



# Better Days Reading Club

## WEEK 2

### UTAH WOMEN HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE LONG BEFORE OTHERS - AND THEN HAD IT TAKEN AWAY

This week for the Better Days Reading Club, we are reading an article from the Washington Post, written by our own historical director: Katherine Kitterman. This article gives a wonderful overview of Utah's suffrage history, and Kitterman does an especially careful job of showing how that history is impossible to separate from the story of polygamy. However, the most insightful part of this article may be the acknowledgment that suffrage did not expand evenly to everyone, nor did it expand permanently. Voting rights were taken away from women in Utah, and even after they regained those rights, Native Americans and some women of color were still denied citizenship and suffrage. As Kitterman observed, working for suffrage always has many setbacks, and progress has always been slow; yet people always keep working. Those are the people we will continue to talk about in the next few weeks.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is the relationship between polygamy and Utah women's voting rights?
- How can we celebrate steps forward for suffrage while remembering and honoring those who were not included?
- Why are there so many historical examples of rights being extended to a group of people and then later taken away?