

On the Right Track: Celebrating Sarah Clark Kidder and Women In Transit

We are honored to spotlight Sarah Clark Kidder, renowned for being the first woman in the world to run a railroad. Her remarkable journey not only reshaped the railroad industry but also paved the way for women's increased participation and leadership in transit.

Sarah Clark Kidder's ascension to the presidency of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad in 1901 was a milestone in transportation history. At a time when the railroad industry was overwhelmingly male-dominated, Kidder's leadership role was not just exceptional; it was revolutionary. Under her guidance, the railroad flourished, overcoming financial challenges and emerging as a vital transportation link in California.

Kidder's management and operational strategies were ahead of her time. Her success in running a railroad demonstrated that leadership capabilities transcend gender boundaries. Her tenure is a testament to the crucial role women can play in managing and innovating in the transportation sector.

At SMART, we draw inspiration from Sarah Clark Kidder's story as we continue to champion gender diversity and empowerment within our organization. Her pioneering spirit is reflected in our commitment to providing inclusive, accessible, and efficient transportation solutions to our community. We recognize the importance of diverse perspectives and leadership styles in driving the public transportation industry forward.

Our "Women In Transit" campaign during Women's Month is more than just a celebration of past achievements. It is a recognition of the ongoing contributions of women in transit and a commitment to fostering an environment where women's talents and leadership are nurtured and valued. As we honor Sarah Clark Kidder, we also celebrate the many women who are making a difference in public transportation today – from bus operators and engineers to planners and administrators.

Sarah Clark Kidder's impact extends beyond her historical accomplishment. Her story encourages us at SMART to continue breaking barriers and embracing innovative approaches in our operations. It serves as a reminder that public transportation is not just a matter of moving people from place to place; it's about connecting communities, driving economic growth, and shaping the future of our cities and regions.

As we commemorate Women's Month, let's reflect on the lasting legacy of Sarah Clark Kidder and the many women who have followed in her footsteps. Their contributions have not only advanced the field of public transportation but have also played a critical role in promoting gender equality and empowering future generations of women leaders. At SMART, we are proud to be part of this continuing journey, working towards a more inclusive and dynamic future for public transit.