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THE POST-STANDARD

Cayuga - Seneca



Truth, Sanger inducted into Women's Hall of Fame

By DAVID L. SHAW

SENECA FALLS — Sojourner Truth, a former slave who fought for freedom in the 1800's, and birth control advocate Margaret H. Sanger were inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame last night.

The pair, the 28th and 29th inductees since 1973, had their lives depicted in a slide show before their

awards were accepted by living relatives or representatives.

In accepting the award on behalf of his grandmother, New York City attorney Alexander C. Sanger praised her courage and convictions, but said she was "the consummate feminist, yet a contradiction by-lying her age."

"She sacrificed much in her personal life. She was an inspiration for

what one woman can accomplish, and a warning of the costs of that success. She remains controversial today, yet when you honor her, you honor yourselves," said Sanger.

Outside, two pro-life advocates distributed printed material that painted Sanger as favoring forced sterilization and for allegedly being a racist as "Planned Parenthood's patron saint."

Accepting the award for Sojourner Truth, who died in 1883, was Francis Valentine of Battle Creek, Mich., former secretary of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Association.

"We loved her very much and remember so many things she did. Her talks and deeds will long be remembered," said Valentine.

The presentations were followed

by a dramatic presentation of her lives by actress Tulis S. McCarty.

Another part of yesterday's event was a panel discussion on women's rights movement. In the discussion, the person in charge of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home at 32 Washington Street, Jorie Smith, detailed how her former husband, Ralph Waldo Emerson of Seattle, Wash., came to the house.

Afterwards, an official from the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation, Inc., which wants to buy the house back and turn it over to the National Park Service, expressed optimism that the house will be preserved by the Foundation.

One of the panelists was Hunt-Wilson of the Organization of American Historians. She said history's treatment of women has been guided by unfair standards that are now changing as "social history" technique is being used.

She said the women of the past were assigned roles if they met specific criteria as with their male biographers discarding much of their views in favor of traditional ones.

"There is a new development in history today that does away with the three P's of power, presentism, periodization of past history



At left, marchers dressed in Civil War era uniforms formed one of the many units which joined yesterday's parade in celebration of the induction of two more women into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls.

Below, at left, the Hall of Fame decorated for the big day. Ten-year-old Nancy Liddle and 8-year-old Marya Plotkin, center, model bloomers, a popular item. Both young women are Eaton residents. At right, Tom Cunningham of Geneva,

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Section C

Local News

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by a dramatic presentation on their lives by actress Tulis S. McCall.

Another part of yesterday's activities was a panel discussion on the women's rights movement. Prior to the discussion, the person in charge of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's former home at 32 Washington St., Marjorie Smith, detailed how she and her former husband, Ralph Peters of Seattle, Wash., came to own the house.

Afterwards, an official from the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation Inc., which wants to buy the house back and turn it over to the National Park Service, expressed optimism that the house will be sold to the Foundation.

One of the panelists was Joan Hunt-Wilson of the Organizational of American Historians. She said history's treatment of women has been guided by unfair standards that are now changing as a "new social history" technique is emerging.

She said the women of the past were assigned roles if they didn't meet specific criteria as heroes, with their male biographers often discarding much of their personal views in favor of traditional history.

"There is a new development in history today that does away with the three P's of power, prestige and periodization of past historical tech-

nique and replaces it with the three F's of family, feminism and function," said Hunt-Wilson.

She said there is a "tremendous potential for women's history" and urged those present to preserve all papers and other remnants of their lives for the future generation of historians.

History professor Judith K. Wellman of Oswego spoke on "The Signers of the Declaration of Sentiments: Revolutionaries or Conservatives?", a look at the 100 signers of the famous document spawned by the first women's rights convention here in July of 1848.

She compared it with Thomas Jefferson's 1776 Declaration of Independence, which it was modeled after with Elizabeth Cady Stanton's modifications to make it pertain to women's independence.

An example is that "all men are created equal" is changed to "all men and women are created equal."

Wellman, who is studying the convention and the declaration's 68 female and 32 male signers, noted it was written 72 years after the Declaration of Independence and it took another 72 years after that before women were allowed to vote.

She said 63 of the 68 women were from the Waterloo and Seneca Falls area, ranging in age from 14 to 83.

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