



# She Was There: Timeline of Extraordinary Women

- 1809: Mary Kies becomes the **first woman to receive a U.S. Patent**.
- 1812: Tabitha Babbitt is a Shaker who **invents the circular saw** after watching members of her community try to use the less efficient pit saw for woodworking.
- 1832: Naturalist Jeanne Villepreux-Power **invents the glass aquarium** in order to be able to observe marine life for longer periods of time.
- 1843: Nancy Johnson invents a hand cranked, two flavor **ice cream machine**.
- 1843: Ada Lovelace **writes the first computer algorithm**. While translating Charles Babbage's notes on the analytical engine (early computer), she triples the text of his work by adding her own ideas.
- 1872: Josephine Cochran invents a **dishwasher** using water pressure rather than ineffective scrubbers.
- 1875: Ellen Fitz **invents world globes** for her work as a tutor.
- 1882: Maria Beasley's **improved life raft design** (foldable and fireproof with guard rails) saved hundreds of lives when it was used during the Titanic disaster.
- 1887: Anna Connelly saves countless lives in tenement buildings with her invention of the **fire escape**.
- 1893: Margaret A. Wilcox harnesses air flowing over the heated engine to create the first **car heater**.
- 1895: Annie "Londonderry" Kopchovsky wins a wager by **bicycling around the world**, despite having never ridden a bicycle before. She defied the expectations for being a married mother of three and being Jewish in an anti-Semitic city.
- 1896: Alice Guy-Blaché becomes the first female **filmmaker** in the world.
- 1899: Letitia Greer invents a **medical syringe** that could be used with one hand.
- 1902: Marie Curie **isolates radioactive radium** with her husband, Pierre. They had discovered scientific elements radium and polonium in 1898.
- 1903: Mary Anderson patents **windshield wipers** but is told they have no practical value. Her patent was expired when they were finally added to cars.
- 1908: Melitta Benz creates the **first coffee filters**.
- 1914: Florence Parpart creates and improves the **electric refrigerator**.
- 1914: El Dorado Jones ("Iron Woman") owns her own metalworking factory, where she **employs only women** over 40. She invents the **airplane muffler**.
- 1915: Alice Ball develops and implements a way to **treat leprosy**. Her unpublished research is stolen by a colleague after her death.
- 1921: Ida Hyde (first female researcher at Harvard Medical School) creates an intracellular **microelectrode**, which allows her to stimulate/monitor a cell without disturbing the cell wall. This technology is still widely used in laboratories.
- 1930s: Ruth Wakefield bakes the **first chocolate chip cookie**.



- 1941: Movie star Hedy Lamar invents a frequency-hopping communication system that could guide torpedoes without being detected during WWII. This **wireless communication** made Wi-Fi, GPS, and Bluetooth possible.
- 1944: Mitsuye Endo **wins a Supreme Court case** that declares Japanese citizens can no longer be held in internment camps with no proof of disloyalty.
- 1950s: Georgia Gilmore **feeds and fundraises** the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- 1961: NASA employees Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughn ensure America's **success in the Space Race**.
- 1962: Rosalind Franklin **discovers DNA** along with Watson, Crick, and Wilkins and is left out of the Nobel Prize award.
- 1966: Stephanie Kwolek **invents Kevlar**, used in bulletproof vests/bridge cables.
- 1969: Marie Van Brittan Brown creates the first **home security system**, a closed circuit TV with cameras, when police are slow to respond to crimes in her area.
- 1969: Joan Ganz Cooney's study on children and media inspires her idea for **educational program Sesame Street**. She fights to be able to direct the show.
- 1970s: Shirley Ann Jackson invents **call waiting, caller ID, and fiber optic cables**.
- 1971: Evelyn Berezin invents the **word processor**. When she can't get promoted due to her gender, she starts her own company so that her inventions get used.
- 1975: Junko Tabei's Ladies' Climbing Club **reach the summit** of Mt. Everest.
- 1980: Olga Gonzalez-Sanabria develops **space station batteries** that keep the International Space Station in orbit when it can't access solar power.
- 1983: Sally Ride becomes the first LGBTQ and first female American **astronaut**.
- 1984: At age 12, Rachel Zimmerman invents software allowing the speech disabled to touch a symbol that is translated to writing (**Blissymbol printer**).
- 1990: Temple Grandin creates **humane cattle restraints** modeled after the way cattle naturally behave rather than using force and still used on about half of U.S. cattle.
- 1991: Ann Tsukamoto co-patents the process of isolating **stem cells**.
- 2010: Dr. Hawa Abdi **refuses to leave** her nonprofit clinic serving Somalian war victims and those in poverty when violent militants take over the area.
- 2015: Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha holds a **press conference exposing** poisoned water in Flint, Michigan.

## SOURCES

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