

# A Year of Women

## Lost in history: Women in business

### Fact #9

Rita Frattali Mackey, a Watertown, New York native, was President and Chief Executive Officer of Marine Midland Bank of Northern New York before her retirement in 1980. Finance Magazine named her Woman Banker of the Year in 1974. Mackey also served on the Flower Memorial Library Board and the Northern New York Community Foundation Board for many years.

### Teaching Points

1. Jobs women predominantly had in the Banking world in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
2. The responsibilities of a Bank President in a small city and rural area.
3. The difficulty it took to break the glass ceiling for women in American Banking.

### NY Learning Standard(s)

ELA 1,2,3,4 SS 1, 5

### Discussion Questions

- 1a. Why was it difficult for women to be more than secretaries and bank tellers?
- 1b. Did the involvement of the United States in World War II open the doors for women to succeed in bank administration?
- 2a. What was the fiduciary responsibility of a rural Bank President to the bank as well as to local businesses?
- 2b. What were the responsibilities of a small rural town banker to the development of the community?
- 3a. What were the impediments for women to rise in banking administration?
- 3b. Were there specific community barriers that prevented a bank from offering female employees a chance to advance?

### Activity Extensions

1. **Essay.** Find out how women like Mrs. Mackey succeeded in rising to the position of Bank President. Prepare an essay about the struggle to success. What would the timeline look like?
2. **Interview.** Interview a local woman in Banking Administration; find out what challenges she had to overcome and specific successes she has had.
3. **Research.** Discover how the change in attitude of younger males towards women in business, has helped women's success. What are the causes of this change and how has it been fostered?