

Anna Jarvis: The woman who regretted creating Mother's Day

Anna Jarvis, the woman responsible for the creation of Mother's Day, would have approved of the modest celebrations likely to take place this year. The commercialisation of the day horrified her — to the extent that she even campaigned to have it **rescinded**.

rescind 解除; 废除

Her campaign for a special day to celebrate mothers was one she inherited from her own mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis. Mrs. Jarvis had spent her life mobilising mothers to care for their children, and she wanted mothers' work to be recognised.

Three years after Mrs Jarvis's death, the first Mother's Day was celebrated — Anna Jarvis chose the second Sunday in May because it would always be close to the day her mother had died.

In 1910 Mother's Day became a West Virginia state holiday and in 1914 it was designated a national holiday by President Woodrow Wilson.

A huge factor in the day's success was its commercial appeal. Even though Anna never wanted the day to become commercialised, it did very early.

When the price of **carnations** rocketed, she released a press release condemning florists. By 1920, she was urging people not to buy flowers at all.

carnation 康乃馨; 肉色; 粉红色

This year many families won't be able to treat their mothers to flowers or a day out and instead will celebrate Mother's Day via a video link, because of the lockdown.

But historian Katharine Antolini thinks Anna would have been pleased with such **pared**-down celebrations. She imagines that Anna would be delighted with the lack of shopping opportunities, which she felt clouded the purity of her original vision.

pare 削皮; 消减