

BIOGRAPHY OF SANDRA OPDYCKE

Sandra Opdycke graduated from Vassar College in 1957. After raising three daughters, she worked in mental health for a number of years and then in her fifties, earned a Ph.D. in U.S. History at Columbia University. Ms. Opdycke taught at Bard, Vassar, and Marist Colleges. She also wrote a history of Bellevue Hospital and the *Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America*, as well as co-authoring several books on social policy.



In retirement, Ms. Opdycke continues to write and is currently working on a book about women's suffrage. She is an occasional lecturer at Bard's Center for Lifelong Learning.

Ms. Opdycke's talk at the AAUW dinner, "When Women Won the Vote" will describe the 70-plus year campaign that culminated in the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. She will discuss the notable energy and creativity of the New York State suffrage campaign, 1912-17. In addition, Ms. Opdycke will highlight dilemmas the suffragists faced that are still relevant today—such as whether to pursue reforms at the state or federal level, how to widen the circle of involvement, and whether the best way to change people's minds is through conciliation or confrontation. Having the vote was certainly no magic bullet, but winning it was an essential step forward in the long history of American women's struggle for equal rights.