



Margarita Chorné y Salazar, the first woman in Latin America to get a university diploma. Chorné was ahead of her time. She was the second of 5 brothers born to Dentist Agustín Chorné and Paz Salazar in 1864. Following her father's and older brother's steps, she acquired a passion for dentistry (called odontology in those times). After passing her final exam, she obtained her dentistry surgeon degree, becoming the first woman in Latin America to possess a degree.

She became the spearhead of the feminine gender struggle for obtaining professional equity. During the whole 19th century, 133 men and only 3 women obtained their dental surgeon degree. Moreover, Margarita Chorné y Salazar was the first woman who practiced a profession in Latin America (1886). Margarita Chorné experienced significant political and social events. She was born during Maximilian's emperorship. As most of Mexico City's wealthy families, the Chornés were in favor of General Porfirio Díaz. Margarita saw with distrust the first years of hostilities. Later, when she married Antonio Dromundo, a lawyer close to the Zapatista movement, Margarita figured out the political process and social changes, and it is said that as a dentist doctor Chorné took care of President Francisco I. Madero, as well as of several Generals of the Revolution. When she got divorced, and by now lacking her father's protection, Margarita had to overcome alone the Mexican Revolution subsequent economic crisis, but thanks to her professional career she was able to provide for her son, Baltasar Dromundo Chorné, who would later become one of the ideologists of the student movement that would ultimately achieve the university autonomy.