

Know A Woman's Name,  
Know Her History,  
Know What She Did,  
How She Did It, And  
Why She Did It.

The month of March is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. When it comes to history, the story of women is largely one of exclusion, silence, absence, and bias. Women have made a *lot* of history, but sometimes, looking at the history books, you wouldn't exactly know it. Women throughout history have been, with a few varied exceptions, denied access to education, voting rights, the ability to stand for election, make their own contraceptive decisions, own property, or control businesses.

This is the month where we revel in learning about all manner of female history-makers, from the big names to the unsung heroes. It also includes both women who did amazing things and women who did extremely awful things.

Susan B. Anthony, Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks – these women are some of the many faces of Women's History Month. They broke barriers, changed laws, and orchestrated some of the most powerful movements in the history of women. It's women like these, and many others, we recognize during Women's History Month. Women have been active participants in American society, as political activists, intellectuals, innovators, entrepreneurs, laborers, and educators.

Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1980 as National Women's History Week.

Women were political actors long before suffragists gained the vote in 1920. Even while prohibited from voting, holding office, and with limited access to formal education, women influenced American politics within the narrow parameters that were acceptable.

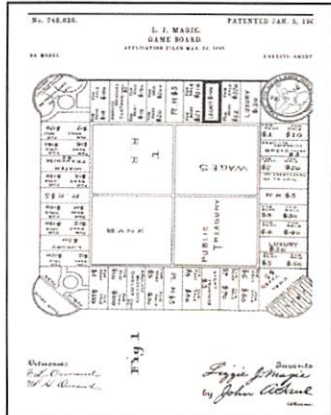
**Abigail Adams** is perhaps the best-known of many women who shaped American politics. While Adams oversaw the running of her family home and the raising of her children, she also advised her husband John Adams during his long career as a diplomat, Vice President, and President.

**Dolores Huerta** (1930-) is a Latina civil rights and labor activist who, with Cesar Chavez, co-founded the United Farm Workers and changed the American labor landscape.

**Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu** (1912-1997), a Chinese immigrant to the United States, conducted award-winning research in nuclear physics and worked for the Manhattan Project.

**Dr. Margaret Chung** (1889-1959), the first American-born Chinese female physician in the US, was known as "Mom Chung" by the hundreds of Navy servicemen that she "adopted," which included Ronald Reagan.

**Alice Austen** (1866-1952) was one of America's earliest photographers. Her work captured daily life in American society while also testing Victorian values—female subjects appeared in men's clothing and even smoked in public.



*For generations, the story of Monopoly's Depression-era origin story delighted fans. Often tucked into the game's box, the tale revolved around Charles Darrow, an unemployed man in Philadelphia who dreamed up the game in the 1930s. He sold the game to Parker Brothers, not only saving him and the company from financial ruin, but becoming wealthy, a Cinderella story made of cardboard and real-life Monopoly money. The trouble is, it isn't exactly true.*



Monopoly's roots begin not with Darrow, but with a woman, a progressive named Elizabeth Magie. Magie is one of countless women whose contributions were minimized, largely ignored, or in some cases, deliberately erased. And with Monopoly, understanding the story of its true inventor provides a fascinating window into not only one woman's life and times, but how the game that sits in many closets isn't necessarily what we thought it was.

Born in rural Illinois in 1866, Magie lived a highly unusual life. Her father, James Magie, was an early force in the Republican Party, having traveled with Abraham Lincoln as he debated Stephen Douglas. He was an influential newspaper editor and political advocate, values he infused in his daughter, a feminist father far before his time. They were both anti-monopolists inspired by Henry George who believed that individuals should own 100 percent of what they made or created, but that everything found in nature, particularly land, should belong to everyone. George advocated for a "land value tax," also known as the "single tax," the general idea of taxing land, and only land, that could help shift the tax burden to wealthy landlords. The seeds of the Monopoly game were planted by this belief.

Women's advocacy was a particularly impassioned cause of Elizabeth Magie and her willingness to push for equality would make national headlines. Finding it difficult to support herself on the \$10 a week she was earning as a stenographer, Magie staged an audacious stunt mocking marriage as the only option for women. Purchasing an advertisement, she offered herself for sale as a "young woman American slave" to the highest bidder. Her ad said that she was "not beautiful, but very attractive," and that she had "features full of character and strength, yet truly feminine." The goal of the stunt, Magie told reporters, was to make a statement about the dismal position of women. "We are not machines," Magie said. "Girls have minds, desires, hopes and ambition." Unlike most women of her era, she supported herself and didn't marry until the advanced age of 44. She wrote poetry and short stories and performed comedic routines onstage. She also spent her leisure time creating a board game that was an expression of her strongly held political beliefs.

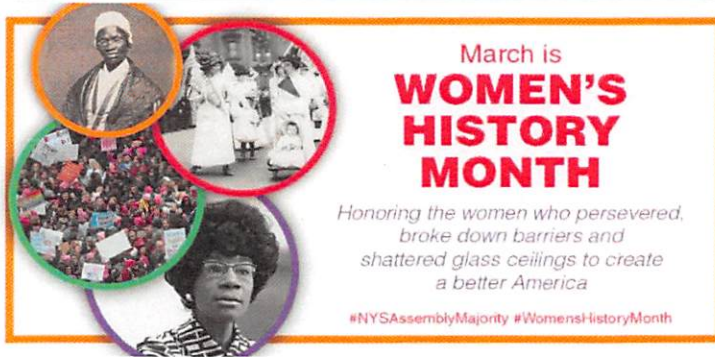
Magie filed a legal claim for her Landlord's Game in 1903, more than three decades before Parker Brothers began manufacturing Monopoly. She actually designed the game as a protest against the big monopolists of her time, people like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller.

She created two sets of rules for her game: an anti-monopolist set in which all were rewarded when wealth was created, and a monopolist set in which the goal was to create monopolies and dominate opponents. Her dualistic approach was a teaching tool meant to demonstrate that the first set of rules was morally superior. For Magie to put her ideas out in public so brazenly was something of a risk at the time. Common thought still held that they had little to contribute to the world of ideas. As one newspaper would put it in 1912, "they don't use their brains as much as men."

It wasn't long before the monopolist rule set of her game would take hold. The popularity of the game spread, becoming a folk favorite among left-wing intellectuals, particularly in the Northeast. It was played at several college campuses, including Wharton, Harvard and Columbia. Quakers, who had established a community in Atlantic City, embraced the game and added their neighborhood properties to the board. This was a version of this game that Charles Darrow was taught, played, and eventually sold to Parker Brothers. The version of that game had the core of Magie's game, but also modifications added by the Quakers to make the game easier to play. In addition to properties named after Atlantic City streets, fixed prices were added to the board. In its efforts to seize total control of Monopoly and other related games, the company struck a deal with Magie to purchase her Landlord's Game patent and two more of her game designs not long after it made its deal with Darrow.

Magie's identity as Monopoly's inventor was uncovered by accident. In 1973 by Ralph Anspach, an economics professor, he uncovered Magie's patents and Monopoly's folk-game roots. He became consumed with telling the truth of what he calls "the Monopoly lie."

Roughly 40 years have passed since the truth about Monopoly began to appear publicly, yet the Darrow myth persists. It's hard not to wonder how many other buried histories are still out there. Stories belonging to other lost "Lizzie Magies" who quietly chip away at creating pieces of the world, their contributions so seamless that few of us ever stop to think about the person or people behind the idea.



### Important Dates in Women's History

**1773** - Enslaved poet Phillis Wheatley's popular book contested stereotypes that women and Africans had inferior intelligence to white men.

**1776** - Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John, who was working to establish the new country's laws. She asked him to "Remember the Ladies."

**1807** - New Jersey, where some women and African Americans had been permitted to vote since 1776, changed its laws to allow only tax-paying, white male citizens the right to vote.

**1835** - Women's rights emerge within the abolitionist movement.

**1849** - The first state constitution in California extends property rights to women.

**1850** - The first National Women's Rights Convention is held.

**1851** - "Ain't I a Woman?" speech by Sojourner Truth delivered at the 1851 Women's Convention

**1853** - Women delegates, Antoinette Brown and Susan B. Anthony, are not allowed to speak at The World's Temperance Convention held in New York City.

**1866** - the American Equal Rights Association, an organization dedicated to the goal of suffrage for all regardless of gender or race is formed

**1868** - Senator S.C. Pomeroy of Kansas introduces the federal woman's suffrage amendment in Congress.

**1868** - In Vineland, New Jersey, 172 women cast ballots in a separate box during the presidential election.

**1872** - Susan B. Anthony casts her ballot for Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential election and is arrested and brought to trial in Rochester, New York. Fifteen other women are arrested for illegally voting.

**1872** - Abigail Scott Duniway convinces Oregon lawmakers to pass laws granting a married woman's rights such as starting and operating her own business, controlling the money she earns, and the right to protect her property if her husband leaves.

**1878** - A Woman Suffrage Amendment is proposed in the U.S. Congress. When the 19th Amendment passes forty-one years later, it is worded exactly the same as this 1878 Amendment.

**1890** - Wyoming is admitted to the Union with a state constitution granting woman suffrage.

**1910** - The Women's Political Union organizes the first suffrage parade in New York City.

**1917** - Jeannette Rankin of Montana, the first woman elected to Congress, is formally seated in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**1917** - Alice Paul, leader of the National Woman's Party, was put in solitary confinement in the mental ward of the prison as a way to "break" her will and to undermine her credibility with the public.

**1920** - August 26<sup>th</sup> women win the right to vote with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**1963** - On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Equal Pay Act aimed to abolish the wage discrimination against women was signed by President John F. Kennedy

**Up until the early 1970s** - If a relative in the U.S. died, the job of administering the estate was automatically given to the closest male relative, not the female.

**1973** - Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in all federally funded education programs passes.

**1978** - Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 prohibited employment discrimination against pregnant women.

**1994** - Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act