



## The First Wave Statue Exhibit



The statues in the lobby of the Visitor Center represent the first wave of women's rights activists in the United States: more than 300 women and men organized and participated in the first Women's Rights Convention. The sculpture includes statues of twenty people: Mary Ann and Thomas M'Clintock, Lucretia and James Mott, Jane and Richard Hunt, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederick Douglass, Martha Wright, and eleven "anonymous" participants who represent the men and women who attended the Convention but did not sign the "Declaration of Sentiments."

### The Convention

On July 19 and 20, 1848, more than 300 people attended the first Women's Rights Convention in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Seneca Falls, New York. The guiding theme of the Convention presented in the "Declaration of Sentiments" declared that "all men and women are created equal." The document went on to demand equal rights for women in property and custody laws, educational opportunities, and participation in the church, professions, and politics.

This Convention was the beginning of a seventy-two year battle to gain the right for women to vote in the United States. Despite the active leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Martha Wright, many people still do not know who these women, or their male supporters, were. The bronze statues executed by Lloyd Lillie are the near-life-size rendition of the first wave of the women's rights activists.

### The Artist

Lloyd Lillie, Professor Emeritus, Boston University, and two assistants sculpted the statues out of clay. Photographs and live models were used to create the movement, facial expressions, and size of the statues. In a foundry owned and operated by a woman, the figures were cast in bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. The weight process caused the statues to lose five

percent of their size. The sculpture was commissioned by the National Park Service for Women's Rights National Historical Park Visitor Center, which opened in August, 1993. If you would like to view the eight-minute video *Portrait of a Sculpture*, documenting the making of the statues, please ask the ranger at the information desk.



### Statues of the Convention Attendees

The Statues of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Frederick Douglass face the main entrance to the Visitor Center.

Represented are the five women who organized the First Women's Rights Convention and the men who supported them.