

# 5 / Braids, skirts and cannons



## Crónicas de una generación trágica

María Helena Doering, Angie Cepeda, Inés Prieto y Saskia Loochkart interpretan a Magdalena Ortega de Nariño, Mercedes Nariño, mujer del pueblo y Barbarita Forero en la noche del 20 de julio. • Viki Ospina • 1993 • Fotografía • Museo Nacional de Colombia



**Women called “Juanas” were mostly rural and they marched next to their sons, husbands and relatives belonging to the patriot armies. Even though female concurrence to the army had been forbidden, they continued to serve out their own will in the battlefield as**

**fighters, nurses, cooks and messengers, many of them perishing in the war as well.**

Batalla de Calibío • José María Espinosa • ca. 1845 • Óleo sobre tela • Museo de la Independencia - Casa del Florero (detalle)

Batalla de los ejidos de Pasto • José María Espinosa • ca. 1850 • Óleo sobre tela • Museo Nacional de Colombia (detalle)

## La Pola

Policarpa Salavarrieta marcha al suplicio • ca. 1825 • Óleo sobre tela • Museo Nacional de Colombia



Policarpa Salavarrieta  
Sacrificada p. los espa-  
ñoles en esta plaza el  
el 14 de Nov. de 1817.  
su memoria eternice  
entre nosotros y q. su  
fama resuene de polo  
a polo !!!

## Some heroine from our Independence

MERCEDES ABREGO DE REYES	Cúcuta	Executed in 1813
ANTONIA SANTOS	Socorro	Shot in 1819
EUGENIA RAZOLA	Turbaco	Executed in 1815
LUISA GÓNGORA	Pasto	Killed in 1812
MARÍA IGNACIA VÁSQUEZ	Mompox	Killed with her daughters in 1817
ROSAURA RIVERA	Neiva	Executed in 1816
REMIGIA CUESTA	Boyacá	Shot in 1817



## Manuela Sáenz

José María Espinosa • ca. 1828 • Miniatura sobre marfil • Museo de la Independencia - Casa del Florero



**Policarpa Salavarrieta is the martyr heroine that has earned the most protagonism after her being executed in Santafé in 1817. Manuela Sáenz, the Liberator's liberator is recognized in Ecuador as a heroine and revolutionary; still, the history that is narrated in Colombia emphasizes the intimate relationship that she kept with Bolívar, and how she saved his life the night of the conspiracy the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1828.**

Giraldo protagonizó Policarpa Salavarrieta para la serie *Revivamos nuestra historia*  
• Manuel Moreno • 1982 • Fotografía  
• Colección Natalia Giraldo

**FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE INDEPENDENCE WAR WAS CRUCIAL AS** they were protectors, collaborators and even members of the patriotic guerrillas they served on the liberator army as informants and accompanied their loved ones in the battlefield. Nonetheless, they are only marginally mentioned in history.

## Heroine from the regions

Women like María Águeda Gallardo and Concepción Loperena de Fernández de Castro had an important participation in the Pamplona and Valledupar meetings, respectively. Also, Carmen and Juana Rodríguez helped the patriots with weapons, money and clothing in Cundinamarca and actively propagated the revolutionary ideas. Many of them were executed during the first confrontations and the “regime of terror” imposed by Spanish General Pablo Morillo. His memory has been discreetly constructed through some portraits and stories.

What public ideas do today's women spread?



## Antonia Santos

Roberto Páramo • ca. 1910 • Acuarela sobre papel • Museo de la Independencia - Casa del Florero



**Commemorative theater scheme for the first anniversary of the sacrifice of Policarpa Salavarrieta.**

1917 • Teatro Colón • Impreso por Arboleda & Valencia Editores • Museo Nacional de Colombia