



**Womanica
Indigenous Women
November 2021**

Olivia Ward Bush-Banks

1869-1944


USA

Olivia Ward Bush-Banks was an American poet and playwright best known for celebrating both her African-American and Montauk heritages in her works. She also founded the Bush-Banks School of Expression in Chicago to foster emerging African-American talents. Some of her plays supported an interracial culture controversial for her day and were not produced during her lifetime.

Hel. Douglas 4971

LECTURER SOCIAL WORKER WRITER

3 / 30 / 13



OLIVIA WARD BUSH-BANKS
Author of "DRIFTWOOD" (a collection of Prose and Poetry)
"The Trail of Montauk" (a Dramatic Sketch of Indian life)

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Dolores Cacuango

1881-1971

Ecuador

Ecuadorian civil rights pioneer Dolores Cacuango, also known as Mamá Doloreyuk, spent decades fighting fiercely for the rights of the country's Indigenous people, with a particular focus on land rights and women's rights. Cacuango was a dedicated advocate for accessible education and instrumental in establishing Ecuador's first bilingual schools, which practiced in Spanish and the Indigenous language of Quichua. She founded the Federación Ecuatoriana de Indios (FEI) in 1944 with the help of Ecuador's Communist Party.



Elouise Cobell

1945-2011

USA

Elouise Cobell, also known as Yellow Bird Woman, was a Blackfoot tribal elder and activist, banker, rancher, and lead plaintiff in the groundbreaking class-action suit, *Cobell v. Salazar* (2009), that challenged the United States' mismanagement of trust funds belonging to more than 500,000 individual Native Americans. She pursued the suit from 1996, challenging the government to account for fees from resource leases. In 2010, the government approved a \$3.4 billion settlement for the trust case, the largest ever in a class action against the federal government.



Whina Cooper

1895-1994

New Zealand

Dame Whina Cooper was a respected kuia (Māori elder), who worked for many years for the rights of her people, and particularly to improve the lot of Māori women. In one famous example, as an 80-year old she led 5,000 Māori land protest marchers as they walked from Te Hāpua (in the far north) to Parliament. Her wide influence and nationally recognized activity led her to be acknowledged with awards in both the British (Imperial) and New Zealand Royal Honours Systems, and by her own people, who bestowed the title Te Whaea o te Motu ("Mother of the Nation") upon her.



Ella Cara Deloria

1889-1971

USA

Ella Cara Deloria was a Dakota Sioux scholar, ethnographer, anthropologist, writer, and translator who was a critically important recorder of Sioux culture and languages at a time when the traditional culture was in danger of being lost. She also brought a new perspective on the work, as she herself was born on the Yankton Sioux Reservation and was part of a traditional Dakota Sioux family.



Mary Thompson “Te Ata” Fisher 1895-1995 USA

Mary Frances Thompson, best known as Te Ata, was a beloved actress and citizen of the Chickasaw Nation known for telling Native American stories. For decades, she performed in front of audiences around the world, and even as a representative of Native Americans at state dinners before President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1957 and was named Oklahoma's first State Treasure in 1987.



Rani Gaidinliu

1915-1993

India

Gaidinliu was a Naga spiritual and political leader who led a revolt against British rule in India. Gaidinliu was arrested in 1932 at the age of 16 and was sentenced to life imprisonment by the British rulers. She was released in 1947 after India's independence and continued to work for the upliftment of her people. An advocate of the ancestral Naga religious practices, she staunchly resisted the conversion of Nagas to Christianity. She was honoured as a freedom fighter and was awarded a Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.

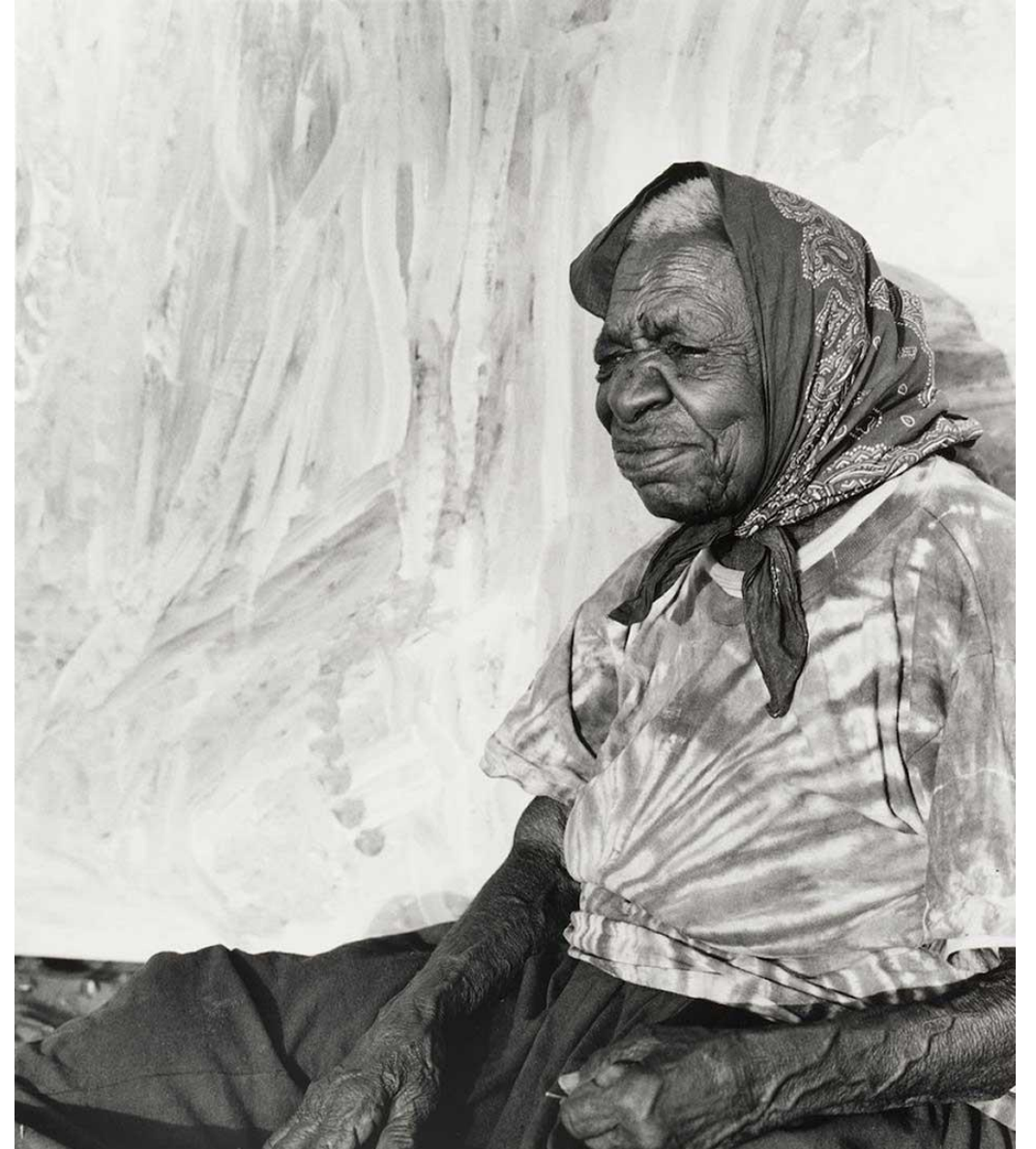


Emily Kame Kngwarreye

1910-1996

Australia

Emily Kame Kngwarreye was an Aboriginal Australian artist and beloved elder from the Utopia community in the Northern Territory. She is one of the most prominent and successful artists in the history of Australian art. Kngwarreye began painting on canvas in her late seventies after decades of ritual artistic activity and batik fabric painting. She was extremely prolific, executing an estimated three thousand paintings in an eight-year period.



Edmonia Lewis

1844-1907

USA

Mary Edmonia Lewis, also known as "Wildfire," was a renowned American sculptor of mixed African-American and Native American (Ojibwe) heritage. She was the first African-American sculptor to achieve national and then international prominence. Her work is known for incorporating themes relating to Black people and indigenous peoples of the Americas into Neoclassical-style sculpture.



Lozen

c. 1840-1889

USA

Lozen was a legendary Apache warrior, seer, healer, midwife, and mediator admired for her acts of bravery and revered for her clairvoyant ability to guide her people away from danger. Although Lozen is well known among Apaches, many of the accounts documenting her role in the Apache wars of the 1870s and 1880s were not published until the late twentieth century. These show her to have been a leading figure in the final episode of Native American armed resistance to the invasion that began with the arrival of Columbus.



Wilma Mankiller

1945-2010

USA

Wilma Mankiller was an American Cherokee activist, social worker, community developer and the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. She is also the first woman elected as chief of a major Native tribe. She spent her remarkable life fighting for the rights of American Indians. During her tenure, the Cherokee government built new health clinics, created a mobile eye-care clinic, established ambulance services, and created early education, adult education and job training programs. She developed revenue streams including factories, retail stores, restaurants, and bingo operations, while establishing self-governance allowing the tribe to manage its own finances. She was a long time advocate for tribal sovereignty, women's rights, and cancer awareness.

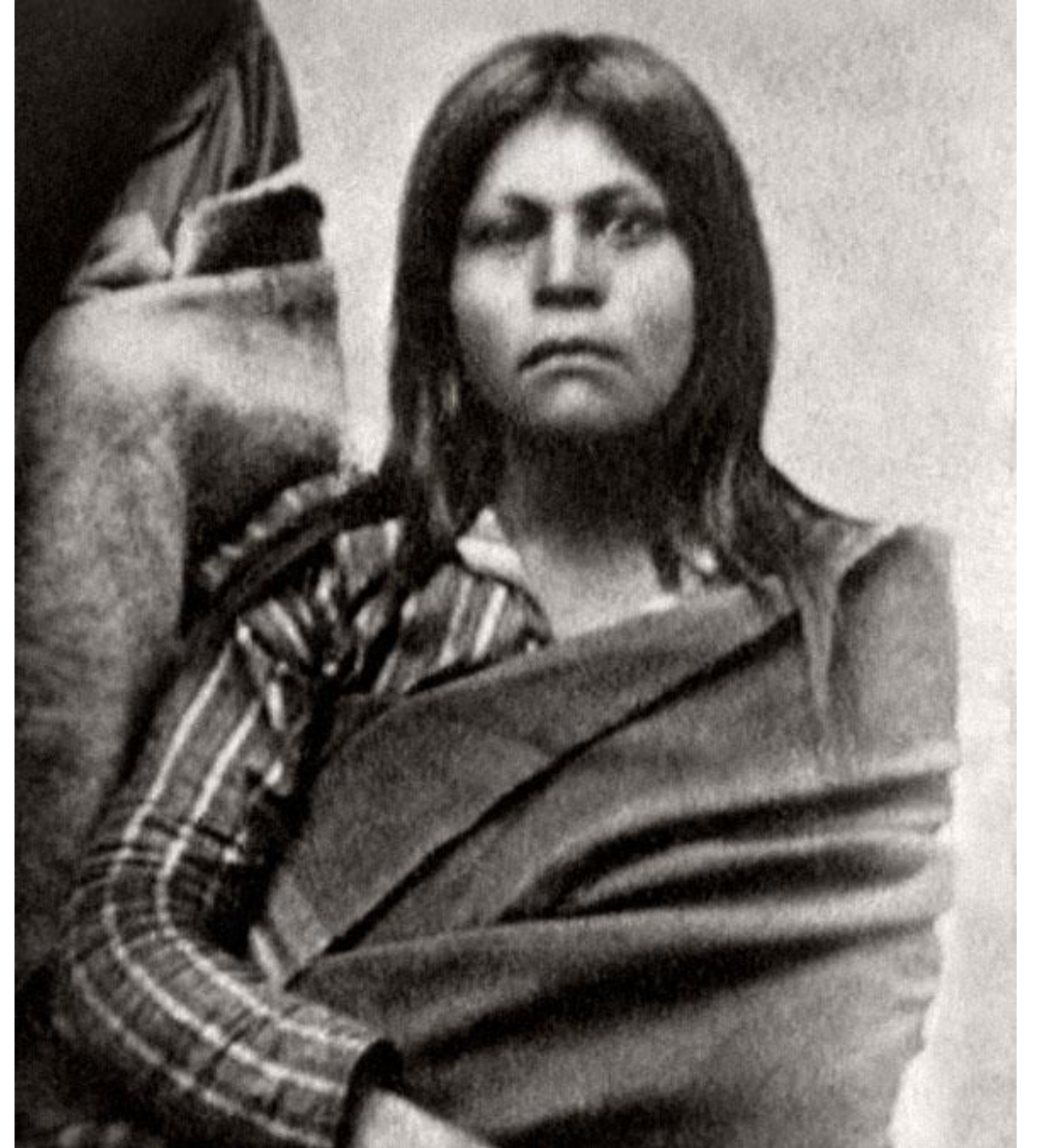


The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island (Juana Maria)

Unknown-1853

USA

Juana Maria, better known to history as the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island (her Native American name is unknown), was a Native Californian woman who was believed to be the last surviving member of her tribe, the Nicoleño. She lived alone on San Nicolas Island off the coast of Alta, California from 1835 until her removal from the island in 1853. Scott O'Dell's award-winning children's novel *Island of the Blue Dolphins* (1960) was inspired by her story. She was the last native speaker of the Nicoleño language.



Edith Monture

1890–1996

Canada

Edith Monture was a Mohawk WWI veteran, the first Indigenous-Canadian woman to become a registered nurse, and the first Indigenous-Canadian woman to gain the right to vote in a Canadian federal election. Moreover, she was the first Indigenous woman from Canada to serve in the United States military. Born in Canada, Monture had to be trained as a nurse in the United States because all of the Canadian nursing schools refused her due to her race. She was one of only fourteen Native-Canadian women who served as members of the Army Nurse Corps during World War I and was one of only two who served overseas (she served in France at a military hospital.)



Elizabeth Peratrovich

1911-1958

USA

Elizabeth Peratrovich was an American civil rights activist, Grand President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, and member of the Tlingit nation who worked for equality on behalf of Alaska Natives. In the 1940s, her advocacy was credited as being instrumental in the passing of Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, the first state or territorial anti-discrimination law enacted in the United States. In 2020, the United States Mint released a \$1 gold coin inscribed with Elizabeth's likeness in honor of her historic achievements.



Susan La Flesche Picotte

1865-1915

USA

Susan La Flesche Picotte was a Native American doctor, activist, and reformer in the late 19th century. Widely acknowledged as one of the first Indigenous peoples to earn a medical degree, she campaigned for public health and for the formal, legal allotment of land to members of the Omaha tribe. Picotte was an active social reformer who worked to discourage drinking on the reservation where she worked as the physician, as part of the temperance movement of the 19th century. She also campaigned to prevent and treat tuberculosis, which then had no cure, and worked to help other Omaha navigate the bureaucracy of the Office of Indian Affairs and receive the money owed to them for the sale of their land.



Comandanta Ramona

1959-2006

Mexico

Comandanta Ramona was the nom de guerre of an officer of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), a revolutionary Indigenous autonomist organization based in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. Perhaps the most famous female Zapatista officer, Ramona was one of seven female commanders in charge of directing an army that consisted of one-third women. A member of the Zapatista leading council, the CCRI (Clandestine Revolutionary Indigenous Committee), she served as a symbol of equality and dignity for Indigenous and impoverished women.



Evelyn Scott

1935-2017

Australia

Evelyn Scott was a pioneering Indigenous Australian social activist and educator. She was a driver of the 1967 referendum, a momentous turning point in Australian history where more than 90 per cent of voters chose to delete discriminatory references to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. In 1973, she became the first General-Secretary of the Indigenous-led Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, and then served as the chair of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation from 1997 to 2000, a fractious period, during which the government refused to apologize to the Stolen Generations and reduced the budgets of several national Indigenous organizations. She was the first Aboriginal woman to be accorded the honor of a state funeral by the Queensland government.



Angela Sidney

1905-1991

Canada

Angela Sidney was a Tagish storyteller who became well-known for co-authoring two narratives of traditional Tagish legends and a historical document of Tagish place names for southern Yukon. She also recorded traditional songs and published lively stories of family and rugged wilderness, keeping the vanishing Tagish language alive through preservation of Indigenous cultural heritage. For her linguistics and ethnography contributions, the Tagish elder earned membership in the Order of Canada, becoming the first Native woman from the Yukon to be so honored.

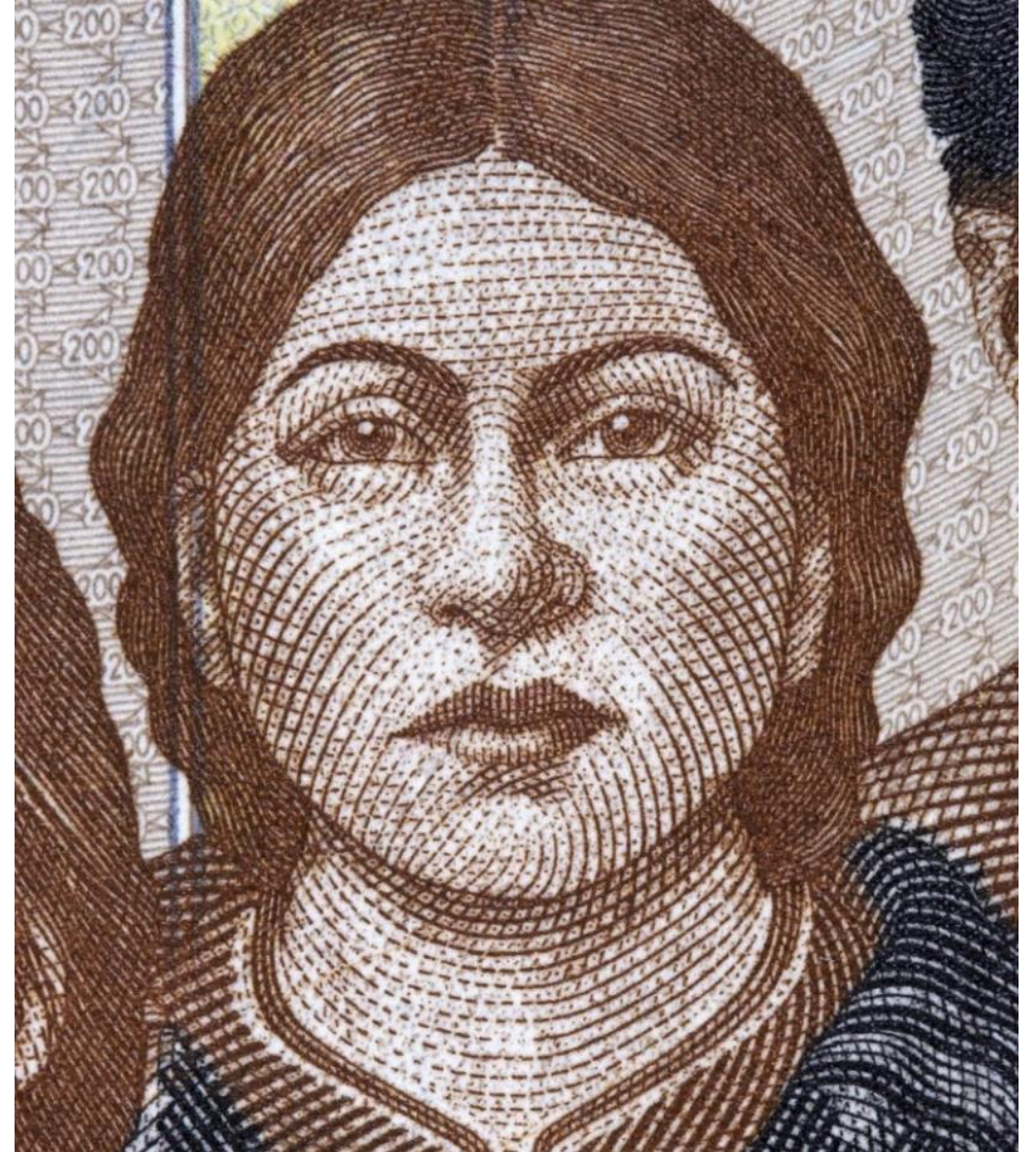


Bartolina Sisa

c. 1750-1782

Bolivia

Bartolina Sisa was an Aymaran woman and legendary indigenous heroine who led numerous revolts against the Spanish rule in Charcas, then part of the Viceroyalty of Peru and present-day Bolivia. Alongside her husband, the indigenous leader Túpac Katari, she participated in the organization of indigenous military camps that took part in the siege of La Paz. She was eventually betrayed and turned in to the Spanish authorities, who later executed her. Honoring the date of her death, the International Day of Indigenous Women is celebrated every September 5th since 1983.



Maria Tallchief

1925-2013

USA

Marie Tallchief (Osage family name: Ki He Kah Stah Tsa) was a famed American ballerina considered America's first major prima ballerina. She was the first Native American (Osage Nation) to hold the rank, and is said to have revolutionized ballet. She traveled the world, becoming the first American to perform in Moscow's Bolshoi Theater. She also made regular appearances on American TV before she retired in 1966. After retiring from dance, Tallchief was active in promoting ballet in Chicago. She served as director of ballet for the Lyric Opera of Chicago for most of the 1970s and debuted the Chicago City Ballet in 1981



Annie Dodge Wauneka

1910-1997

USA

Annie Dodge Wauneka was an influential and pioneering member of the Navajo Nation who worked tirelessly to improve the health and education of the Navajo. She became widely known for her countless efforts and initiatives to improve health on the Navajo Nation, focusing mostly on the eradication of tuberculosis within her nation. She even authored a much-needed dictionary that translated English medical terms into the Navajo language. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 by Lyndon B. Johnson as well as the Indian Council Fire Achievement Award and the Navajo Medal of Honor. She also received an honorary doctorate in Humanities (public health) from the University of New Mexico.



Sarah Winnemucca

c. 1844-1891

USA

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins (born Thocmentony, meaning "Shell Flower") was an important Northern Paiute author, activist and educator who became an advocate for the rights of Native Americans, traveling across the US to tell Anglo-Americans about the plight of her people. She was notable for being the first Native American woman to secure a copyright and to publish in the English language for her book, *Life Among the Paiutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, an autobiographical account of her people during their first forty years of contact with explorers and settlers. While Sarah delivered nearly 300 lectures throughout major cities of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, seeking to heighten awareness of injustice against Native Americans, her pioneering activism has only recently received the attention it deserves, and in 2005, a statue of her was added to the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol.

