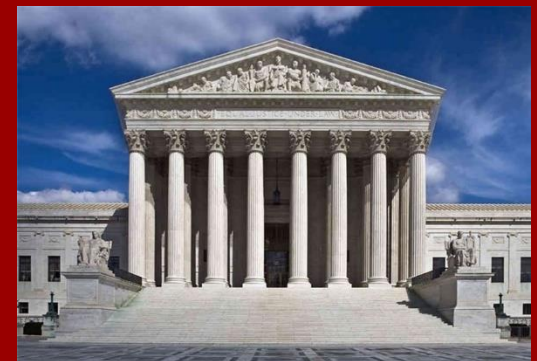


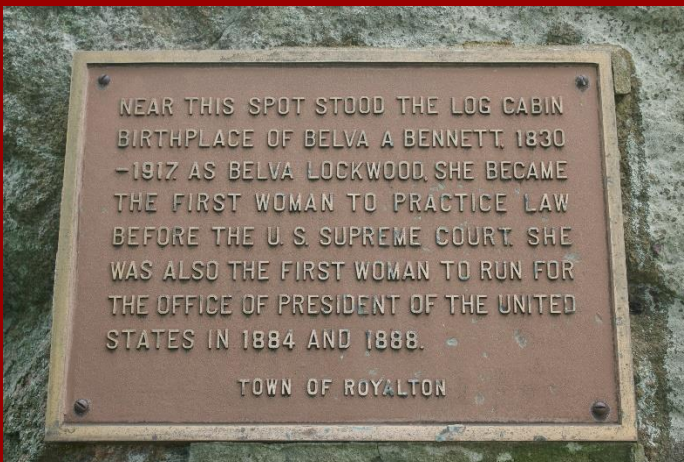
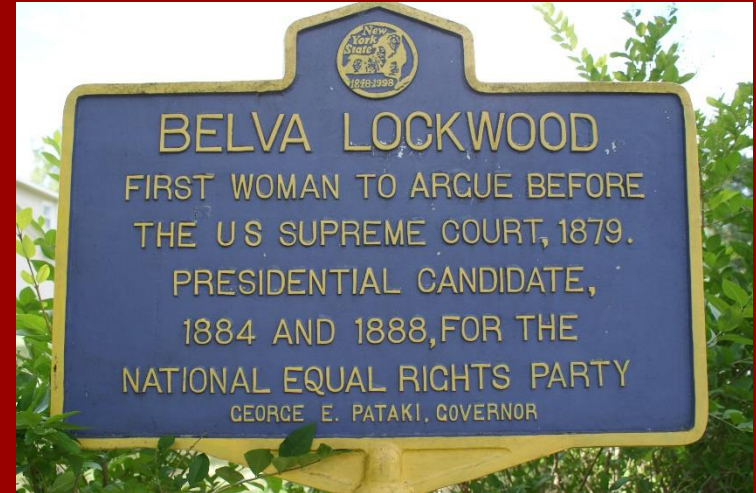
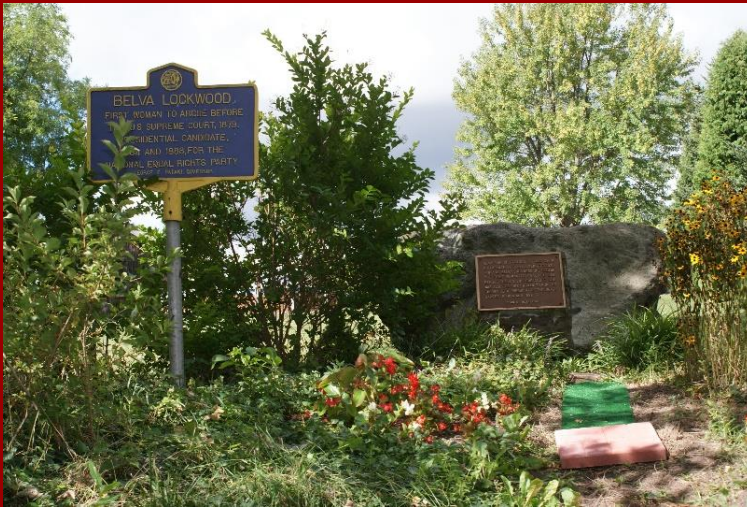
# Belva Lockwood

## From Log Cabin to the Supreme Court



# Belva Ann Bennett

Born October 24, 1830 in a log cabin on present-day Griswold Road in Royalton, NY. In 1848, she married Uriah McNall and had a daughter, Lura, in 1849.



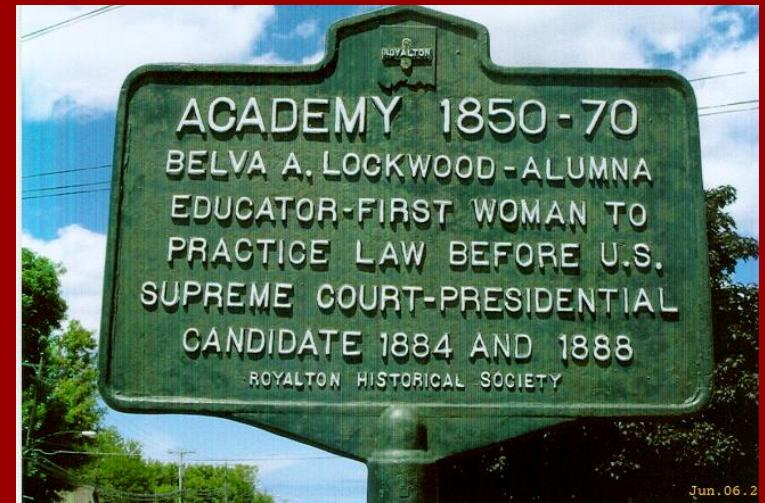
Near this spot stood the log cabin birthplace of Belva A Bennett 1830 – 1917. As Belva Lockwood, she became the first woman to practice law before the Supreme Court. She was also the first woman to run for the office of President of the United States in 1884 and 1888.

Town of Royalton

# Gasport Academy



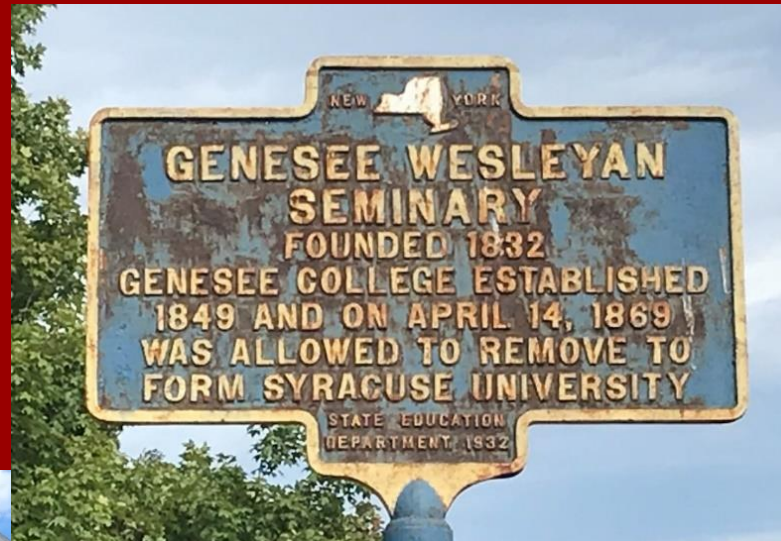
Located on Gasport Road, it is now an apartment building



After her husband died in an accident, Belva enrolled as a student in the Gasport Academy to brush up on her education and teaching skills in order to support herself and her daughter Lura working as teacher in a local school district.

# Genesee Wesleyan Seminary

In 1854, Belva McNall enrolled at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in the Scientific Course (usually reserved for men) to obtain a teaching degree.



She was criticized for leaving Lura with her family to pursue her education. She graduated in 1857.



This is now Elim Bible Institute & College in Lima, NY

# Union School



The Lockport Union School was opened in 1847 and became one of the first tuition free high schools in the United States. It was located on Chestnut Street and was torn down in the 1950s.

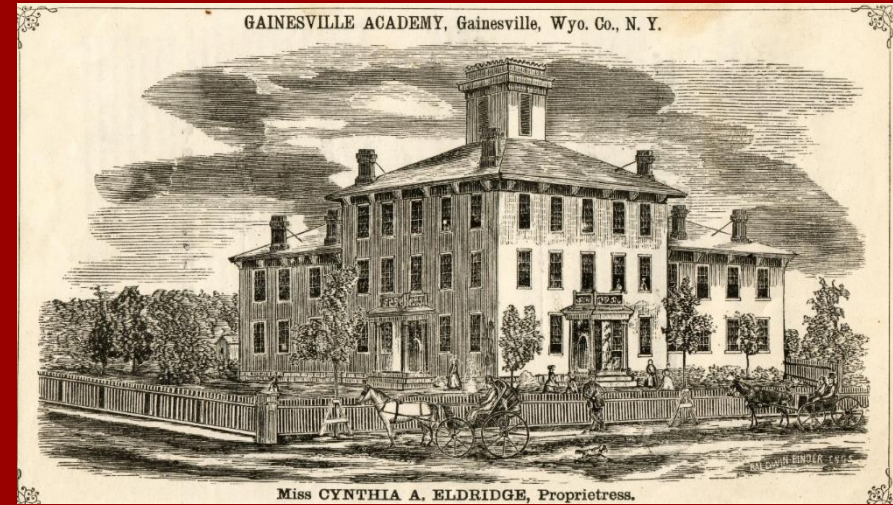
Belva McNall became Principal of the Girls' Department at the Union School in 1857 and remained for four years. She added public speaking and gymnastics to the girls' curriculum. This photo was taken a few years after Belva left the school.



# Oversaw Two Female Seminaries



This is the building that burned down while Belva McNall was teaching there in August 1861



A new school was built and opened in 1862. Belva left later that year.

Images courtesy of Cindy Amrhein, Wyoming County Historian

Belva McNall operated two Female Seminaries between 1860 and 1865. The first was in Gainesville in Wyoming County; the second in Owego in Tioga County. Both are gone now.

# Owego Female Seminary



Owego Female Seminary

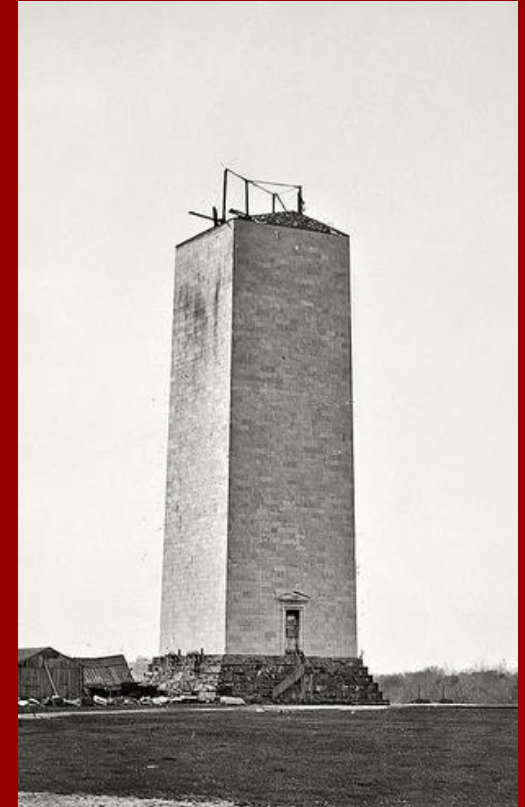
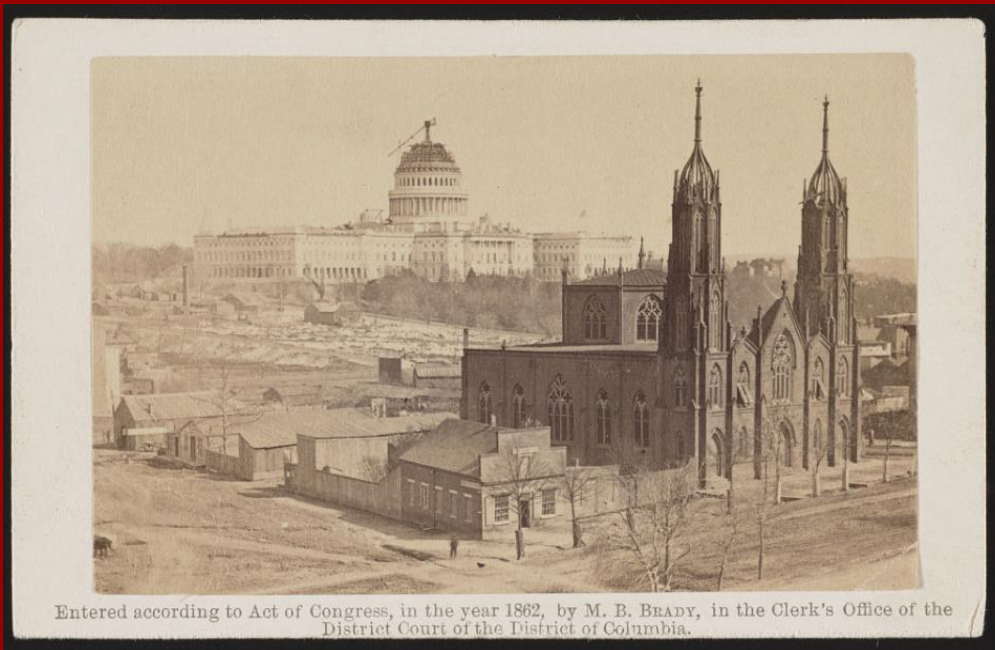


Historic marker on former site of the Owego Female Seminary

Photos courtesy of the Tioga County Historical Society

Belva took a job as principal of the Owego Female Seminary. This marker is located at the site of the Owego Seminary.

# Washington, D.C. 1860s



In 1866, Belva moved to Washington, DC where she and Lura rented the Union League Hall. They opened a school, McNall's Ladies' Seminary and also rented out rooms for lecturers. Belva married Dr. Ezekiel Lockwood and began studying law at National University.



# The Supreme Court

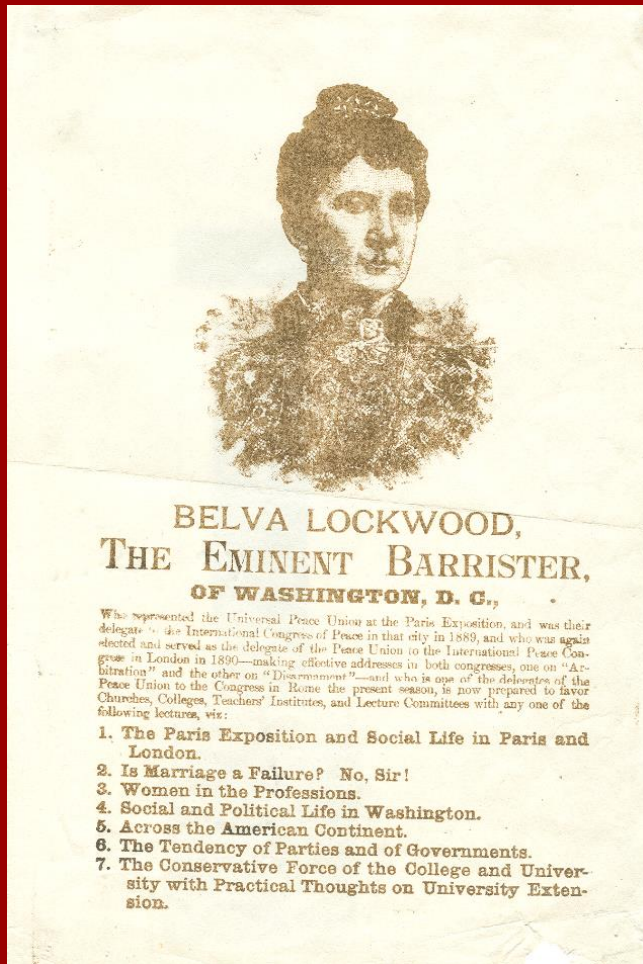


In 1879, after five years of petitioning, Belva Lockwood became the first woman to argue a case in the U.S. Supreme Court.

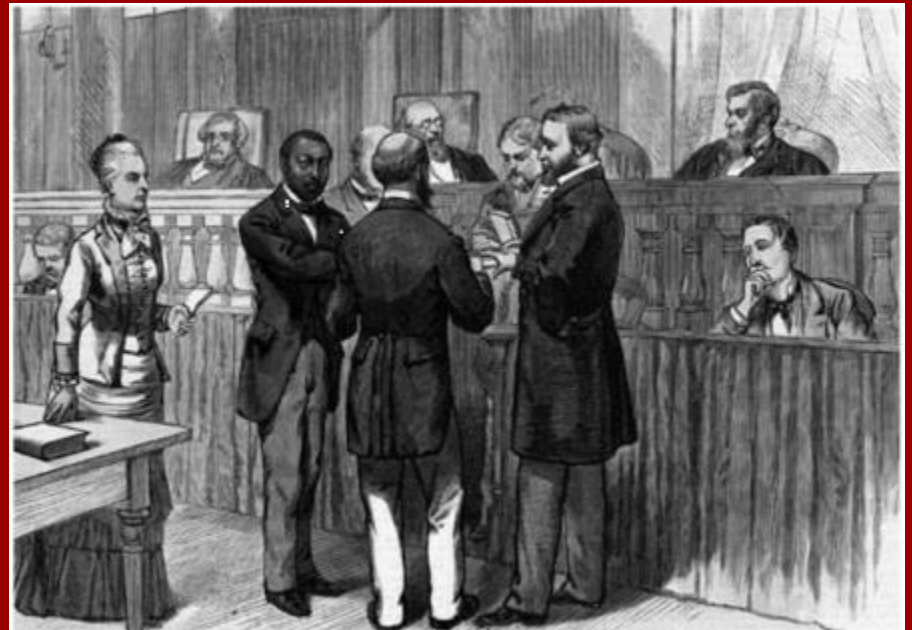


The unfinished Capitol in the 1860s where the Supreme Court Chambers (left) were located from 1860 to 1935.

# Lady Lawyer in Washington



Belva Lockwood “opened the door” to the Supreme Court for other women lawyers as well as African-American attorneys. In the image below she is introducing Samuel Lowrey, the first black lawyer to argue a case in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1880.



# Belva Gets Around Washington in Her Own Style

Belva Lockwood was derided for using this tricycle to get around Washington, D.C. She found it to be faster than walking and healthier than taking a carriage or omnibus. She was criticized for being unfeminine and immodest because she wore bloomers when she rode her trike. Belva did not let her critics influence her and she continued to ride her tricycle around the city.



Courtesy of Professor Frank D. Gardner

MRS. BELVA A. LOCKWOOD on the tricycle on which she used to ride around Washington, D. C., shown as she appeared at the time of her first nomination for the presidency. (From the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, October 14, 1884).

# Presidential Candidate



In 1884, and then again in 1888, Belva Lockwood ran for President on the Equal Rights Party ticket.

Above left is a handbill announcing Belva's nomination in 1884. Above right is another piece of campaign literature. The ballot box was used in California and came down through the Stow family.

Photos of ballot and ballot box courtesy of the Collection of the Oakland Museum of California. Gift of Mrs. S. Gertrude Smyth.



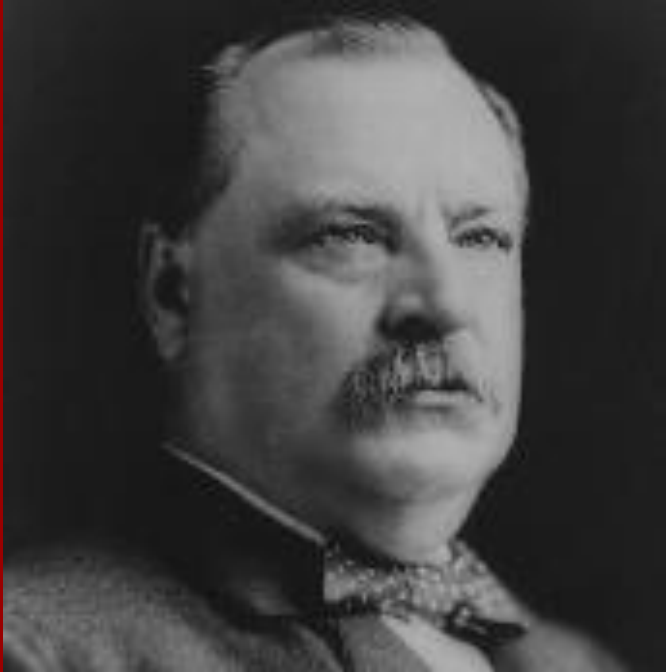
# Political Cartoons



Newspapers continually mocked Belva Lockwood for running for president. With few exceptions, most men dismissed her as a radical who stirred up domestic discord or that she was mentally ill.



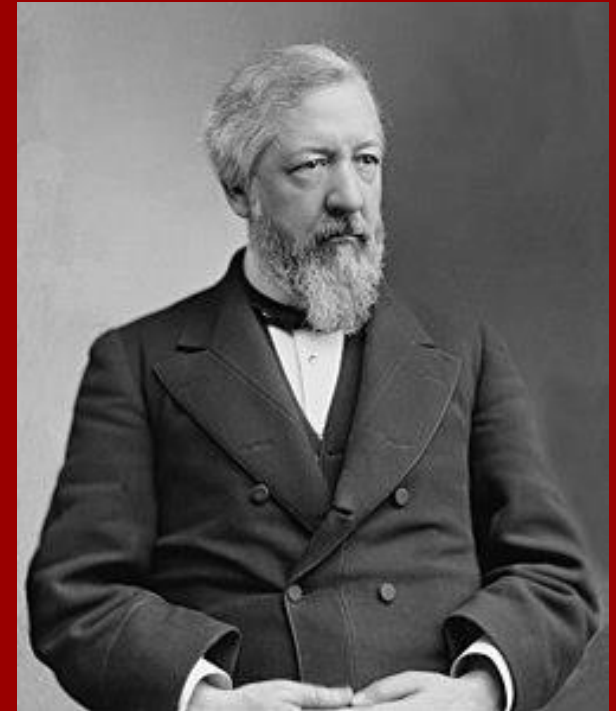
# 1884 Presidential Race



Grover Cleveland  
Democratic Candidate  
4,914,482 popular votes  
219 electoral votes  
48.9%



Belva Lockwood  
Equal Rights Party  
candidate  
4,194 popular votes  
0 electoral votes



James G. Blaine  
Republican Candidate  
4,856,905 popular votes  
182 electoral votes  
48.3%

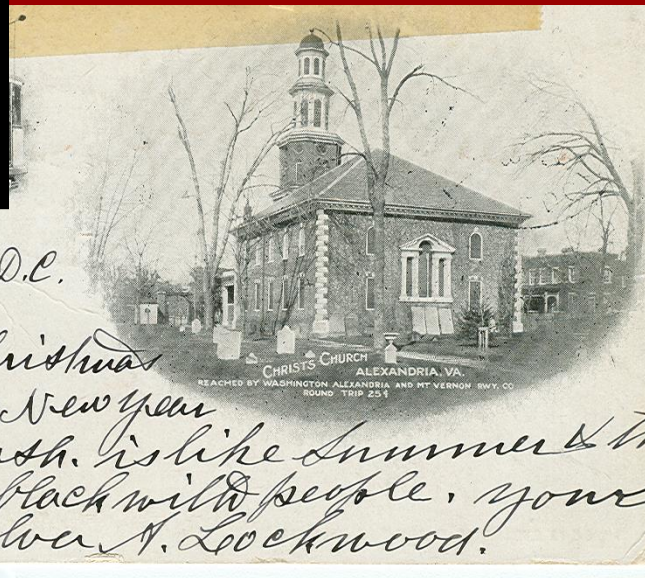
# The Later Years



Belva's final years were spent continuing her law practice, speaking out for women's suffrage and representing the U.S. at the International Peace Conferences from 1886 to 1911.



Belva Lockwood died on May 20, 1917, three years before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was passed. She is buried in Congressional Cemetery in Washington DC.



## Bibliography

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- Supreme Court Building - <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/courtbuilding.aspx>
- Slide #2 All images taken by Ann Marie Linnabery, 2013
- Slide#3 All images taken by Ann Marie Linnabery, 2013
- Slide #4 All photos taken by Ann Marie Linnabery, 2020
- Slide #5 Lockport Union School and class photo of 1865 – Photograph Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)
- Slide#6 Two images of Gainsville Female Seminary - Images courtesy of Cindy Amrhein, Wyoming County Historian
- Slide #7 Two photos for Owego Female Seminary - Photos courtesy of the Tioga County Historical Society
- Slide#8 Trinity Episcopal Church, Washington, DC, 1862 - Barnard & Gibson, Copyright Claimant, and Mathew B Brady, Barnard & Gibson, photographer. *Capitol, from near Trinity Church.* , 1862. [New York: E. & H.T. Anthony, 501 Broadway] Photograph.  
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2018652635/>. No known restrictions on publication.
- Washington Monument as it stood for 25 years - For information, see "Brady-Handy photograph collection," [https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/389\\_bhan.html](https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/389_bhan.html) No known restrictions on publication.



Slide #9 Photo of Belva Lockwood - Photograph Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)

*Construction of Capitol dome.* Washington D.C, 1860. [Between and 1863] Photograph.  
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2009631424/>. No known restrictions on publication.

Supreme Court Chamber, 1860 – 1935 - <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/photo10.html> via [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_Senate\\_Chamber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Senate_Chamber) Public domain.

Slide #10 “Belva Lockwood, the Eminent Barrister” – Belva Lockwood Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)

Belva Lockwood and Samuel Lowery - Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper -  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=-Spe5ZIfPM8C&pg=PA65&dq=Samuel+R.+Lowery+supreme+court&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj\\_tLr11tzKAhUCCz4KHZ6sCSIQ6AEIKTAC#v=onepage&q=Samuel%20R.%20Lowery%20supreme%20court&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=-Spe5ZIfPM8C&pg=PA65&dq=Samuel+R.+Lowery+supreme+court&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj_tLr11tzKAhUCCz4KHZ6sCSIQ6AEIKTAC#v=onepage&q=Samuel%20R.%20Lowery%20supreme%20court&f=false) via [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel\\_R.\\_Lowery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_R._Lowery) Public domain.

Slide #11 Belva Lockwood on her tricycle - Belva Lockwood Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)

Slide #12 Photos of Belva Lockwood-Marietta Stow Ballot (ticket) and Ballot Box from the Oakland Museum of California. Permission granted under Fair Use.  
<https://collections.museumca.org/?q=collection-item/h26399> (Ballot)  
<https://picturethis.museumca.org/pictures/ballot-box-used-first-and-only-woman-s-presidential-ballot-box-used-campaign-1883-1884> (Ballot box)

Image of Belva Lockwood [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belva\\_Ann\\_Lockwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belva_Ann_Lockwood)  
(also copy in Belva Lockwood Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center))

Slide #13 Belva Lockwood and Benjamin Butler political cartoon – Opper, Frederick Burr, Artist. *Now let the show go on!* / F. Opper. , 1884. N.Y.: Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011661827/>. No known restrictions on publication.

“Our Next President Belva Lockwood” aka (the Mother Hubbard Cartoon) – (Belva Lockwood Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)

Slide#14 Photo of Grover Cleveland *Hon. Grover Cleveland, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing right.* , ca. 1892. Aug. 9. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/96522562/>. No known restrictions on publication.

Image of Belva Lockwood [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belva\\_Ann\\_Lockwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belva_Ann_Lockwood) (also copy in Belva Lockwood Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)

Photo of James Blaine [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_G.\\_Blaine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_G._Blaine)

Slide #15 Belva Lockwood with two unidentified women (Belva Lockwood Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)

Postcard from Belva Lockwood (Belva Lockwood Collection of the Niagara County Historical Society (dba Niagara History Center)

Slide #16 Belva Lockwood Gravesite, Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/1559/belva-ann-lockwood>