would have ever been given voting rights. I'm glad it's not like that now; I like voting.

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Eddie Jackson: Do you know what the women had to endure to make Amendment 19 happen?

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Dalia Stoffer: No, what?

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Eddie Jackson: Well, they organized, led parades, handed out literature, and even stood out in front of the White House holding signs. All the while, the general public would pass them, jeering them, telling them to go home, and just basically trying to shame them. Some of them even went to work houses...which were basically like jail back then.

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Eddie Jackson: Women fought long and hard for Amendment 19, but even before that, women like Susan B. Anthony paved the way into the Progressive Era. As monumental as Amendment 19 was, you still had other extremely important movements. Movements like the birth control movement, fighting for better wages, improving working conditions, equal career opportunities, and equal access to university education. Every one of these are things women have had to fight for, and in the case of equal pay for equal work, women are still fighting for. That's it! Thank you for assisting me with my interview.

00:04:21

Dalia Stoffer: You're welcome. I had fun. I learn something new every day.