

The History of Mother's Day

The origins of celebrating motherhood can be traced back to Ancient Greece and Rome, where festivals were held in honor of their mother goddesses, Rhea and Cybele. Much later, in the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was recognized during the fourth Sunday of Lent for parishes of

the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church. So this holiday was less about mothers and more about attending your "mother church," meaning the local Christian church.

But the history of Mother's Day as we know it came from humble origins in West Virginia, USA.

During the American Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis, known as "Mother Jarvis" in her local parish, helped start "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to raise awareness of the poor health conditions in her community. These clubs proved to be a tremendous unifying force for a region that was socially divided during the Civil War. After the war ended, Mrs. Jarvis organized "Mother's Friendship Day" to promote reconciliation between the Union and Confederacy.

In the late 19th century, the United States saw many different movements to organize a Mother's Day, including the efforts of Julia Ward Howe, an abolitionist and suffragist, who wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation." This called for mothers to unite and promote world peace.

Let us honor our mothers this month and every month of the year. I honor my Mother Attorney Dolores Preston Merritt and all her accomplishments in her 90 years of life!



Proverbs 31:25: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

Proverbs 31:26: "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

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