



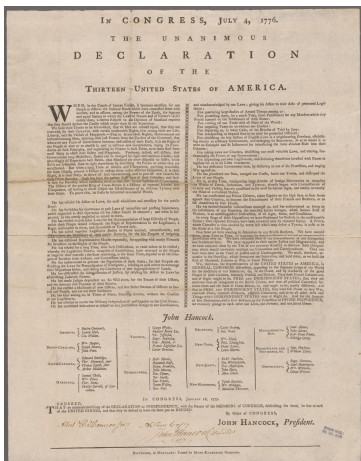
July 2026 Her Story ENewsletter Celebrating America's 250th Birthday

Celebration of the United States of America's 250th birthday is certainly lending excitement to 2026! From enactments to remembrances of milestone events in our country's history – there are many ways to celebrate. As we see it, our job is, in the words of First Lady Abigail Adams, to "Remember the Ladies." Reading history books in the U.S. could lead anyone to think that only men contributed to our country's history. But such is not the case – as we regularly chronicle. To celebrate the women in history from around the time of our country's founding, in this newsletter we profile Eliza Lucas Pinckney and Mary Katharine Goddard.



In 1738, **Eliza Lucas's** family moved from the West Indies to near what today is Charleston, South Carolina. When her father returned shortly thereafter to the Caribbean, where he had military responsibilities, the responsibility fell to her – as a teenager – to manage the family's three plantations. She knew the British and French were at war and that the British wanted to find a source of indigo that wasn't French. She decided she would grow indigo. 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; her persistence paid off, and the 1744 crop became a commercial success.

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. 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.



Born in 1738, **Mary Katherine Goddard** learned the printing business from her brother in Providence, Rhode Island. She later worked in his printing office in Philadelphia and then in Baltimore, Maryland where he established Baltimore's first newspaper. In 1775, that newspaper, the *Maryland Journal*, changed its masthead to read "Published by M. K. Goddard." Also in 1775, Goddard became postmaster of Baltimore, the first woman so appointed in the colonies and possibly the new government's first female employee. She held the position until 1784.

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress commissioned Goddard to publish a copy of the Declaration of Independence. This was the first version that included the names of the 56 male signers. At the bottom of the document, you can see "Baltimore, in Maryland: Printed by Mary Katharine Goddard." Goddard has been inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Eliza Lucas Pinckney and Mary Katharine Goddard 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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