

Class of 1866, New York State Normal School

KATE STONEMAN

B. ca 1841, 5th of 8 children of George & Katherine Chaney Stoneman, at Stoneman Farm, Lakewood, N.Y. Older brother George a Civil War General & Governor of California 1883-87. Died July 1825 (no exact date).

Graduated State Normal College, class of 1866 - February. Taught Glen's Falls Seminary 1 term, taught SNC Fall 1866 - Geography, Drawing & Penmanship, 1899-1906 taught Drawing & School Law.

Early Suffragette, grew up with influence of Chautauqua, liberal parents. Developed interest in Suffragette Movement after being hired as a teacher at State Normal School. Co-founder of Woman's Suffrage Society of Albany. 1880 group lobbied successfully for participation of women in school elections.

Law career. 1882 apprenticed at law office of Worthington Fotheringham. Later earned Bachelor of Laws Degree from Albany Law School, 1886 1st woman admitted to the bar in N.Y.

"When I first became actively interested in suffrage and the equal rights of men and women to enjoy the franchise there were only seven occupations open to women, all more or less connected with the pursuits of women, housekeeping, sewing, cooking, tailoring, domestic nursing, teaching in "dame" schools, and shop work Women were considered to be entirely out of their sphere in any other occupation than that of home making. And a very delightful occupation that might be. But it most assuredly was not all. To the professional woman of today the very essence of her existence is a perfectly justifiable independence without which she would be utterly at a loss." (1919)

1918 active in election as a poll watcher, first election in which women had vote. Would not join either party because the national Republican party and the state Democratic party were opposed to prohibition.

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