

Out of the Archives

a newsletter from the Washington State Archives **November 2016**



of the Secretary of State



Susan B. Anthony herself, and the Bush family fought for women's rights in Washington

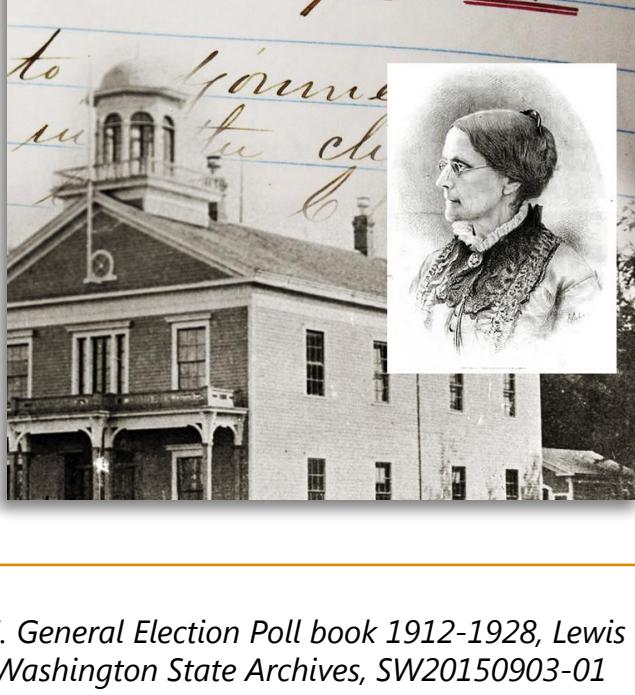
The Southwest branch of the Washington
State Archives contains the original documents

early General Election poll books for the South Union precinct in Thurston County, Washington, covering the years 1912-1928.ⁱ Among the collections received was a General Election poll book for 1912. John S. Bush was the Oath of Inspector of Elections for the South Union precinct. John was the grandson of New Market (now Tumwater) pioneers George and Isabella Bush. These poll books give an overview of who was living in the area and who proceeded to exercise their right to vote.

women would not receive the right to vote nationally until years later, Washington state was progressive in the fight for the woman's right to vote.ⁱⁱ Washington was the fifth state to allow women to vote with a bill introduced in 1909 and passed in 1910.ⁱⁱⁱ

Of an Election held in		South Union		PRECINCT NUMBER	WARD NUMBER				
		NAME OF CITY, TOWN OR PRECINCT							
in	Thurston	County, State of Washington, on the 5th day of							
November, A. D. 1912, at which time		John S. Bush		was Inspector and					
C. H. Clough		and		Fred Schulze					
were Judges and		Arthur G. West		and					
were Clerks of said Election,		T. M. Warner		the following named persons voting thereat:					
No. of person voting	NAMES OF VOTERS		No. of Ballot Given to Voter	No. of "Written" in this Column	No. of Person Voting	NAMES OF VOTERS		No. of Ballot Given to Voter	Writ- ten in Col-
1	A. T. Burdick		1	34	Charles Dickigian			34	1
2	W. J. Abbott		2	35	Mrs. J. P. O'Donnell			35	1
3	W. K. Mortace		3	36	Mrs. G. W. Jenkins			36	1
4	Joe Shelly		4	37	Ms. T. A. Beignell			37	1
	(Dr. E. Lewis)		5	38	Mr. E. C. L.			38	1

The struggle to approve the woman's right to vote in Washington began much earlier when Susan B. Anthony came to Washington



Miss Anthony was permitted to address the Washington Territorial House of Representatives on female suffrage, October 19, 1871. The Honorable Daniel R. Bigelow had addressed the House just a few days before on the same topic.^{iv} [Check out the Washington State Secretary of State's timeline of voting rights for women.](#)

For more information on the women's suffrage movement in Washington state [see Shanna Stevenson's articles and books covering the](#)

subject. Shanna was the coordinator of the Women's History Consortium.

iii. House bill 59 (HB59) introduced during the session of the 1909 Legislature and which authorized the constitutional amendment vote on women's suffrage held the 8th of November 1910.

iv. Bigelow, Daniel R. (1871, October 14) Speech on Female Suffrage. Washington State L
A60002 398843.

v. Stevenson, Shanna (2009) *Woman's Voices, Women's Votes: The Campaign for Equal Rights in Washington*. CA: University of California Press.

Knows What George Bush Actually Looked Like," used the term, "West Indies" where it should have said, "India," referring to the country, not the group of islands.