

A CENTURY OF WOMEN
 who were born or lived in
 Prince Edward Island.

Compiled by
 The Zonta Club of Charlottetown

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL is a service organization of executive women in business and professions who, as leaders in their communities, devote themselves to civic and social welfare.



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Mrs. Jean de Greayer

Mrs. Jean de Greayer, born in Carleton, Prince Edward Island — now Carleton Siding — achieved the position of assistant District Attorney and was the first woman in North America to attain this particular status.

She was born on May 31, 1863, the daughter of David MacFarlane and Ellen Manson. After attending Carleton School and Prince of Wales College, she taught school in Carleton for a number of years.

Miss MacFarlane left 'the Island' to reside in Denver, Colorado and attended college there. Following her graduation, she married Harry de Greayer and they made their home in San Francisco, California.

It was in the early 1900's that Mrs. de Greayer became assistant District Attorney for the state of California. Excerpts from magazine articles of this period praised her work on behalf of deserted women, broken homes and child welfare. With her determination and kindly disposition she gained a deep respect in an office previously held only for and by men.

She was never able to return to her native province; following her retirement she continued to live in San Francisco where she died in 1936.

Sarah C., Charlotte T. and Louisa Holman

Sarah Caroline Holman was born in Winsloe, Prince Edward Island in 1868, a daughter of James and Martha (West) Holman. She was educated at the Northfield School for Girls in Northfield, Massachusetts and the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois.

Sarah Holman began her work as an assistant to the pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When her sister, Charlotte, returned to the United States on her first furlough from India, although Sarah was beyond the age when she could be accepted on salary by the Board of Missions, she decided to go to India. She was supported for the most part through the generosity of Doctor and Mrs. Everett O. Fisk and other members of her family.

Once in India, Miss Holman was appointed to Agra. One devout, experienced missionary in that country warned her: "We work only among the higher castes. We have no work among the outcasts. If we did we could never go into the homes of the higher castes." However, she went on to work with these 'outcasts' and in 1926 she founded the Holman Institute in Agra for children of the Untouchables. This was before India became independent in July, 1947 and the caste system abolished.

Miss Sarah decided that, since the boys especially could not continue school, she would introduce weaving and rug making as well as the manufacture of smaller articles into the curriculum. In these ways, with such crafts, quite a little money could be earned. One group of boys who wished to continue their work on rugs said to Miss Holman: "We have to earn our living, for we do not want to go back to our old work, sweeping streets and cleaning drains."