

## Where did Mother's Day Originate?

The earliest history of Mother's Day dates back to the ancient annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to maternal goddesses. The Greeks used the occasion to honor Rhea, wife of Cronus and the mother of many deities of Greek mythology.

Anna Jarvis is recognized as the Founder of Mother's Day in US. Though Anna Jarvis never married and never had kids, she is also known as the Mother of Mother's Day, an apt title for the lady who worked hard to bestow honor on all mothers.

Anna Jarvis got the inspiration of celebrating Mother's Day from her own mother Mrs. Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis in her childhood. An activist and social worker, Mrs. Jarvis used to express her desire that someday someone must honor all mothers, living and dead, and pay tribute to the contributions made by them.

A loving daughter, Anna never forgot her mother's word and when her mother died in 1905, she resolved to fulfill her mother's desire of having a mother's day. Growing negligent attitude of adult Americans towards their mothers and a desire to honor her mother soared her ambitions.



To begin with Anna sent carnations in the church service in Grafton, West Virginia to honor her mother. Carnations were her mother's favorite flower and Anna felt that they symbolized a mother's pure love.

Later, Anna along with her supporters wrote letters to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mother's Day holiday. The hard work paid off.

By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state in the Union and on May 8, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.