



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN  
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



## October 2021 Her Story ENewsletter Women Religious Leaders

In September, the holiest days in the Jewish calendar were celebrated. Of course, in December, we will celebrate one of the holiest days of the Christian calendar. Now both Christians and Jews have women clergy. Although a few religions today still limit the roles that women can take, earlier in this country's history women were leaders in establishing religions that are still thriving. We will learn about two women in this month's newsletter – Ellen White and Mary Baker Eddy. .



In 1860 **Ellen White** and her husband co-founded the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The scriptural interpretations White received through the approximately two thousand visions she had, contributed toward the establishment of the church and its health and educational institutions. During her lifetime, Ellen White wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books; today, including compilations from her 100,000 pages of manuscript, her writings have been translated into more than 130 languages and they are read around the world.

Some suggest that Ellen White is the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender. Her writing includes religion, education, social relationships, evangelism, prophecy, publishing, nutrition, and management. Her views on health, especially her opposition to coffee, tea, meat and drugs, are incorporated into Seventh-day Adventist practices. Andrews University (in Michigan) and Loma Linda University and Medical Center in California were founded by White. A powerful speaker, Smithsonian magazine named her as one of the "100 Most Significant Americans of All Time."



**Mary Baker Eddy** was an influential American author, teacher, and religious leader, noted for her groundbreaking ideas about spirituality and health. She came to believe, through her own personal ill health and healing experiences, that the cause and the cure of disease was primarily if not totally mental. Eddy's healing system was based on her readings and findings from the Bible. She established the first "Christian Scientists Home" in Massachusetts in 1875.

When existing Christian churches would not embrace her discovery, she established the Christian Science Church (1879). In 1888, a reading room for her writings and other publications was opened in Boston. In 1895, she published a church manual and established guidelines that are followed to this day. Eddy continued her writing and teaching work until her last days. At age 87, she started *The Christian Science Monitor* in response to the tabloid news of the time. Founded in 1908 as a daily newspaper, *The Monitor* was designed "to injure no man, but to bless all mankind." Her seminal work, published in 1875, is titled *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Eddy has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. "

Ellen White and Mary Baker Eddy 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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