

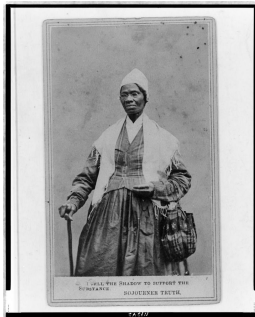


A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



May 2023 Her Story ENewsletter Celebrating Mother's Day

The first Mother's Day was celebrated on May 9, 1914 as proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson. He asked Americans to say a "thank you" to their mother and to all mothers. More than one hundred years later, we will be celebrating Mother's Day on May 14, 2023. In this month's enewsletter, we pay tribute to two special mothers: Sojourner Truth and Juana Briones.



Sojourner Truth was an escaped slave who turned her energies to abolition as well as to women's rights. She had changed her name from Isabella Baumfree before her famous 1851 speech "Ain't I a Woman?" delivered at the Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen

most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

Truth was very concerned that abolition would grant rights to men and overlook women. During the Civil War, she recruited black troops to serve in the Union Army. After the War, she worked for women's suffrage, the abolition of capital punishment, prison reform, and property rights. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Juana Briones was an astute businesswoman, cattle and dairy rancher, and acknowledged healer. The Mother of San Francisco derived her reputation from administering to the health of sailors and neighbors and her business acumen. Briones was skilled in herbal medicine as well as midwifery; a knowledge base that she taught one of her sons. She sold fresh milk from her cattle and vegetables from her farming operation to sailors who came into the port of San Francisco, often on whaling ships. For some of those sailors, she even provided a refuge for them when they left (often deserting) seafaring employment.

Briones gave birth to eleven children during her marriage; a marriage that she left and sought a church-sanctioned separation for. Seven of those children lived to adulthood; she also raised an adopted daughter. With her separation from her husband, Briones left her home near the Presidio area of San Francisco and bought property in what is now called North Beach. In 1846, she expanded her property holdings by purchasing Rancho La Purisma Concepcion in Santa Clara Valley. Although illiterate, Briones was skilled in defending the title of her properties, which was required after California became a state in 1850. Today, Juana Briones is remembered by a historical plaque, a park and elementary school named in her honor and streets named for her and her children.

Sojourner Truth and Juana Briones 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. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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