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Southern Belles from South Carolina

Having driven by the Pinckney wildlife refuge near Hilton Head Island, South Carolina over many years, we were pleased to learn of the accomplishments of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, who spent most of her life in South Carolina. The Grimké sisters - Angelina and Sarah - were natives of South Carolina. Because of their aversion to slavery, they chose to live their adult lives in northern states. Let's discover the stories of these powerful women.



Sarah Gremke

In 1738, Eliza Lucas's family moved from the West Indies to near what today is Charleston, South Carolina. It might be an amazing accomplishment today-just imagine it in the mid 1700's: as a teenager, the management of the three plantations held by the family fell to Lucas. Looking to diversify the crops grown, she added indigo. The British were willing to buy indigo in large quantities (so as not to have to purchase it from the French with whom they were at war). The first indigo maker who was brought in to assist her was not interested in South Carolina as a source of competition for the French indigo. The second indigo maker was helpful and the 1744 crop became a

commercial success.

Lucas's perseverance paid off. In 1746, planters from South Carolina shipped nearly 40,000 pounds of indigo to England. Indigo sales reached 100,000 pounds and sustained the Carolina economy until the Revolutionary War cut off trade between the colonies and England. In 1744 Eliza Lucas married Charles Pinckney. Entrepreneur, wife and mother are some of her many roles and accomplishments. Three of their four children grew to adulthood - two sons and a daughter. One son signed the U.S. Constitution and the other became the governor of South Carolina. At his own request, George Washington served as one of the pallbearers at Eliza Lucas Pinckney's funeral.



Angelina Grimke

Sarah and Angelina Grimké were both born in Charleston, South Carolina. Educated in the topics considered proper for young ladies in the early 1800s, Sarah was inwardly rebellious and learned what she could of the "improper" topics of Greek, Latin, philosophy and law. After a visit to Philadelphia, Sarah moved there in 1821 and joined the Quakers. Angelina

followed her sister into the Quaker faith and moved to Philadelphia as well in 1829. Both became committed to the abolitionist cause and began speaking against slavery in public.

In 1838, Angelina became the first woman to speak before a legislature when she testified to a committee of the Massachusetts legislature on the subject of antislavery petitions. Because they were women speaking in public (a new and radical idea at that time), the Grimké sisters also became involved in the women's rights movement. Their writings also reflected their views that women should have rights in the formulation of laws. Both of the Grimké sisters have been inducted into the National

Women's Hall of Fame.

Women from all walks of life have made and continue to make contributions to our standard of living and our quality of life. We are proud to continue telling their stories.

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**Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed
America**

Charlotte S. Waisman and Jill S. Tietjen

www.herstoryatimeline.com

8547 E. Arapahoe Rd, PMB J189
Greenwood Villiage, Colorado 80112

