

Women in History

As I put together the text for the new exhibit "Remember the Ladies" I have put together a timeline of women's history on which I can place the stories of the women of LeRoy. For example I know that when Charlotte LeRoy's father died, his estate - -which was sizable - - passed on to Charlotte and her sister. But the big question, is whether Charlotte was able to claim her inheritance, or did it pass to her husband Jacob, because married women could not own property, or earn or inherit money in their own right until New York State passed the Married Women's Property Act of 1848. So I have to go back and find out when her father died and where he died. If he died in New York after 1848, then Charlotte should have become a wealthy lady. I wonder now about Emily Ingham. She married Phineas Staunton in 1847, so did he become the owner of Ingham University? And because Emily's sister Marietta never married, was she Phineas' business partner? So here are some interesting points of women's history:

1796 - Amelia Simmons publishes the first American cookbook.

1797 - Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is part of a group that founds the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows. She founds the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph in 1809 and is considered the founder of the parochial school system in the United States.

1805 - Sacagawea serves as guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition through the unchartered West. The journey takes two years

1813 - Mary Young Pickersgill makes the flag that serves as the inspiration for Francis Scott Key's "The Star Spangled Banner."

1816 - Factory workers in the United States number 100,000. Two thirds of them are women and children. They are paid significantly less than men.

1820 - of 874,000 black women

in the United States, 86 % are enslaved.

1821 - Emma Willard opens the Troy Female Seminary.

1824 - Anna Claypoole Peale and Sarah Miriam Peale are both elected to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

1825 - Rebeca Webb Lukens assumes the helm of the Pennsylvania iron mill formerly run by her husband and father. She is the first women in the iron business.

1827 - To please the U.S. Government the Cherokee nation adopts a new constitution that eliminates women's power in decision making by denying them the right to vote.



Lydia Maria Child

1833 - Lydia Maria Child, prominent abolitionist, and author of the American Frugal Housewife, published her first anti-slavery book "An Appeal in Favor of the Class of Americans Called Africans."

1833 - Oberlin college admits its first class of 44 students - 15 are women however they are not allowed to study the same curriculum as men until 1837.

1833 - Maria Martin Bachman paints the plants, flowers, insects and other details for John James Audubon's Birds of America.

1834 - Textile workers in Lowell Massachusetts, mostly young women - strike to protest that their wages had been cut by 15%.

1835 - Harriot Kezia Hunt opens her own medical practice,

concentrating on women and children - she is barred from hospitals. She is barred from attending lectures at Harvard Medical School because of her gender.

1837 - Sarah Hale turns to writing as a way to support her five children after the death of her husband. She becomes the editor of the new monthly women's magazine Godey's Lady's Book.

1838 - Angelina Grimki, a Quaker becomes the first woman to address a legislative body to ask the Massachusetts legislature to end the slave trade.

1840 - Lucretia Mott meets Elizabeth Cady Stanton in London at the World Anti Slavery Convention where women are denied seats.

1840 - Ernestine Rose begins work on legislation granting married women property rights.



Dorthea Dix

1843 - Dorothea Dix exposes the harsh treatment of mentally ill and reports to the Massachusetts legislature.

1848 - The first Women's Convention is held in Seneca Falls

1848 - Physician Elizabeth Blackwell is the first US woman to receive a MD from Geneva College.

1850 - Women are 43 % of the paid workforce.

1850 - Harriet Tubman leads slaves to freedom.

1852 - Emily Dickenson publishes her first poem.

1852 - Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes "Uncle Tom's Cab-

in." Lincoln called her "the little lady who started the great war."

1852 - Antoinette Brown Blackwell becomes the first formally appointed woman minister in the United States.

1855 - Physician Emeline Horton Cleveland practices gynecology and becomes noted as the first woman to perform major surgery.

1860 - Business woman Ellen Curtis Demorest becomes the first person to create and distribute accurate patterns for home dressmaking.



Mary Edwards Walker

1860 - Mary Edwards Walker serves in the medical corps during the Civil War and receives the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Julia Ward Howe

1862 - Julia Ward Howe noted poet publishes the poem "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" which is set to music.