

Black Women in the story of Women's Suffrage in Pueblo, Colorado

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on behalf of the Women's Suffrage Centennial-Southern Colorado.



Introduction

We know that Black women in Pueblo were interested in the right to vote but the *Chieftain* in the nineteenth century, which is the main source for this material (1) was against suffrage so tended not to name local suffragists and (2) was deep in the racial prejudices of nineteenth century America so tended to minimize the successes of non-White residents. Still, some things can be learned.

Before 1893: School Elections

The original constitution of Colorado written in 1876, ensured women's rights to vote in school elections but not yet in any other elections. The *Chieftain* reported that the first time women in Pueblo went to the polls for school elections was in May, 1880. "A large number of females voted, a number of whom were colored."

The Successful Suffrage Campaign of 1893

Women in Pueblo, like women across the state, worked to convince men to vote in favor of women's suffrage. The "Colored Ladies Glee Club" sang at many political meetings of women in Pueblo. The *Chieftain* does not acknowledge any additional activity of these Black women in the meetings, nor does it name them. Mrs. Marble, a White suffragist from New Mexico is credited with organizing equal suffrage leagues across Pueblo including at the "Colored" Baptist church. This church also served as a precinct polling place.

The First Black Women to Register to Vote

On November 7, 1893, male voters in Colorado voted in favor of women's suffrage. On Saturday, December 2 the vote was confirmed and the Governor declared that women's suffrage was the law of Colorado. On Thursday, December 7, two women (White) in Pueblo County registered to vote. On the following Monday **Lulu Lincoln**, a school teacher, became the first Black woman in Pueblo County to register and **Eudora R. Logan**, a "domestic" was the second.

The Election Campaigns in 1894

Starting in 1894, Colorado women could vote in all elections. Women across Colorado formed organizations to learn how to engage in politics. In Pueblo, Black women formed Ladies auxiliaries to existing Black Republican clubs like the Langston club and the Oliver Leaf and Bessemer Republican clubs. Remember, in these days the Republicans were the party of Lincoln. They also participated in political events hosted by White women. **Mrs. Alice Myers**, as president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Langston club organized Republican rallies where candidates were invited to speak. Other participants in club activities whose names we know include **Mrs. Mary Bryant**, **Miss Kate Allen**, and **Mrs. Sawyer**.

For more information

See our research pages on <http://womensuffragecentennialsotherncolorado.org/>

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