

Fenton

MOTHER'S DAY 1980

The very heart of the Gift of Life is a mother's devotion to her young. Mere contemplation of this act—the highest earthly expression of love—can take hold of one's life and through the patient shaping of it, bring to fulfillment the destiny for which the Gift was granted.

Anna Jarvis of Grafton, W. Va. and Philadelphia, Pa. is properly credited with the ultimate Congressional launching of an official national observance of Mother's Day.

Other countries, for example, England (Mothering Sunday) had long observed similar days. In this country, Julia Ward Howe in 1872, Mary Towles Sasseen in 1887, and Frank E. Herring in 1904 made efforts to establish a Mother's Day.

On May 10, 1908 churches in Grafton and Philadelphia held special services to honor mothers at which the custom of wearing a red or white carnation took hold. It was the perseverance of Anna Jarvis through her church affiliations which finally led to the congressional actions that made Mother's Day an official custom of the U.S.A. in 1915.

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AND
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Fenton

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