

"I recognize no rights but human rights –
I know nothing of men's rights and women's rights;
for in Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female.

It is my solemn conviction that, until this principal of
equality is recognized and embodied in practice, the
church can do nothing effectual for the permanent
reformation of the world."

Angelina Grimke

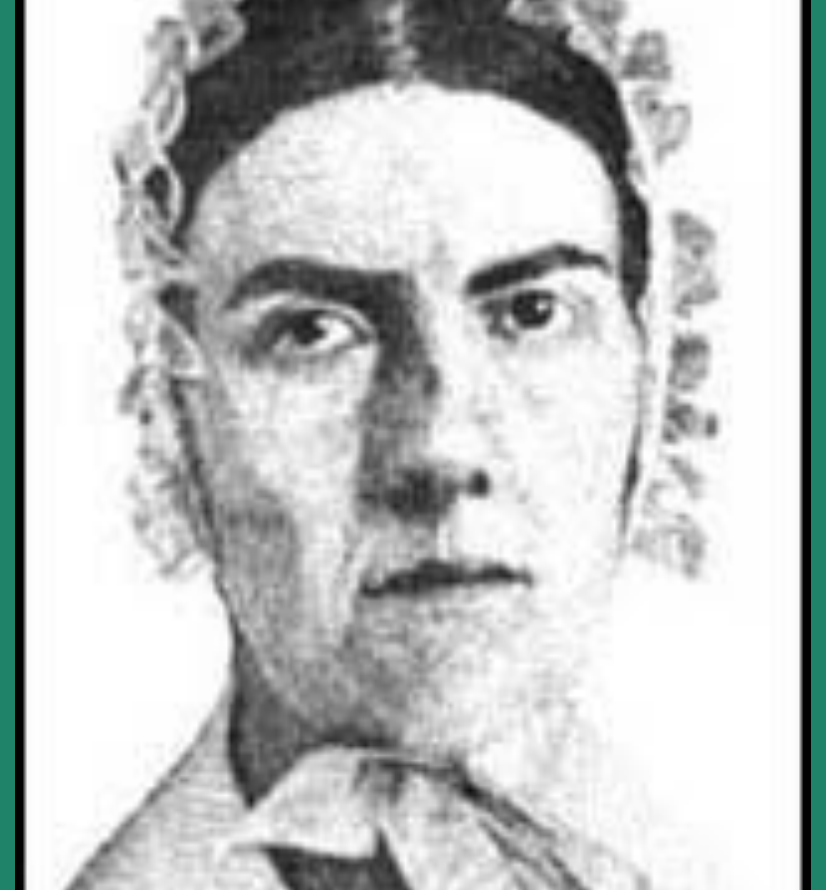


“The nation is in a death-struggle.
It must either become one vast
slaveocracy of petty tyrants,
or wholly the land of the free.”

— Angelina Grimke

Born in South Carolina on February 20, 1805, Angelina was the last of 14 children.

She died on October 26, 1879





The family owned a home in the city of Charleston, South Carolina, a plantation in the country, and numerous slaves.



As a teenager, Angelina and her sister Sarah were punished for teaching slaves how to read. They also were punished for teaching the alphabet to black children at Sunday School.

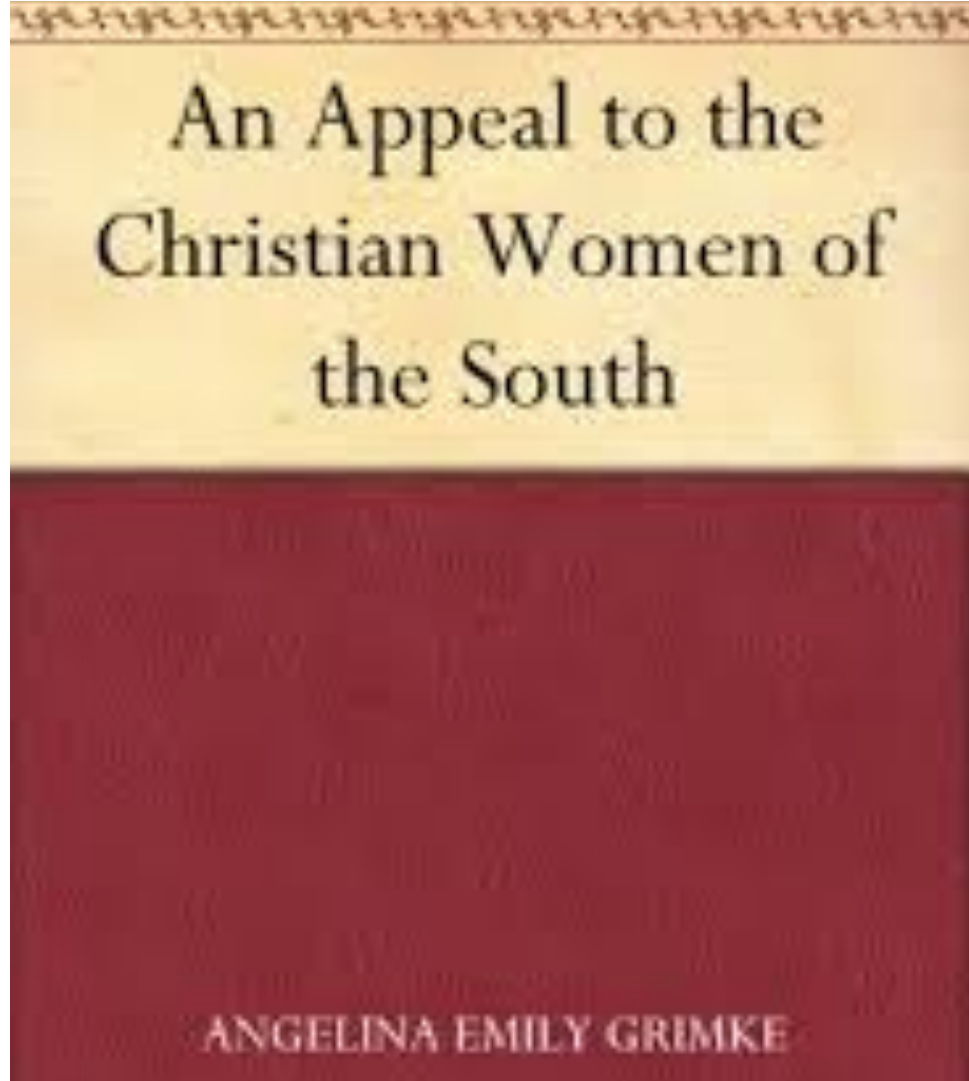
South Carolina prohibited teaching slaves to read and write, punishable by a fine of 100 pounds and six months in prison.

A childhood spent witnessing slavery's cruelties and her own experiences with the limitations of gender—
would shape Angelina's life and sense of mission.

Angelina grew up to become an ardent abolitionist writer and speaker, as well as a women's rights activist.

In 1835, Angelina wrote a letter to William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist publisher who, without her consent, printed it in his newspaper *The Liberator*.

The move launched her career as an abolitionist writer and speaker.



A year later, Angelina published her pamphlet *An Appeal to Christian Women of the South*, urging southern women to join the antislavery movement.

“One who is a slaveholder at heart
never recognizes a human being in a
slave.”

Angelina Grimke

In South Carolina, leaders threatened her with imprisonment if she returned home.

Angelina married Thomas Weld, another abolitionist in 1838.

In an act that would foreshadow the work of those who work today to stop human trafficking, Weld and Angelina's wedding cake was made with "slave-free" sugar.

Two days later, Angelina spoke at the annual antislavery convention in Philadelphia.

Later that night, angry crowds burned the building to the ground.



The sisters, along with Weld, anonymously published a volume, *American Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses*. They had gleaned stories from newspapers, detailing the horrors of slavery.

The book sold 100,000 copies in its first year, and is said to have inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

“We know it matters not what we
have been but this and always this:
what we shall be.”

— Angelina Grimke


John Blundell wrote about the Grimke sisters
in *Ladies for Liberty: Women Who Made a
Difference in America ...*

“The Grimke Sisters were principled and steadfast and made huge personal sacrifices.

They were courageous, generous and caring. They were also gifted writers and public speakers, and clever strategists...

But above all they were driven by an
abhorrence of the idea that
one individual could own another.”

Angelina is one of many women
upon whose shoulders we stand.

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consists of a long teal horizontal bar on the left, which transitions into a 3D-style teal rectangular block on the right. The background of the slide is a dark teal color.

Take a moment and lift up in silent prayer the name of a woman (or more than one) who has inspired you to be “driven by an abhorrence of the idea that one individual could own another.”