

## **EMILY TANNER RICHARDS**

- i HISTORICAL**
- i Women's Suffrage leader**
- i Represented Utah women at national & international conferences**

Emily Tanner Richards is consistently overlooked in chronicles of Utah history. Emmeling B. Wells in her history indicated that, "Because Emily did not write a journal .....and because she did not promoter herself a lot, history will not know about her." That is a loss because she was actively involved in many important issues during her lifetime.

Emily was actively involved in the Suffrage movement from the time women first were allowed to vote in Utah in 1870. She was instrumental in creating the petition (memorial) to congress protesting the actions which took away the Utah women's right to vote in 1886. Emily organized many of the Suffrage Associations throughout the state and was very involved in finally securing women's right to vote in 1896.

Emily was selected as "Honorary President" of the League of Women Voters of Utah when it was first organized in November 1919. Suffrage Associations throughout the United States naturally evolved into the Leagues of Women Voters. To this day, this organization actively in monitors legislation, educates the public on issues of concern and encourages and supports women in running for public office.

Emily's husband, Franklin D. Richards, was the attorney for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Emily frequently traveled with him to important meetings. She often represented Utah women at national and international conferences.

Some of the rights and privileges Utah women enjoy today were secured through the tireless efforts of Emily Tanner Richards.