

Victoria's Messenger

February – April 2021

The Newsletter of the Victorian Society at Falls Church, VA

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Celebrating 25 Years!



From the President's Pen... Terry Hooper

Welcome to the first edition of Victoria's Messenger for 2021! As promised in the last edition, we are starting to put together some virtual events that we hope will be enjoyable for our members. This issue features events from February through April and includes two teas, two lectures, a book club, and of course, our annual Burns Birthday celebration, which will be held virtually this year for the first time. While meeting virtually is not quite the same as meeting in person, it does have one advantage – it gives members from remote locations a chance to participate with the group in a way that previously has not been possible. I hope members who are far away, or don't like to drive at night will take advantage of our virtual presentations to interact with other members and learn something, too. With virtual meetings, there are no considerations for traveling out in bad weather or deciding if you should attempt to go out when you are not feeling well. Let's take advantage of this new format to engage with each other again! For those unfamiliar with the Zoom platform, our Vice President, Sue Perlin, is well versed in Zoom, and ready to help those who need assistance. In the last edition of Victoria's Messenger, I wrote that we were going to look back at events from the past, and in this edition we have pictures from the 2008 Egg Roll, which we had the honor of participating in for several years, plus some pictures from past Robert Burns celebrations, which the Victorian Society has been hosting annually since 1998, with only a few breaks due to inclement weather. We also have some pictures of our tea and dinner commemorating the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic – the most highly attended event in the club's history! We've also included articles on Easter (first published in 2007/2009) by Linda Lau, Jenny Lind (2008) by Shirley Camp and, in honor of Black History Month, a biography of Madame C.J. Walker. Also included is a wonderful article by long time Victorian Society member Maryll Kliebrink as she looks back at the experiences that she enjoyed along with her daughter Erika who was only five years old at the time. I hope you enjoy these images and articles, and that I will see many of you at our upcoming virtual events as we begin to embrace new technology – and we all know how the Victorians loved technology! So, please join us as we “zoom” into 2021 – see you all soon!



VIRTUAL TEAS AT GREENSPRING GARDENS:

VSFC Sponsor: Sue Perlin

Green Spring Gardens is offering several exciting teas this winter to help keep you entertained through the winter doldrums. Because of the pandemic, we'll enjoy each tea in the comfort of our own homes, using Zoom. We have selected two teas that are of special interest to us Victorians! Both will be presented by our good friend, Debbie Waugh. Please sign up for one or both by calling Green Spring Gardens (703-642-5173; M-Sa 11:00 -4:00 & Sun 12:00-4:00). Each tea consists of a 1-hour live narrated slide show costing a mere \$12. For an **extra** \$24, you can order an individual tea box that's picked up at Green Spring Gardens the morning of the tea. Your box will contain finger sandwiches, pastries, a scone and tea bag.

(Note: I participated in their first virtual tea last summer and it was lots of fun! I did buy the tea box and the food was yummy. To make this event even more special, I spread a little tablecloth on my desktop “table” and under my computer; set out my finest china; had my hot water at the ready in a fancy tea pot; set out my fine silverware; and turned OFF the lights in my room.)

Virtual Afternoon Tea #1: Tea and Feminism: Sunday, February 21, 2:00-3:00.

(Adults) Tea played a surprisingly important role in women’s liberation, from Colonial times to the 20th century. Learn how tea rooms advanced female self-expression and business ownership and hear about tea parties that boiled over into the suffrage movement. Discover that tea is a feminist issue! This lecture will be conducted online via Zoom. All registrants will be sent a link by e-mail to attend the lecture.



Virtual Afternoon Tea #2: A Good Night’s Sleep: Sunday, March 14, 2:00-3:00.

(Adults) In the middle ages, people divided their night’s sleep into two parts. Discover why as we explore the fascinating history of human sleep, sleeping arrangements, and sleep habits throughout history. Explore the evolution of bedroom furniture and hear about the very curious sleep habits of some famous historical figures. This lecture will be conducted online via Zoom. All registrants will be sent a link by e-mail to attend the lecture.



**Special After-Tea Get Together Just for the Victorians:
Sunday, February 21 & March 14, 3:15-4:30.**

Both teas are open to the public. We won’t be able to see who’s attending and we won’t be able to chat amongst ourselves. So, let’s have a little After-Tea Tete-A-Tete to chat about the presentation or anything else we want. AND let’s start wearing some of our lovely hats and maybe some fancy jewelry and gloves that we haven’t worn since 2018. When you sign up for either tea, you’ll automatically be signed up for our special Tete-A-Tete & receive a separate Zoom invitation.



Celebrate Burns!

Saturday, February 27, 7 – 9 p.m. on Zoom

It's that time of year again! Time to celebrate the life and works of that Immortal Bard, Robert Burns. This year, due to COVID-19 Burns Night will be virtual using Zoom instead of our usual get together. The evening of February 27 at 7 p.m. we will all gather around our computers and listen to Bagpipes, poetry, and song in celebration of Burns. Hosted again this year by Chris Riherd with the help of Sue Perlin. To join in on all the fun and excitement send an email to Chris Riherd at christopherriherd@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 703-583-8202 with your name and email address and we will send a link and instructions on how to join in on the Zoom call. Hope to you can join us for this annual event.

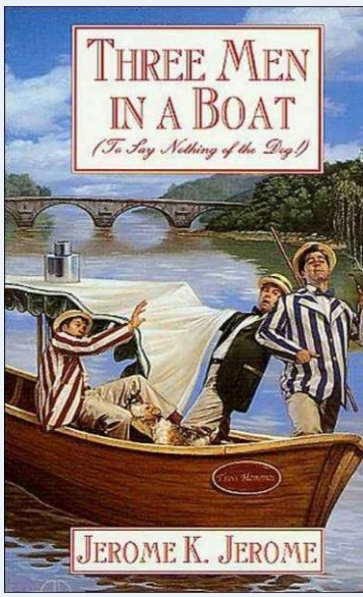


HIDDEN HISTORY REVEALED

Sunday, March 7, 2 p.m. on Zoom

Adam Shefts, the Victorian Historian presents an energetic program which lasts a little over an hour and includes short stories, audio, video and live demonstrations. The topics include a wide range, including superstitions, unusual games, holiday traditions, disasters, odd inventions, 19th century cinema, a couple little known bizarre Civil War stories, surprising Titanic information, and so much more in between. The program is conducted in chronological order, beginning with information from 1839 and ending at 1912. All of the information is sure to entertain those in attendance and is family-friendly and appropriate for all ages; anyone who is interested in history as well as the obscure and unusual.

Please contact Leann Martin by email at Leannpmartin@yahoo.com or call her at 703-623-2648 if interested.



Book Club Zoom Meeting: Saturday, April 10, 2:00 -4:00

What have you been reading lately? How about joining your Victorian friends for a relaxing literary romp back in the 19th century? We'll dive into the 1889 comic travelogue, *Three Men in a Boat*, by Jerome K. Jerome (1859-1927). This is the story of three Englishmen who pile into a boat with food, clothes, and a fox terrier named Montmorency and set off on the Thames to see the English countryside. As these well-to-do upper-class gentlemen set out on their excursion, they are beset by a series of comic mishaps. Inspired by his own honeymoon boat trip on the Thames, the author masterfully weaves a tale that is a hilarious critique of the self-centered behavior of the English upper classes so typical of Victorian England. (NOTE: paperback on Amazon for only \$3.98).

Please e-mail Sue Perlin (scdcleo@aol.com) ASAP to indicate your interest. You'll receive the Zoom link on Friday, April 9, along with a reminder of the Book Club meeting.

Let's get inspired and keep this Book Club going. Over the years, we've read a wide variety of really interesting books ranging from thrilling murder mysteries to classic tales to comedies, both fiction and non-fiction. To join in the fun, you need to follow just one simple "rule": please read the book so you can participate in and enjoy the discussion.

Let's work together to generate a list of books we'd like to read. Here's the only other "rule" we have: Books must be about the Victorian (1837-1901) or Edwardian periods (1901-1910, sometimes extended to start of WWI). We don't require authors to be contemporaneous with these two periods.

Let's identify some unusual, exciting, scary and fun books!! Please e-mail Sue (scdcleo@aol.com) your suggested books. Provide title, date, thumbnail description, author (name & birth-death dates). I'll compile the lists and we can all vote on the next book at each meeting.

Zooming Along...

Because COVID-19 is still going to be around for quite a while, we Victorians must **temporarily** dip our toes into the 21st Century. I'm sure many of you miss our wonderful events and being able to spend time with each other. So we'll just have to skip ahead a couple of centuries and embark on the next best thing – getting together via Zoom. As you'll see in this edition of the Newsletter, we have several exciting Zoom events planned. If you don't know how to Zoom—**FEAR NOT!!** It's easy; it's fun; it's free; and it's now all the rage. You can Zoom on your computer, laptop, cell phone or tablet. Not familiar with Zoom? No problem! Just contact Sue Perlin (call or text at 703-501-9842) or e-mail (scdcleo@aol.com) to schedule a short tutorial. We'll hop on our phones and Zoom devices and Sue will talk you thru the steps. Guaranteed that you'll be Zooming in just a few minutes!

**Transitioning to a New Century – A Look at the First Ladies
Ida McKinley and Edith Roosevelt
Sunday, April 11, 2 p.m. via Zoom**

Join author and historian, Andrew Och...THE FIRST LADIES MAN...as he bridges the gap between the 1800's and 1900's through the eyes of America's First Ladies. He will specifically address Ida McKinley and Edith Roosevelt as America transitioned into a new century after the assassination of another President. The country needed a boost and the active Roosevelt family (with Edith running the show behind the scenes and a charismatic husband and President) was all too ready to comply. Andrew will take your questions after his prepared remarks.

Andrew Och is a noted historian and author devoted to the history of America's First Ladies. He has spent countless hours researching and covered tens of thousands of miles in his pursuit of documenting the amazing stories of the women behind the Presidents. Together with C-SPAN and the White House Historical Association, he has assembled one of the largest archives of footage, interviews, and material that exists in the world on America's First Ladies.

Please contact Leann Martin by email at Leannpmartin@yahoo.com or call her at 703-623-2648 if interested.



A LOOK BACK AT THE 2008 EASTER EGG ROLL



THE LAWN IN THE REAR OF THE WHITE HOUSE.



Fun for Young and Old

By Maryll Moon

The Victorian Society at Falls Church seems custom-made for the enjoyment of children. Dress-up and make-believe are, after all, central to its mission.

So, when my five-year-old daughter, Erika, was first introduced to the group's activities it was a perfect fit right from the start. At her first ball, a guest reenacted Queen Victoria and made a stately procession along our receiving line. She paused when she came to us, raised little Erika up from her curtsy and commented "charming," before proceeding down the line. Imagine, if you can, a child thrilled down to the soles of her dance slippers that the queen had deigned to notice her.

After that, Erika and I were hooked. We took part together in the Society's literary readings and theatricals (e.g. Sherlock Holmes, Alice in Wonderland). We participated in so many reenactments (lawn bowling, parlor games, the Ladies Sanitary Commission, suffragettes, Civil War Thanksgiving, Christmas caroling, etc.) and went on countless road trips to places like one-room schoolhouses, battle reenactments, Gilbert & Sullivan plays, and historic homes.



I admit it was expensive to keep a growing child in hoops and bustles. She must have had upwards of 20 different ball gowns, walking suits, and camp dresses. Some were tailor-made, some were altered thrift shop finds, some came from catalogs, and some were lovingly stitched for her by the Society's grand dame, Midge. We mastered the 15-minute costume change, including corsets and pantalets, but also spent hours initiating local hairdressers in the intricacies of 19th century hair pieces, ringlets and up-do's.

Together we helped raise money by selling peanuts by the post office, pouring tea at fashion shows, leading the middle school dance and etiquette class, compiling the Society's first cookbook, and running the Watch Night dress-up photo booth. In high school, she designed a Victorian garden in Frady Park that helped her gain admission to the Landscape Architecture degree program at Cornell University.

Erika was widely embraced as the darling of the Victorian Society...a sort of communal grand-daughter. At the annual balls, her dance card was filled within minutes of our arrival and many a gentleman was left winded by her enthusiastic performance of the polka and the gallop. She gained a poise and maturity that is rare among young people from all the hours spent chatting politely with adults over tea and performing her roles in living history programs. Our lives were made infinitely richer by the deep friendships we formed there and that we will cherish forever.



Although we now live far away, we lovingly and gratefully raise our glasses to all, in celebration of the Victorian Society at Falls Church's 25th anniversary!

Snow

To-morrow brings a change, -- a total change!
Which even now, though silently performed,
And slowly, and by most unfelt, the face
Of universal nature undergoes.
Fast falls a fleecy shower: the downy flakes
Descending, and with never-ceasing lapse,
Softly alighting upon all below,
Assimilate all objects. Earth receives
Gladly the thickening mantle; and the green
And tender blade, that feared the chilling blast,
Escapes unhurt beneath so warm a veil.

Cowper,
Poetry of the Year
Passages from the Poets
Descriptive of the Seasons, 1864

The Victorian Society at Falls Church

A chapter of the Victorian Society of America

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Vicsocfc@hotmail.com

Officers

Terry Hooper, President

Sue Perlin, Vice President

Christy Beck, Treasurer Leann Martin, Secretary

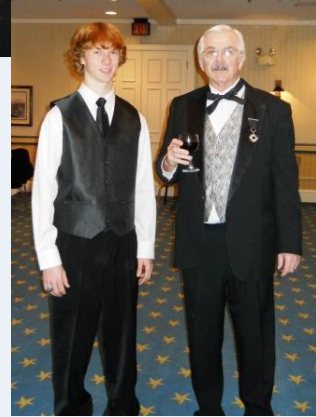
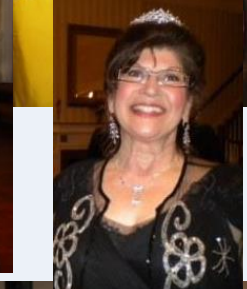
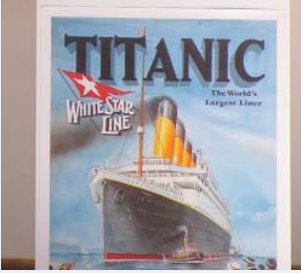
Board Members

Penny Crittenden, Midge Wang

Membership – Gus Knapp

Newsletter Publisher – Linda Lau

Reminiscing... Titanic April 2012



LET'S GET READY FOR EASTER...

Decorating Eggs the Victorian Way

(first published Spring 2007)



Just like today, dyeing Easter eggs was an important part of the holiday tradition and it was a popular pastime for Victorian families between Palm Sunday and Easter. And, while in the late Victorian era commercially prepared egg dyes were available

(there's currently an 1895 Paas egg dyeing package for sale on eBay), many families choose to dye their eggs using natural materials and plant dyes. To dye your eggs in a traditional manner place up to six white eggs (it's important to use white eggs) in the bottom of a pan, top with the natural ingredients (approximately two cups), add water to cover, and add a tablespoon of white vinegar or cream of tartar; bring to a boil and then simmer for fifteen minutes; remove from the heat and let the eggs sit in the dye bath for an hour. After removing the eggs allow them to cool completely and then you can decorate your eggs with Victorian decals, paint pictures on them, or even roll them in "diamond dust" (this was suggested by the 1878 *Youth's Companion* magazine). Now here are some suggested natural ingredients for you to try (and don't be afraid to experiment):

Green – fresh spinach or yellow apple peels (produces a greenish-yellow)

Pink – shredded raw beets; the juice from a package of frozen raspberries; cranberry juice

Red – lots of red onion skins; pomegranate juice; cherries

Yellow – goldenrod will produce a warm yellow; orange or lemon peels

Orange – carrots; yellow onion skins

Blue – one cup crushed frozen blueberries; the outer leaves of red cabbage

Lavender – violet blossoms or a small quantity of purple grape juice



Chocolate Easter Eggs

(first published Spring 2009)



If you're a chocolate lover, like so many of us, then this is perhaps your favorite time of the year. Right now, there is a plethora of chocolate candy on the store shelves in the shape of everything that is associated with Easter – bunnies, chicks, lambs, crosses, and, of course, eggs.

Into the early 1800s chocolate was a gritty, oily paste that was usually dissolved into water or milk (this was preferred by the Europeans) making it into a beverage. The Europeans, who loved chocolate, would also put sugar or cinnamon into the drink to sweeten it. But the industrial revolution offered major changes in the way chocolate could be processed. One of the most important inventions was by Dutchman Coenraad Van Houten;

in 1828 he invented the cocoa press which could separate the cocoa butter from the cocoa bean, thus leaving a powder we know as cocoa. This made the cocoa more consistent and cheaper to produce. Until that time, chocolate had been regarded as a rare and expensive treat, something reserved for the rich and the royal. In fact, that is one reason chocolate became a popular gift item, it was considered a gift of considerable value.

It was about this time that the first chocolate Easter eggs appeared in Germany and France; the tradition of giving chocolate Easter eggs soon spread to the rest of Europe and beyond. These first eggs were small, solid, and made of a course, bitter dark chocolate. The making of hollow chocolate eggs was very difficult and time-consuming as the molds had to be lined with paste chocolate one at a time. It wouldn't be until 1866 when Cadbury Brothers introduced a process to make pure cocoa that the making of molded chocolates would be easier and make chocolates available to the masses. Their process made large quantities of cocoa butter which was the secret of making fine eating chocolate and chocolate that would be easily molded.

Which brings us to what food historians say is the first mass produced chocolate Easter egg. The Cadbury chocolate Easter egg debuted in England in 1873 and it was obviously popular. These early chocolate eggs were made of a dark chocolate with a plain smooth surface and were filled with dragees. The earliest 'decorated eggs' were plain shells enhanced by chocolate piping and marzipan flowers. Chocolate eggs were soon being made in all sizes, including large ones that held more chocolate candies, or with a variety of fillings such as Cadbury's



creme eggs. By the way, milk chocolate eggs were still a few years away. In 1875 Daniel Peter and Henri Nestle added condensed milk to chocolate to produce the creamy milk chocolate but it would take a few years for it to become the popular chocolate candy it is today.

With chocolate now available to the growing middle class, it was only a matter of time before a variety of chocolate eggs and other Easter-related images were being made by chocolatiers everywhere. By the 1880s chocolate candy molds were all the rage (and would remain so until the 1930s) with figures available for every occasion and holiday, but especially Easter. These molds ranged in size from one inch to a massive five feet tall (these were usually used for 'display' chocolates) and provided the public with an endless array of Easter figures – eggs, rabbits, chicks, lilies, crosses, even baskets – to choose from. One can only imagine what it must have been like to walk into a Victorian candy store at Easter and see all those marvelously molded chocolate treats.

One of the great attractions of the Easter counter is a monstrous chocolate rooster which it would take weeks even for the boarding school girl to eat. It is more than life size and sells—that is, if anybody buys him—for the enormous price of \$15.—Denver News.

Judging from the store shelves today, it's easy to see that the public's infatuation with chocolate Easter eggs has not diminished one bit.

FOR YOUR NEXT PARTY...

Ginger-Almond Punch

Boil:
1 cup of water

Add:
5 tea bags, cup size, and steep a few minutes. Remove

Stir in to dissolve:
1 1/2 cups sugar

Then add:
4 cups water
3/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 T vanilla extract
1 t almond extract

Refrigerate until ready to serve, then add:
1-2 liters ginger ale (depending on taste desired)

Makes at least 20 4 oz. cups



Submitted by Shirley Camp

Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale

By Shirley Camp
(first published February-March 2008)

Jenny Lind was probably the first non-Royal who became a celebrity in the Victorian era. She was born in 1820 in Stockholm, Sweden, played piano at age four and starred in her first important opera at age seventeen. She attended the Royal Theater School to study piano, voice, acting, languages and dance. Her melodious soprano voice was unique and she soon became the most prominent and popular singer throughout Europe. Before she was thirty, she had a reputation as the greatest artistic performer in the world.



Her reputation attracted P. T. Barnum, a notorious showman, who enticed her to the United States to perform on a nationwide tour. When she arrived in New York Harbor on September 1, 1850 aboard the steamship Atlantic, she was greeted by nearly 40,000 persons. They had been lured to the docks by Barnum's renowned skills of press manipulation. His promotion of her included auctioning off the first ticket for her performance in New York City's Castle Garden, which was purchased by John Genin, a local hatter. Other tickets were sold for more than \$650 apiece.

Lind's year-long concert tour in cities, towns and villages produced near riots as fans crowded theaters and halls where she was to appear to purchase tickets and to protest high ticket prices. After differences of opinion between Barnum and Lind they parted company following a concert on May 24, 1852. Barnum had grossed \$712,000 and Lind had been paid more than \$175,000 in less than a year. That year Jenny Lind married her German accompanist, Otto Goldschmidt, and they settled in England. She last sang in public in 1883 and died November 2, 1887. Her popularity was such that even a style of furniture was named for her.



For more information about Jenny Lind's time in America, take a look at these two YouTube videos:

[St. Louis History - Jenny Lind - YouTube](#)

[Jenny Lind Mania in California - YouTube](#)

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Madam C. J. Walker

By Terry Hooper
(first published February-March 2007)



“I am a woman who came from the cotton fields of the South. From there I was promoted to the washtub. From there I was promoted to the cook kitchen. And from there I promoted myself into the business of manufacturing hair goods and preparations...I have built my own factory on my own ground.” This was

part of the address given at the National Negro Business League Convention, July 1912, by Sarah Breedlove, aka Madam C. J. Walker. By the time she made this speech, Madam C. J. Walker was already known across the country – as a successful business woman, an advocate of civil rights, and a philanthropist. She was considered at that time, and still is considered, a great woman, an African American woman who achieved success in the Victorian era where society was largely dominated by white men. Here was a woman who ultimately finished on top – a very far away from where she had started 51 years earlier.

Madam C. J. Walker was born Sarah Breedlove on December 23, 1867. She was one of six children born to Owen and Minerva Breedlove, sharecroppers on a Louisiana plantation where they had formerly been slaves. When she was only seven years old, an epidemic of yellow fever came through and killed both of her parents. Following her parents’ deaths, Sarah lived with her sister Louvenia, working first in the cotton fields, and then as a maid. In 1881, at the age of 14, Sarah married Moses McWilliams, partially to escape living with her abusive brother-in-law. Her only child, Lelia, was born June 6, 1885. Moses died two years later; some accounts claim he was murdered by a white lynch mob. Following her husband’s death, Sarah relocated to St. Louis, where her four brothers worked as barbers. Like many other poor women of the day, Sarah worked hard, as a maid, a cook, and a laundry woman. Earning as little as \$1.50 a day, Sarah still managed to save enough money to send her daughter to Knoxville College, a private black college in Tennessee. She would always consider this one of her greatest achievements. With no opportunity for formal education herself, Sarah was barely literate, and would attend night school and later hire private tutors to further her education.

In 1890, an event occurred that would change the course of Sarah’s life. She started suffering from a scalp ailment that caused her to lose her hair. In trying to find a cure, she realized that there were very few hair care products marketed to black women. She began experimenting with both home-made and store-bought remedies, and eventually created a formula that helped her hair re-grow. She then started making her formula for her friends and family, and based on their success with it, decided to start her own business part time with the money she had saved – just \$1.25. Around this time, she went to work for Annie Malone, another African American woman with a hair care product line, and in 1905 relocated to Denver.

After her move to Denver, another event took place that would have a major impact on Sarah’s future – she met and married newspaper man Charles Joseph Walker in 1906. Although the marriage wouldn’t last long, it was her relationship with Walker that would really establish her business. Walker had a flair for sales and marketing, and he used his talent to promote his wife’s fledgling enterprise. After the marriage, she changed her name from Sarah Breedlove to Madam C. J. Walker, the name that she would be known by for the rest of her life. Together they mass marketed “Madam Walker’s Wonderful Hair Grower” by selling door to door and advertising in black publications. For over a year they traveled across the South and Southeast promoting her formula, which she claimed came to her in a dream in which a big black man appeared to her and told her how to concoct the remedy for her hair. Meanwhile, her daughter ran the mail order business from Denver. The Walker’s later went



to Latin America and the Caribbean to market their products and develop new ones.

In 1908, Madam C. J. Walker relocated her base to Pittsburgh, where she opened Lelia College to train Walker “hair culturists.” These were ladies who were trained to use the Walker hair care product line, and then sold them door to door. By 1910, she employed over 1,000 agents. Madam Walker believed strongly in empowering women and was proud that her company gave jobs to African American women who would otherwise have few employment options. Around this time, on a trip to Indianapolis, (at that time the country’s largest manufacturing base), she was so impressed by the network of transportation infrastructure that she decided to move the business there. By 1910, she had established the factory for the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company (which would remain in operation until 1985), a hair and manicure salon, and another training school

there. It was in 1910 that the Walker's divorced, largely over disagreement about the business – she wanted to expand and he didn't. Although their marriage was over Charles continued to work for Madam Walker as a marketing representative. Her company kept growing and adding new product lines including hair conditioners, cosmetics, and facial products. Some of her products included a redesigned steel hot comb, “Glossine” hair oil, “Temple Grower”, and “Tetter Salve”. While Madam Walker was often criticized for trying to make black women abandon their traditional styles to conform to “white” culture, she believed that by helping her clients look well groomed, she could increase their chance of success in a white dominated world. She often gave lectures to help promote women in business to encourage them to break out of their traditional roles.

In addition to promoting women, Madam Walker was active in the civil rights movement, and also in philanthropic causes. She was at the forefront of the movement to save the home of Frederick Douglas, making her one of the early preservationist's as well. She gave money to many charitable causes, including \$5,000 to the NAACP's anti-lynching movement. She also gave speeches, and in 1913 was the key note speaker at the National Negro Business League Convention. In 1917, after a white mob murdered over three dozen blacks in St. Louis, Madam Walker joined other black leaders in presenting a petition for anti-lynching legislation to President Woodrow Wilson. In addition, she started a school in West Africa, which she would fund for the rest of her life.

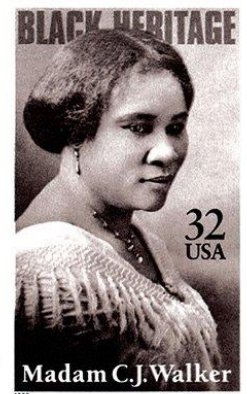
In 1916, Sarah decided to move to New York City, leaving her factory in the care of her forelady, Alice Kelly and her attorney, F. B. Ransom. In New York, she built a 34-room mansion named “Villa Lewaro” on the Hudson River, complete with a gold piano and a \$60,000 pipe organ. Her neighbors included Jay Gould and John D. Rockefeller. She lived extravagantly, dressing in the latest fashions, buying expensive jewelry, and riding around town in an electric car.



The Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company continued to grow, and by 1917 the company employed almost 3,000 factory workers and 20,000 sales agents. As the business grew, Madam Walker organized her sales agents into state and local clubs. She worked with her employees, encouraging them not only to strive to succeed in business, but also to give to charitable causes and to become politically active. Her Madam C. J. Walker Hair Culturists Union of America Convention in 1917 was one of the first national meetings of business women held in this country.

Sarah Breedlove, aka Madam C. J. Walker, died May 25, 1919 of kidney failure and complications of hypertension. At the time of her death, her estate including her business holdings was over \$1,000,000, making her the first completely self-made American woman millionaire. Two thirds of her estate was willed to the various charities that she supported, including black schools, orphanages, retirement homes, civil rights groups, and the YWCA and YMCA. She was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in New York.

An entrepreneur who started with nothing and worked her way up to being the first self-made millionaire woman, a philanthropist, at the forefront of civil rights and women's rights, Sarah Breedlove was truly a great woman ahead of her time. As the subject of the biography “On Her Own Ground, The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker”, her accomplishments will continue to inspire future generations. Madam C. J. Walker has been inducted into the National Business Hall of Fame and the National Women's Hall of Fame. In 1998, she was honored with a commemorative stamp by the United States Postal Service as part of the Black Heritage Series.



For more information about Madam C.J. Walker's incredible life, take a few minutes to view these two videos:

[Meet the First Self-Made Female Millionaire - YouTube](#)

[The True Story of Madam C.J. Walker | TWO DOLLARS AND A DREAM - YouTube](#)

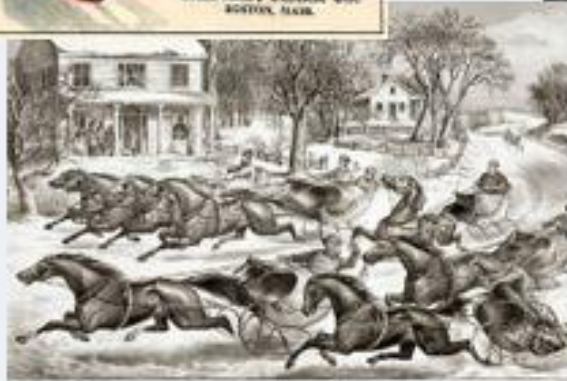
WINTER PASTIMES



HOCKEY ON THE ICE - LADIES MATCH ON THE LAKE IN WIMBLEDON PARK 7 JAN 1 1903



Sledging Equipment in July 1891, for Ladies Fall



A DRIVE FOR THE LEAD



THE "TRAMP" OF THE GREAT WINTER OF 1900

