



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN  
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



## August 2020 Her Story ENewsletter Publishers

As of July 2020, Simon & Shuster has a female publisher: Dana Canedy. Upon her appointment, Canedy became the first African American to lead a major publishing imprint. A former Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist and book author, Canedy served as administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes before assuming this position. Lisa Lucas was also in the news, having been named senior vice president of imprints Pantheon and Schocken, part of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. Prior to her appointment as publisher, Lucas had served as executive director of the National Book Foundation. Paving the way for these current women were two historical publishers: Anne Elizabeth McDowell and Lila Wallace.



In January of 1855, **Anne Elizabeth McDowell** started publishing a Philadelphia newspaper, *Woman's Advocate*. It was not the first newspaper published by a woman. Amelia Jenks Bloomer had published *The Lily* and Pauline Kellogg Wright Davis had published *The Una*. But, it was the first newspaper “produced exclusively by the joint-stock capital, energies, and industry of females.” Women performed every job from typesetting to printing and were paid the same wages as would have been paid to men.

Well known people of the time contributed to the paper including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. The newspaper did not focus on political rights for women but instead on literature and general news; it considered itself a family newspaper. It was published until 1860 by which point it became a financial drain on McDowell. She then went to work as editor of the women's department of the Philadelphia *Sunday Dispatch*. At a later point in her life, she established the McDowell Free Library for the women who worked at Wanamaker's Department Store.



The co-founder of *Reader's Digest* with her husband Dewitt Wallace, **Lila Wallace** helped alter the country's reading habits. With the success of their magazine, the Wallaces became significant benefactors to a wide range of charities and non-profit organizations.

Hard work and commitment were the cornerstone of the Wallaces' life. Together, they spent hours at the New York Public Library condensing magazine articles for the first edition of their magazine. The first edition was published in February 1922; the print run was 1,000 copies. By 1929, the subscription level had increased to 290,000. By 1939, three million. By 1973, *Reader's Digest* had a worldwide circulation of 30 million and was one of the world's largest publishers of books and recorded music.

Lila Wallace's philanthropy was oriented towards the arts. She became a major benefactor of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and spent twelve years as a trustee for the Juilliard School. Her generosity to Lincoln Center and all of its performing groups was well known, as were her gifts to the New York Zoological Society.

Anne Elizabeth McDowell and Lila Wallace are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us all. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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