

4. *When did Marilla Ricker first cast a ballot?*

- A. 1870
- B. 1871
- C. 1920

Answer: B—1871. Marilla Ricker demanded a ballot every year for 50 years, from 1870 on, in her hometown of Dover NH. In 1871 she was actually given a ballot, she filled it out and returned it, but it was put aside and never counted. We can hardly imagine what that felt like! But she came back and tried again, year after year, usually denied a ballot at all.

Did Mrs. Ricker vote in the 1920 presidential election, the first election in which women were allowed full voting rights? Short answer is, we don't know for sure. We do know that Marilla Ricker died of a stroke just a few days after the November 1920 election, but she had been very ill and living at the home of friends for months before that. Was she well enough to vote? Perhaps not. Although newspapers in the early 1900s gave good press to Mrs. Ricker's public challenges to the status quo, we can find no mention in 1920 newspapers of her, other than her obituary. Perhaps someone would take on the challenge of doing more research? Did she vote that year?