

I spent days after this project was assigned pondering history and its people. I thought about leaders in history, and those who were leaders, not in a bureaucratic sense, but in other ways. There have been many leaders in art, and suffrage movements, and more... but there was only one who was a leader in both art and suffragist movements. Blanche had stood up for what she believed in. She was fearless, and would stop at nothing, not even the president, to have her voice be heard. I chose Blanche Ames for my NHD project because I do not know anyone who was as courageous as Blanche Ames.

I began my research about Mrs. Ames by consulting the Easton Historical Society. There, Mr. Frank Meninno, assisted me in finding resources. He pointed me to copies of political cartoons drawn by Blanche and put me in contact with many people. I then went on to interview Oakes Ames Plimpton, a descendant of Blanche, and Jeanmarie Joyce, a friend of Mrs. Ames. These interviews were very helpful in my research. Next, I went to Blanche's former residence, now known as Borderland State Park, and toured the residence. Eleanor Simmons, park director also assisted in finding resources. I then went to the library and picked up some books about Blanche Ames and the suffrage movement in general. Various sources on the internet and archivists at Smith and Stonehill College were also of assistance in researching Mrs. Ames.

I have always had a passion for technology. Even growing up with a computer that took, no exaggeration, 45 minutes to turn on. I remember pressing the button and waiting for nearly an hour just to be able to use technology. Needless to say, we have since upgraded our computer, but my love for technology has not lessened, if anything, it's grown. So, when presented the NHD assignment, I immediately knew that I would create a website. I started my project by taking some coding classes from CodeAcademy. These classes helped me better understand how to code a website, and since I had already created websites using the Weebly website builder, I went to work right away.

When you think of Blanche, what are some words that come to mind? For me, these words include kind, compassionate, caring, and leader. What is a leader? By definition, a leader is someone who leads. Blanche led many people in both art and politics. Her most inspiring sector of leadership was the suffragist movement. Blanche not only brought a lot of attention to the suffragist movement with her political cartoons, but she also hosted suffragist meetings in her own home. Blanche was passionate about getting women the right to vote, and eventually, the suffragist movement succeeded. Blanche helped to lessen gender inequality by getting women the right to vote. She played a key role in the suffragist movement, leaving a wonderful legacy of narrowing the gender inequality gap, and for that, I am truly thankful.