

Abigail Scott Duniway 1834-1915

“Do not yield to difficulties, but rise above discouragements.”

Abigail Jane Scott was born in Illinois on October 22, 1834 to Ann and John Tucker Scott. In April of 1852 her father decided to move the family to Oregon where she met and married Benjamin C. Duniway. Her novel *Captain Gray's Company*, a fictional account of her family's trip to Oregon, was published in 1859. In 1863 her husband was injured and became an invalid. Abigail supported her six children by becoming a teacher and later running a millinery shop. It was then she became keenly aware of the plight of other women. In 1871 the Duniway's moved to Portland and her newspaper, *The New Northwest*, was born. When suffragists Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were lecturing in the West, Abigail invited them to Portland to do a series of lectures. Miss Anthony accepted and soon Abigail joined her to travel across the nation speaking about women's rights and sending the accounts of her travels to be published in *The New Northwest*. With a successful tour behind her, Abigail started lobbying on behalf of women's rights. She drafted the resolution that gave the women the right to vote in Washington Territory (1883) and was instrumental in winning the suffrage in Idaho (1869), the state of Washington (1910), and Oregon (1912) where she was the first woman to cast a vote. In 1915, just before her 81st birthday, Abigail Scott Duniway passed away after spending 42 years working to gain the right for every woman to vote.