



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



October 2025 Her Story ENewsletter Law Enforcement



When we recently learned about **Kate Warne**, credited as the first female detective in the U.S., we were fascinated. In 1856, Warne (c. 1833-1868), a 23-year-old widow, took the initiative to respond to a newspaper advertisement for detectives by walking into the Pinkerton Detective Agency in Chicago and declaring her interest in a job. Pinkerton was reluctant to hire her but, apparently, she was quite persuasive. After she successfully concluded a high-profile case, Warne was put in charge of the newly created Female Detective Bureau with the responsibility of recruiting female detectives. She was involved in uncovering the Baltimore Plot, an effort to assassinate then President Lincoln. During the Civil War, Warne collected intelligence for the Union. Sadly, she died young. She was buried in the Pinkerton family plot. Let's learn about some other women who worked in law enforcement.



In 1912, **Josephine Roche**, who later was a well-respected labor advocate, became Denver, Colorado's first policewoman. She studied economics and classics at Vassar College. Roche then completed her master's degree in social work, at Columbia University. While completing her degree at Columbia, she received an offer to serve as the "inspector of amusements" in Denver and become Denver's first female police officer. This role involved walking a beat at night to protect children from prostitution and other unsavory activities. She accepted but was too successful and her contract was terminated; Denver's law enforcement at that time was simply too lax to support Roche's outstanding work. She then became a probation officer and embarked on a career in labor politics. Her family was in the mining business as owners, but Roche felt a strong allegiance to the safety of the miners themselves. To her family's dismay, she served for twenty-four years as the executive director of and neutral trustee for the United Mine Workers' Welfare and Retirement Fund. Roche has been inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.



In 1993, **Janet Reno** became the Attorney General of the United States. In one of her early speeches, she said: "As we fight crime in America, we have got to join the federal government and the states, the people in government, Republican and Democrats, children, and adults. It was also in the year 1993, that **Marrie Reynolds Garcia** and **Cheryl Campbell Steadman** were the first women named to serve with the Texas Rangers. The Rangers, a mounted fighting force and an elite corps of state troopers, traces its roots back to the early 1800's. Garcia and Steadman competed in both written tests and oral interviews with over 200 candidates for nine openings in this exclusive organization. At the time of their appointments, Garcia was a sergeant in the license service in San Antonio and Steadman was a Department of Public Safety trooper assigned to the warrants division in Houston.

Josephine Roche, Janet Reno, Marrie Reynolds Garcia, and Cheryl Campbell Steadman 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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