



Better Days Reading Club

WEEK 1

FIGHT BY REMEMBERING: THE MAKING OF SENECA FALLS

This week's reading is the article "Fight by Remembering: The Making of Seneca Falls" written by Lisa Tetrault. Tetrault published her book, *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 1848-1898*, in 2014. In it, she discusses how major players of the women's suffrage movement (like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony) used the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 to frame the movement, and place themselves at its head; even though they weren't in attendance! In this week's reading, she summarizes her research in a narrative and engaging way how this 'myth of Seneca Falls' came to be. This article sets the scene for what the next nine weeks of our reading club will bring. There will be stories of hard work, people in power, grassroots efforts, and ultimately of voices being heard.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Why does it matter how and why we remember something?
- How can we better remember that the 19th amendment did not conclude the fight for suffrage rights? (i.e. Indian Citizenship Act, McCarran-Walter Act, Voting Rights Act, etc.)
- How can we better remember participants of grassroots movements? Or, "everyday people" of history, and not just the more remembered names?