

# HISTORICAL MAY

**May 28 and 29, 1851:**

Akron was the site for the Ohio Women's Rights Convention.



Reported at the event were statistics showing, among other things, that female teachers were paid less than one half the salary of their male counterparts. Attendees resolved to work for change by urging religious groups, state legislatures and the press to support women's rights.

**May 18, 1896:** The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separate-but-equal facilities on intrastate railroads were constitutional in *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

Upholding state-imposed racial segregation, the justices ruled that the facilities satisfied the Fourteenth Amendment.

**May 16, 1868:** By just one vote, the U.S. Senate failed to convict President Andrew Johnson under articles of impeachment.

Johnson had long antagonized Congress by his support of laws in southern states restricting the rights of African Americans and by his opposition to the Fourteenth Amendment. His alleged "high crimes and misdemeanors" involved violations of statute and an attempt to undermine Congress.



**May 7, 1915:** The ocean liner *Lusitania* was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine.

In the attack, 1,198 civilians died, more than 100 of whom were U.S. citizens.

**May 20, 1862:** President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act.

Under the act designed to spur Western migration, settlers were granted 160 acres of public land after paying a filing fee and living on the land for five years.



There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.

—Susan B. Anthony, social reformer

