Lyman Beecher
(October 12, 1775 – January 10, 1863)

He was a Presbyterian minister during the Second Great Awakening, He was also the co-founder of the American Temperance Society, fighting against the ‘evils’ of alcohol on American society.

Harriet Beecher Stowe
(June 14, 1811 – July 1, 1896)

Harriet the daughter of Lyman Beecher, was an American abolitionist and author. Her novel Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) was a depiction of life for African-Americans under slavery; it reached millions as a novel and play, and became influential in the United States. It energized anti-slavery forces in the American North, while provoking widespread anger in the South leading to it being banned there.
**Horace Mann**  
(May 4, 1796 – August 2, 1859)

Mann was an American education reformer. He argued that universal public education was the best way to turn the nation's unruly children into disciplined, proper citizens. Most states adopted one version or another of the system he established in Massachusetts, especially the program for "normal schools" to train professional teachers. Mann has been credited by educational historians as the "Father of the Common School Movement".

![Horace Mann](image1.png)

**Dorothea Dix**  
(April 4, 1802 – July 17, 1887)

Dorothea Dix was an activist on behalf of Americans suffering from mental illness. She lobbied state legislatures and the United States Congress to create the first American mental asylums. Before her efforts most people suffering from mental illness were incarcerated in prisons.

![Dorothea Dix](image2.png)
Transcendentalism

A group of ideas in literature and philosophy that developed in the 1830s and '40s as a protest against the general state of American culture and society.

Most of the Transcendentalists writers and philosophers became involved as well in social reform movements, especially anti-slavery and women's rights. It taught that people can find the truth within themselves—through feeling and intuition. They believed in the importance of individual conscience, and urged people not to obey laws they considered unjust. Instead of protesting with violence, they should peacefully refuse to obey those laws. This form of protest is called civil disobedience.

Henry David Thoreau

(July 12, 1817 – May 6, 1862)

Thoreau was an American author, poet, philosopher, abolitionist, naturalist, tax resister, development critic, surveyor, historian, and leading transcendentalist. He is best known for his book Walden, a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings, and his essay Civil Disobedience, an argument for individual resistance to civil government in moral opposition to an unjust state. In 1846 he spent a night in jail after refusing to pay taxes as a protest against the Mexican-American war.
Ralph Waldo Emerson
(May 25, 1803 – April 27, 1882)

Emerson was an American lecturer, philosopher, essayist, and poet, best remembered for leading the Transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century. He was seen as a champion of individualism and a prescient critic of the peer pressures of society.

William Lloyd Garrison
(December 10, 1805 – May 24, 1879)

Garrison was a prominent American abolitionist, journalist, and social reformer. He is best known as the editor of the abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*, and was one of the founders of the American Anti-Slavery Society. He promoted "immediate emancipation" of slaves in the United States. Garrison was also a leading voice for the women's suffrage movement.
Grimké Sisters

Sarah Moore Grimké (1792–1873)
and Angelina Emily Grimké (1805–1879)

The Grimké sisters, were 19th-century Southern American Quakers, educators and writers who were early advocates of abolitionism and women’s rights.

Throughout their lives, they traveled throughout the North, lecturing about their first hand experiences with slavery on their family's plantation. Among the American first women to act publicly in social reform movements, they received abuse and ridicule for their abolitionist activity. They both realized that women would have to create a safe space in the public arena to be effective reformers. They became early activists in the women's rights movement.

Frederick Douglass


Douglass was an American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery, he became a leader of the abolitionist movement, famous for his speeches and antislavery writing. He stood as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves did not have the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Many Northerners also found it hard to believe that such a great orator had been a slave.

Douglass actively supported women's suffrage. Douglass was a firm believer in the equality of all people, whether black, female, Native American, or recent immigrant, famously quoted as saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."
Sojourner Truth  
(1797 – November 26, 1883)
She gave herself that name, her real name was Isabella Baumfree. She was an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist. Truth was born into slavery but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court to recover her son who had been sold illegally from NY to Alabama, she became the first black woman to win such a case against a white man.

Harriet Tubman  
(born Araminta Harriet Ross; 1820 – March 10, 1913)
Tubman, known as the Moses of her people, was an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy during the American Civil War. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made more than thirteen missions to rescue more than 70 slaves using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. She later helped John Brown recruit men for his raid on Harpers Ferry, a failed attempt to arm slaves and revolt against the plantations of the South. In the post-war era she struggled for women's suffrage.
Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
(November 12, 1815 – October 26, 1902)  
Stanton was an American social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women's rights movement. Her Declaration of Sentiments, presented at the first women's rights convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, is often credited with initiating the first organized women's rights and women's suffrage movements in the United States.

Susan B Anthony  
(February 15, 1820 – March 13, 1906)  
Anthony was a prominent American civil rights leader who played a pivotal role in the 19th century women's rights movement that introduced women's suffrage into the United States. She was co-founder of the first Women's Temperance Movement with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. On November 18, 1872, Anthony was for voting on November 5 in the 1872 Presidential Election two weeks earlier. At the trial the judge refused to let her testify in her own defense and fined her $100, her response was "Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God." She never paid the fine and the trial only drew more attention to her cause.
Oberlin College

(founded in 1833)

Oberlin College is a private liberal arts college in Oberlin, Ohio, noteworthy for having been the first American institution of higher learning to regularly admit black and female students making it coeducational. Many of its students were abolitionist and the college campus was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Elizabeth Blackwell

(3 February 1821 – 31 May 1910)

Blackwell was the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States. In October 1847, Blackwell was accepted as a medical student by Geneva Medical College, located in upstate New York. Her acceptance was a near-accident. The dean and faculty, usually responsible for evaluating an applicant were not able to make a decision due to the special nature of Blackwell's case. They put the issue up to vote by the 150 male students of the class with the stipulation that if one student objected, Blackwell would be turned away. The young men believed it to be a joke, and responding accordingly, voted unanimously to accept her.
Maria Mitchell

(August 1, 1818 – June 28, 1889)

Mitchell was an American astronomer, who in 1847, by using a telescope, discovered a comet which as a result became known as the "Miss Mitchell's Comet". Mitchell was the first American woman to work as a professional astronomer. She became the first woman member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1848 and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1850. In protest against slavery, she stopped wearing clothes made of cotton. She was friends with various suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and co-founded the American Association for the Advancement of Women.

Temperance

A temperance movement is a social movement urging reduced or prohibited use of alcoholic beverages. The American Temperance Society was formed in 1826, within 12 years it claimed more than 8,000 local groups and over 1,500,000 members. It also was tied in with religious revivals and progressive politics, particularly female suffrage. In America there were 3 waves in the temperance movement, climaxing with the 18th Amendment that was passed in 1919 and banned alcohol.