

# MELINA ANN FOX

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July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Greetings to All from Indiana!

In 1635, Simon and Gregory Stone arrived from England to Watertown, Massachusetts. These brothers and their descendants became well-known leaders in the area. Simon Stone III was noted as the foremost citizen in the *History of Harvard* by Henry S. Norse. Also, the Simon and Gregory lineages produced two very prominent women in American history: **Lucy Stone** (Gregory), the well-known orator, abolitionist and promoter of rights for women. Lucy was the first female college graduate from MA although she had to earn her degree in Ohio. And, **Susan B Anthony** (Simon), a social reformer and feminist who played a pivotal role in the women's suffragette movement. These two educated women had the courage to fight and make a positive difference in the lives of people and society. As Lucy stated to her daughter as she lay dying of stomach cancer, "Make the world a better place". And, Susan B Anthony once said, "I had rather make history than write it".

As the proud and humbled 9<sup>th</sup> Great-Granddaughter of Simon Stone and a cousin to Lucy and Susan B., I want to express my deepest gratitude to the West Brookfield Historical Commission for Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lucy's birth. She was truly **THE** first leader of the Women's Rights Movement. Because Lucy refused to contribute to the *History of Woman Suffrage*, she has not been given the recognition of others. Lucy spoke in Indiana during the Fall of 1853. I find it profound that she and others made it possible for me to be the first woman in East Central Indiana to run for the US House of Representatives in 2002.

I wish that my schedule would have allowed me to attend the Celebration. Thanks to each and every person who did come to honor Lucy Stone. I will conclude one of my favorite statements she wrote, "I was glad I was born, and at a time when the world needed the service I could give".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melina Ann Fox". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Melina Ann Fox