

Coretta Scott King



(1927-2006)

Coretta Scott King is the first lady of the American Civil Rights movement. She was an author, an activist, a civil rights leader, and the wife of Martin Luther King Jr. An advocate for African-American equality, she was a leader of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Coretta was also a singer who often incorporated music into her civil rights work. She met her husband while attending graduate school in Boston. They both became increasingly active in the American civil rights movement.

MLK knew a good thing when he saw it & pursued her immediately after meeting her. In the beginning she thought he wasn't tall enough. Their was a partnership of equals from the beginning. She made he father who married them take out the "Obey" from their marriage vows. It is impossible to name all the achievements this women has done in her lifetime in this small space. Please Google her & read what a Great Woman she was. We can only be thankful for her.

GFWC California Federation of Women's Club



Women To be Proud of
2020-2022



This booklets is slightly longer & it is about women we should all know about & be proud of. Some you will have heard of & some you will be learning about for the first time. The hope is that you will want to continue this journey & keep looking for more historical Women to be proud of.



Joan Jett



(1958– living)

Joan Jett is an American rock singer, songwriter, composer, musician, record producer, and actress. Joan is best known for her work as the frontwoman of her band Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, and for earlier founding and performing with the Runaways, which she started at the age of 15! They recorded and released the hit song "Cherry Bomb". She was one of the first female rock stars to control her own label, the label was actually owned by The Who. Joan has continued to support & produce other young punk & riot grrrl bands. This has earned her the title "the Godmother of Punk" & "the Original Riot Girl". She has become one of the most influential women in rock; recording hits like "I Love Rock 'n' Roll".

Khutulun



(1260-1306)

Khutulun is the great-great grand daughter of Genghis Khan. She is a legend for wrestling. She could shoot an arrow & ride as well as any man.

At this time the women of the Mongol Empire were trained for battle. Marco Polo described Khutulun as a superb warrior, one who could ride into enemy ranks and snatch a captive as easily as a hawk snatches a chicken. She promised to marry any man who could beat her at wrestling, no one ever did. But to take the chance of winning her heart they had to pledge 100 horses. She is known as the princess of 10,000 horses! Of all her father's children, she was the favorite, & the one from whom he most sought advice and political support. He tried to name her as his successor to the khanate, council before he died in 1301. His choice was declined due to her male relatives.

Boudica



Boudica was a British queen in 60 a.c.e. from the Iceni tribe. During what some call the Roman occupation of Britain. After the her husband King Prasutagus was killed & the alliance between her tribe & the Rome fell apart. The Romans had began to pillage & yes, rape the women including Boudica & her two daughters. Boudica rallied 200 hundred thousand British tribes-men & fought back. She & her army killed 80 thousand Roman soldiers & burned 3 cities to the ground one of which was where modern day London is today. After the Romans got over the fact that this army was lead by a woman, they destroyed the Iceni army but Boudica fled & was never seen again.

Abigail Adams

The Second First Lady



(1744-1818)

Abigail did not get a formal education because of her health as a child. But her mother made sure she was well read in poetry, politics and philosophy.

This was unusual for time.

She sheltered wounded soldiers during the Revolutionary war while raising 6 children because John Adams was off at the Continental Congress. There is a legend that she melted the family silverware for bullets. She & John were true partners. They wrote more than one thousand letters during their lifetime. This gives us a unique look into their life & life during this period in history. Abigail was an ardent feminist before the word or idea ever existed. She often reminded John "to remember the Ladies". She was also strongly against slavery.

Camille Seaman



(1969– living)

Camille Seaman's father is a Native American (Shinnecock tribe) & her mother is African American.

She graduated from the State University of New York. She studied photography. Camille found her calling because of a delayed Alaska Air flight from Oakland to Los Angeles.

She gave up her seat for a round-trip ticket anywhere in the U.S. She chose Kotzebue, Alaska, northeast of the Bering Strait. Icebergs the size of cities and temperatures below zero were the norm. Between 2003 to 2011, Camille traveled as an expedition photographer to the Arctic & Antarctic for scientific voyages.

She also began chasing and photographing storms and tornadoes in the Midwest. Her photographs focus on global warming & climate change. Camille has received many awards for her work and has been published in National Geographic!

Mary Pickford



(1892-1979)

Mary Pickford was the first Hollywood Movie Star. She was born in Canada & started as a child actor on Broadway. She got a small part in a DW Griffith short film; she had a great work ethic. She worked in Silent films where Mary became known as "America's Sweetheart". She insisted that her name was listed on the credits printed on films. Mary knew her worth, before this no credits were given for actors. She was paid as much as the male stars & often jumped studios for more money. She became the first Hollywood Star Millionaire. Then Mary, her husband, Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin & D W Griffith started their own studio, United Artists. Mary's name never appeared on the credits as a producer or anything like that, but she was doing the work. She did not want the public to know a woman was doing the hard work in motion pictures. She won an Academy award, sold War Bonds in WWI & Co-founded the Motion Picture Relief Fund.

Maria Mitchell

Astronomer



(1818-1889)

Maria Mitchell was born into a Quaker family. It was rare that women got an education in her community. But, at the age of 12 she helped her father calculate the exact time of a solar eclipse. At 27 she opened a school. The next year Maria became the first American woman to discover a comet by telescope. She earned a gold medal prize from the King of Denmark. The Comet is often called Miss Mitchell's Comet.

Maria Mitchell became the first woman professional astronomer employed by the U.S. Government. She joined the Coastal Service to be a Celestial Observer in 1849. She was the first ever Astronomy Professor at Vassar.

Amalia Eriksson

The Peppermint Entrepreneur



(1825-1923)

Amalia was a Swedish entrepreneur who overcame horrible tragedies.

At age 10 her family died of cholera. At 33 she had twins, one was stillborn & a week later her husband died. After that she opened a bakery & candy shop in her town & soon was the first female in Sweden to successfully open a business.

The story is that when her daughter Ida was ill she made peppermint cough drops for her. She then started to make red & white swirled candy called Polkagris. It was what we know as the peppermint stick. This candy was so wonderful her shop was visited by royalty. She finally shared her candy with other candy makers & the peppermint stick was a worldwide treat.

Empress Wu Zetian



(624-705)

The Empress was the first & only female who acted as the Emperor of China. She married Emperor Gaozong. He had a stroke in 655 & Wu became his court administrator, a position equal to the Emperor's until 705.

She was strong, charismatic & well-educated. Despite literally dismembering all of her challengers, her rise to power was swift. Wu enjoyed the power. Wu gained the acceptance of the men in imperial service because she promoted men by talents not birthright. During her rule China expanded both globally & socially in positive ways. She ruled from 665 to 690 through her husband and sons, Wu was one of the longest-reigning de facto rulers in the history of the world. She reigned during one of the brightest periods of history in China as emperor.

Wilma Pearl Mankiller



(1945-2010)

Wilma Mankiller was the first woman elected as the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Her Surname in the Cherokee Language refers to a military rank of Captain or Major.

Her family moved to Hunters Point as part of the Indian Relocation Act of 1956. After having 2 daughters she received her degree from SFSU against her husband's wishes. She was in an accident which lead to 17 operations.

Wilma was a great champion for her tribe on many economic issues; in 1983 she ran for Deputy Chief of her tribe. She faced tons of harassment but along with deputy become Principal Chief in spite of all of that in 1985 & kept that position for 10 years. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom 1998!

Annie Edson Taylor

Daredevil



(1839-1910)

In 1901, Annie, a school teacher braved the falls read one newspaper headline. On October 24, 1901 she got into a barrel in a bid for fame & money at the age of 63 to make the trip over Niagara Falls. Men up to this point had only gone to a certain point but never had gone over the falls.

Annie was the first person, male or female to go over the falls in a barrel. She survived with a few small cuts & bruises but no broken bones!

She made money after the event by taking her barrel & traveling around talking about the trip. Women daredevils now had a champion.

Annie Oakley



(1860-1926)

Annie was born in Ohio. Her father died her mother remarried & then the step-father died. She was sent to live with another family. At the age of 15 she went off to Cincinnati to compete against the marksman Frank Butler. Annie won 25 shots to 24.

Butler was impressed by her skills. The couple performed together on the vaudeville stage. Soon they began to date & were married on August 23, 1876. She was 16. They stayed married for 50 years.

Annie's skills were splitting cards on their edges, popping corks out of bottles, shooting a cigarette out of Frank's mouth.

She joined Buffalo Bill Cody's Show staying for 16 years performing for Queen Victoria & Kaiser Wilhelm II; she even shot a cigarette out of the Kaiser's mouth.

Madame C.J. Walker



(1867-1919)

The first child in her family born into freedom. She was a mother at 17 & was only 20 when her husband died. Her hair was falling out & she developed a system to grow hair. She was the first female self-made Millionaire. She was a marketing genius & sold "The Walker System" of hair products making \$7,000 a week which is about \$175,000 a week in today's dollars.

She employed after 5 years over 3,000 sales agents. Her company used photos of black women in her ads before this all the ads for products showed white women.

But more than that Madame C.J. was a generous philanthropist. She gave money to fund scholarships for women at the Tuskegee Institute & donated large parts of her fortune to the NAACP, the Black YMCA & other charities.