

# Ada Bittenbender

Ada Bittenbender was born on September 3, 1848 in Pennsylvania. She built a career as a school teacher before she and her husband Henry moved to Osceola, Nebraska. The couple bought the *Osceola Record* and Ada became the editor. She began studying law with her husband and, in 1882, the Bittenbenders moved to Lincoln. The same year, Ada became the first woman to be admitted to the bar in Nebraska and became her husband's law partner. She was also the editor of the first Farmer's Alliance newspaper in Nebraska. She became involved in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union as the union's official lawyer and lobbyist. She was only the third woman allowed to argue cases before the US Supreme Court. Ada also wrote the National Prohibitory Guide and printed it through her own company, Uncle Sam's Drunkard Factories. She was also active in the women's suffrage movement, speaking at the first general convention of the Nebraska Woman Suffrage Association in Omaha in 1881. Ada died on December 15, 1925 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She lived to see the success of both of her political dreams, Prohibition (1919) and women's suffrage (1920).



## Primary Source

*The National Prohibitory Amendment Guide* by Ada Bittenbender

## Secondary Source

*Rebels at the Bar: The Fascinating, Forgotten Stories of America's First Women Lawyers* by Jill Norgren