

# Making a Mark in History

Well-behaved women rarely make history. This statement could be used to describe many famous historical women who have made an impact on our society and the cattle industry itself. These women could be described as driven, accomplished and enthusiastic about their cause with an attitude of achievement and success.

## Hereford women at a glimpse

Just as Dams of Distinction are the foundation of strong Hereford herds so are the women who support the American Hereford Association and its youth. The National Hereford Women (NHW) carry on the goals and traditions of the original charter members of the American Hereford Auxiliary. These women set the benchmark for future Hereford women.



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**Historian** – Nikki Rogers, *Eatonville, Wash.*

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[HerefordWomen.com](http://HerefordWomen.com)

These pioneers in the Hereford breed recognized several needs from the Hereford Association at the time. To meet those needs, a group of more than 125 women set out to develop the first-ever American Hereford Auxiliary.

The National Western Stock Show in January 1969 set the stage for a historical moment in the history of the NHW. The American Hereford Auxiliary was chartered during this historic week. These women gathered in Denver to draft the charter, elect directors and lay out plans for projects for the year. A contest was held to determine the name of the new group. The winner of the contest naming the American Hereford Auxiliary was Mrs. Ronald Kenyan, Des Moines, Iowa.

The goals of this organization were many. These women set out to promote the Hereford breed through hospitality and developing a productive image of the breed. In addition, they worked to establish state auxiliaries and to develop ways to actively promote Hereford beef to the public. This organization created the groundwork for the NHW today.

The directors named to serve the first Auxiliary in its inaugural year were Mrs. Charles Kyd, Three Forks, Mont., as president; Mrs. John Matasovic, Mokena, Ill., as first vice president; Mrs. Dick Sellman, Watrous, N.M., as second vice president; Mrs. Alan King, Dadeville, Mo., as secretary; Mrs. Loren Duemeland, Bismarck, N.D., as treasurer; Mrs. Paul Pattee, Emmett, Idaho, as historian; and Mrs. B.V. Scheib, Maumee, Ohio, as parliamentarian. The women elected to the board of directors were Mrs. Donald Norgren, Platteville, Colo.; Mrs. Jack Vanier,

Brookville, Kan.; Mrs. J. Glenn Brown, Charles Town, W.Va.; Mrs. Howard Rogers, Rogersville, Tenn.; and Mrs. William Verdugo, Clovis, Calif.

## Hereford women at work

Many of these women worked the ranch alongside their husbands. Day in and day out, they cared for the livestock including feeding, watering and doctoring. They helped brand, vaccinate and keep records on these animals. They completed registrations and kept the lineage correct on the herd. They might be the ones to rope a bull and load him in the trailer out in the pasture or sort off the mean mama cow trying to protect her baby. These women were career women, although they were not in a corporate setting.

In addition to the ranch duties, these women were homemakers. They were the ones up before dawn, preparing meals for the family. They cared for their children, kept clean clothes available and made sure everyone got to school and appointments on time. They were a sounding board for their spouse, whether it be about what new bulls they should find to improve their genetics or if the market was going to hold out to sell their calves at the most optimal price.

These women were active in their communities. It could be they were the president of the local parent-teacher association, the secretary of the local Cowbells and/or the leader of their child's 4-H club. They fulfilled their duties to the fullest. They brought leadership and can-do attitudes with them to these organizations, and these groups were better for the Hereford ranch women participating in them.

These women became grandmothers. They instilled

traditions, ethics and values in their children's children. They showed new baby calves to their new babes and helped foster a love for the red and white-faced cattle they adored. They traveled to the livestock shows to watch as their grandchildren showed their first Hereford steer or heifer. And they proudly pointed out that the stock they were showing were home-raised cattle.

These women were the pioneers of what the NHW is today. They set the stage for a successful organization that would aid in promoting the Hereford breed. They showed future generations how to foster relationships between industry leaders and state auxiliaries to build a better future



Elected as officers and directors to serve the American Hereford Auxiliary in its inaugural year (seated l to r) are: Mrs. John Matasovic, Mokena, Ill., first vice president; Mrs. Loren Duemeland, Bismarck, N.D., treasurer; Mrs. J. Glenn Brown, Charles Town, W.Va., director; Mrs. Dick Sellman, Watrous, N.M., second vice president. Standing (l to r) are: Mrs. Paul Pattee, Emmett, Idaho, historian; Mrs. William Verdugo, Clovis, Calif., director; Mrs. Jack Vanier, Brookville, Kan., director; Mrs. B.V. Scheib, Maumee, Ohio, parliamentarian; Mrs. Charles Kyd, Three Forks, Mont., president; Mrs. Donald Norgren, Platteville, Colo., director; and Mrs. Alan King, Dadeville, Mo., secretary. Not pictured: Mrs. Howard Rogers, Rogersville, Tenn.

for the breed. Furthermore, they did all of this while working on the ranch, raising their children, and being active in their communities and states. The benchmark for success was set high for future members of the NHW.

Here's to strong women. May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them. **HW**

To join and to learn more about the NHW, visit [HerefordWomen.com](http://HerefordWomen.com) or email [nationalherefordwomen@gmail.com](mailto:nationalherefordwomen@gmail.com).