We are so lucky that many talented and fascinating women have called Pennsylvania their home. This book will introduce you to those women and hopefully inspire you to follow your own dreams.

— Judith L. Schwank
Women’s History Month is celebrated in the United States during the month of March, spotlighting the contributions of women to events in history and society.

The Distinguished Women of Pennsylvania

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In the month of March

Women’s History

It’s easy to stand with the crowd. It takes courage to stand alone.

— Idia Tarbell

“Imagination is the only key to the future. Without it none exists - with it all things are possible.” — Ida Tarbell

“I hope that my work gives readers courage —courage to question, courage to think critically, courage to stand up, and most of all, courage to make a difference.” — Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Answers Cryptogram

1. Louisa May Alcott
2. Marian Anderson
3. Nellie Bly
4. Rachel Carson
5. Margaret Cochran Corbin
6. M’Che Davis
7. Ruth Kramer Hartman
8. Florence Kelley
9. Flora Kelly
10. Grace Kelly
11. Susan Kelly-Dress
12. Stephanie L. Kueck
13. Tara Lipinski
14. Lucretia Mott
15. Vicki Oskay
16. Jackie Ormes
17. Ann Preston
18. Taylor Swift
19. Idia Tarbell
20. Lilith Wilson
21. Who was the youngest individual Gold Medalist ever in Winter Games history?
22. This woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
23. The woman fought as a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.
24. In 2014, this baseball player was the first female pitcher to win a game in the Little League World Series.
25. This woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
26. This woman is best known for creating Kevlar, the material used to make bullet-proof vests.
27. For what did this woman receive the American Women’s Rights Award?
28. This woman pioneered the world of dance.
29. The woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
30. The woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
31. Who was a member of the first graduating class of the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania?
32. The woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
33. This woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
34. The woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
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— Author Unknown

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“I hope that my work gives readers courage —courage to question, courage to think critically, courage to stand up, and most of all, courage to make a difference.” — Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Inside this book you will find pages filled with the stories of women from Pennsylvania who have made a big impact on the world. They were once kids just like you. They played outside, helped their parents around the house and worked hard to learn about the world around them.

The special women in this book remind us that everyday people can make a difference. They found their passions and acted to fulfill their dreams, and that should inspire us to be curious about the world.

In this book, you’ll learn about these role models. It is my hope that you’ll also learn from them.

These women from Pennsylvania are perfect examples of brave and caring people who made a difference. You can read about them today, and tomorrow you will be the one to make your mark.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Schwank
Senator — 11th District

A message from your State Senator

Dear reader,

Create your very own Comic Strip.

Pick your favorite distinguished women and recreate her story into a cartoon. Or how about turning yourself into a character and/or heroine with a unique voice and storyline.

Be creative!

20
Marian Anderson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1897. She was the first African-American contralto singer to perform with the Metropolitan Opera, and the first African-American to perform at the White House where she sang for President Roosevelt. Anderson also performed the national anthem at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. Her honors included the Presidential Medal of Freedom and a Grammy "Lifetime Achievement" Award. In 1977, she was a recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal. Anderson's accomplishments paved the way to success for many other talented African-American artists.

Martha Graham was born May 11, 1894, in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Graham was a world-renowned dancer. She was a pioneer in the dance community for creating a modern form of dance outside of the classical tradition. Graham collected many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Medal of Arts for her contributions to the dance and artistic communities. Graham was named “Dancer of the Century” by TIME magazine. Martha founded her dance company in 1926 for women. Today her studio is the oldest dance company teaching her technique of contemporary dance.

Puzzle CRYPTOQUOTE

Can you decipher the quotes?

How to solve a Cryptquote: XDLBREDWKAAP is Historically. One letter stands for another. In the example, the letter A is used for the letter L. The letter D is used for the letter I, etc. The length of the word, apostrophes, and the formation of the sentence are all hints.

AOPEAHPSATH AD SIB THXM LBM ST SIB ZOSOGB. CASITOS AS HTHB

BVADS-D-CA S PXX SIAHED PGB YTDDAUXB.—AJP SPGUBXX

The letter A is used for the letter L. Therefore, every letter A should be replaced by the letter L.

B FSWY UFTU EL QSCH DBPYM CYTKYCM ASOCTDY—ASOCTDY US VOYMBSG, ASOCTDY US UBFGH ACBUBATZL, ASOCTDY US MUTGK OW, TGK ESMU SN TZZ, ASOCTDY US ETHY T KBNNYGAY:“

—MOMTG ATEWJYYZ JTCUSZYUUB

The letter Y is used for the letter E. Therefore, every letter Y should be replaced by the letter E.

Word SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the seven words, then arrange the circled letters to form the quote answer.

STIAVIT__________
STHRG__________
ICT@SPIL__________
ARGESFUF__________
IO@TVN__________
AYILIQUE__________
C@WONM__________

It's easy to stand with the crowd. It takes __________________ to stand alone.

—Author Unknown

Answers on page 21
Use the biographies in this book to find the woman who matches the description.

1. Louisa May Alcott
2. Marian Anderson
3. Nellie Bly
4. Rachel Carson
5. Margaret Cochran Corbin
6. Mo’ne Davis
7. Ruth Kramer Hartman
8. Martha Graham
9. Florence Kelley
10. Grace Kelly
11. Susan Kelly-Dreiss
12. Stephanie L. Kwolek
13. Tara Lipinski
14. Lucretia Mott
15. Violet Oakley
16. Jackie Ormes
17. Ann Preston
18. Taylor Swift
19. Ida Tarbell
20. Lilith Wilson

1. Who was the youngest individual Gold Medalist ever in Winter Games history?
2. This woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.
3. Who co-founded the nation’s first domestic violence coalition?
4. Who was a member of the first graduating class of the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania?
5. This woman fought as a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.
6. In 2014, this baseball player was the first female pitcher to win a game in the Little League World Series.
7. This author wrote the American classic novel Little Women.
8. This woman died with the title Princess consort of Monaco.
9. Largest commission of painting forty-three murals in the state Capitol building.
10. Who is known as “Queen of Baseballtown?”
11. Named “Dancer of the Year” this woman pioneered the world of dance.
12. This scientist is best known for creating Kevlar, the material used to make bullet-proof vests.
13. Her most famous book is Silent Spring.
14. The first African-American woman to perform at the White House.
15. She joined the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1931.
16. This record breaking journalist traveled around the world in 72 days.
17. This investigative journalist told the story of the Cleveland Massacre.
18. Helped organize the meeting in Seneca Falls, New York, that launched the American women’s rights movement.
19. Founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
20. The first female African-American cartoonist.

Answers on page 21

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Grace Kelly

Grace Patricia Kelly was born in 1929 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She became world renowned for her acting, as well as her marriage to Prince Rainier III of Monaco. In 1954, Kelly won an Academy Award for her lead role in the film *The Country Girl*. After meeting Prince Rainer III of Monaco at the Cannes Film Festival, the couple were married in 1956. Kelly gave up acting after her marriage, but traveled the world as Princess consort of Monaco and cemented her status as a fashion icon.

American Actress in April 1956 became Princess consort of Monaco

---

Violet Oakley

Although she was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1874, Violet Oakley illustrated some of the most beautiful artistic contributions to the state of Pennsylvania. Oakley received the largest commission ever given to an American female artist. At a time before Pennsylvania women could vote or hold elected office, Philadelphia artist Violet Oakley received the honor of painting forty-three murals in the state Capitol building. Oakley’s art was used as a model for many other artists during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Artist, visionary and mural painter in 1911 received the largest commission ever given to a female artist

---

Jackie Ormes

Jackie Ormes was born Zelda Mavin Jackson on August 1, 1911, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ormes reached stardom as the first female African-American cartoonist in 1937-56 era. With strips in the Pittsburgh Courier, an African-American newspaper read nationwide, her comics centered on narratives of politics and race relations of the times. Some of her more well-known cartoons include the Torchy Brown and the Patty-Jo ‘n’ Ginger cartoons. Jackie was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame.

Taylor Swift

Taylor Alison Swift was born December 13, 1989, in Reading, Pennsylvania. Swift and her family moved to Hendersonville, Tennessee, in August 1, 1974. Swift began to pursue a music career. She released her first single, “Tim McGraw” in 2006. Swift’s single, “Our Song,” became her first number one song on the country music charts. The following year, Swift’s second album made her the youngest ever recipient of four Grammy Awards for Best Album of the Year. Beyond the 31 charities and 30 causes she supports, Swift has traveled to countless children’s hospitals to spend time with patients. Most recently, in 2017, Swift began donating to organizations, including Joyful Heart Foundation, to help survivors of sexual assault bring their attackers to justice.

**The ARTS**

First African-American Woman Cartoonist in 1930s

Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist

Photos Credit: “Courtesy of Nancy Goldstein, author of Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist.”

August 1, 1911 - December 26, 1985

December 13, 1989 - Present

**Puzzle WORD FIND**

Find the listed words in the word find. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

**Answers on page 21**
Mo’ne Davis was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 24, 2001. Mo’ne Davis became a nationwide phenomenon for being the first female pitcher to win a game in the Little League World Series 2014. A member of the Taney Dragons, Davis also made history by being the first girl to ever pitch a shutout in Little League postseason. Mo’ne is also the first Little Leaguer to ever appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated. She has many big plans for her future. Mo’ne hopes to be an inspiration to young women everywhere, while continuing a career in sports.

Ruth Kramer Hartman was born in Leesport, Pennsylvania, in 1926. Hartman is best known as an original member of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. She played for the Fort Wayne Daisies during the summers of 1946 and 1947 and the Grand Rapids Chicks in the 1947 league playoffs. Hartman was also recognized as a member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and a regular season ticket holder for the Reading Phillies. She is commonly referred to as the “Queen of Baseballtown,” a reference to her dedication to the Baseballtown Charities: an organization associated with the Reading Phillies AA franchise committed to giving financial support to area youth baseball and softball programs.

A nationwide phenomenon as the first female pitcher

ACROSS
2. Stephanie Kwolek is an inductee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame and is most known for developing ————.
3. This woman was made a Saint by Pope John Paul II.
6. This American journalist was the first woman to travel around the world in 72 days.
8. American novelist __________________________ authored the American classic, Little Women.
9. Violet Oakley is the artist of forty-three murals throughout this Pennsylvania ____________ building.
10. __________________________________ was a House Representative from Berks County for two terms.

DOWN
1. Ruth Hartman was an original member of the All-American Girls Professional ____________ League.
4. Margaret Cochran Corbin fought in the American ____________ war.
5. This woman published more than 150 papers and holds seven patents.
7. Taylor Swift is the youngest recording artist Sony signed. She’s from________________________, Pennsylvania.

Answers on page 21

A nation-wide phenomenon as the first female pitcher

Puzzle CROSSWORD

Sports ATHLETES

American Professional Baseball player and referred to as “Queen of Baseballtown”
Tara Kristen Lipinski

Tara was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 10, 1982. She won the gold medal at the 1998 Nagano Olympics, becoming the youngest individual gold medalist ever in Winter Games history at the age of 15. Lipinski also holds the record for the youngest ever World Figure Skating Champion, as well as the youngest United States Champion. After skating professionally for many years, Lipinski transitioned her career to focus on acting, as well as becoming a TV sports host and commentator.

Dawn Michelle Staley

On May 4, 1970, Dawn Michelle Staley was born in North Philadelphia. She grew up in the Raymond Rosen Housing Projects. Today, Staley has become an American Basketball Hall of Fame player, coach and a three-time Olympian. During the opening ceremony of the 2004 summer Olympics, she was elected to carry the United States flag. Staley agreed to become the women’s coach at Temple University. Desiring to give back to her community in Philadelphia, Staley created the Dawn Staley Foundation which offers programs to develop confidence in leadership skills, as well as social skills to under-privileged girls.

Florence Kelley

Florence Kelley was born in Philadelphia, in 1859. Kelley rallied for a standard hour work day, a minimum wage for all workers and child worker protections. Kelley is also credited as a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and served as vice president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She spent her life advocating for those in society who did not yet have a strong voice. Kelley dedicated herself to women and children, especially working to secure their equal rights and fair treatment.

Lucretia Mott

Although she is not a Pennsylvania native, Lucretia Mott was a prominent Philadelphia activist. Mott was born in Massachusetts on January 3, 1793 and moved to Philadelphia in 1809. Mott was involved in the Underground Railroad, the abolition movement and the women’s rights movement. Her Quaker faith influenced her views on peace and equality including Native American rights. Mott founded the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in 1833, and, along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, organized the meeting in Seneca Falls, New York, that launched the American women’s rights movement. Toward the end of her life, she helped found Swarthmore College and insisted that it be coeducational.
Pennsylvania native Susan Kelly Dreiss was born in 1942. Due to her own violent childhood, Dreiss has worked her whole life to protect women and children. Her first act was to assist in opening a shelter for battered women. In 1976, she lobbied for the passage of Pennsylvania’s first domestic violence law, the Pennsylvania Protection from Abuse Act.

Dreiss then co-founded the nation’s first Pennsylvania’s first domestic violence law, the Pennsylvania Protection from Abuse Act. In addition to her work in Pennsylvania, Dreiss was a founding member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. She worked to draft federal legislation including the Federal Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Violence Against Women Act. Millions of domestic abuse victims and their children in Pennsylvania and across the country have been saved due to Dreiss’s work.

Dedicated to fight for the protection of victims against abuse.

**Susan Kelly-Dreiss**

**Social REFORMERS**

Born in Philadelphia in 1858, Saint Katherine Drexel committed herself to the Catholic religious order, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, where she took her final vows to become a nun. As a member of the religious order, Drexel dedicated her life and inheritance to aiding the plight of Native Americans and African-Americans. She built schools within the city of Philadelphia and gave food and financial services to minority communities. Within the Catholic Church, Katharine is known as the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists. She was canonized to sainthood by Pope John Paul II on October 1, 2000.

**Saint Katharine Drexel**

**Patron of Racial Justice and philanthropists**

Genevieve Blatt was born in 1913 in East Brady, Pennsylvania. Blatt was the first woman in Pennsylvania to be elected to statewide office and serve on the state’s appellate court. She spent more than 50 years in public service, but her longest-held position was judge of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.

**Genevieve Blatt**

First Female Politician Elected appellate Judge of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court

Margaret Cochran Corbin was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1751. Corbin, known as “Captain Molly” during the American Revolution, served alongside her husband. After witnessing the death of her husband on the battlefield, Corbin decided to take his place and fight on the front lines of the revolution. Corbin is widely regarded “as the first woman to take a soldier’s part in the War for Liberty.” She became the first woman to receive a pension from the U.S. government for injury during military service and was eventually buried at West Point with full military honors.

**Margaret Cochran Corbin**

Army soldier who fought in the American Revolutionary War

The first woman to take a soldier’s part in the War for Liberty.
Catherine Baker Knoll

Catherine Baker Knoll, born in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, made history as the first female Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania. After serving for many years in local government and with the Pennsylvania Democratic Committee, Knoll moved into state government. She served two terms as state Treasurer. In 2002, she was elected Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania. Serving under Governor Ed Rendell, while serving as state Treasurer, Knoll started many great initiatives, such as the statewide college savings program for parents. While her main job as Lt. Governor was to lead Senate sessions, she also had a role in state issues such as emergency management, domestic preparedness and economic development. Knoll was known for her blunt and honest way of speaking and for the role she carved out for herself in the male-dominated world of politics.

Hannah Callowhill Penn

Born in Bristol, England, Hannah Callowhill Penn married Pennsylvania founder William Penn in 1696. After coming to what was then the British colony of Pennsylvania, Hannah lived at the Pennbury Estate with her husband and ran household operations. After her husband became ill, Hannah not only took care of him, but handled all of the Province of Pennsylvania’s official business. She sent letters of advice and instruction to then-Governor Charles Gookin, and also handled her husband’s financial and legal affairs. When her husband died, Hannah was given full control of the colony. Hannah was the first woman granted the status of Honorary Citizen of the United States on November 28, 1984. Served as acting proprietor (Head of Government) from 1712 until her death in 1726.

Stephanie L. Kwolek

Stephanie Kwolek was born in New Kensington, Pennsylvania in 1923. Growing up she thought that she wanted to be a fashion designer, but after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, Kwolek went on to be one of the greatest scientists of the century. She is best known for developing Kevlar, a material used in various products including ultra-protective clothing and fiber tires. Kevlar bulletproof vests have saved countless lives of those serving in the military and other emergency first responders. In 1995, Kwolek was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, as well as the Engineering and Science Hall of Fame in 1992, for her contributions to the scientific community and the world.

Ann Preston

Ann Preston was born December 1, 1813 in West Grove, Pennsylvania. She studied to be a physician at the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania and was a member of its first graduating class. Preston later became dean of the school. In addition to being an activist for women’s education and the right of women to practice medicine, Preston was active in both the abolition and temperance movements of the day.

First Woman Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer and politician

First Woman to Govern the Colony granted status of Honorary Citizen of the United States

Inventor, Engineer and Scientist

First Woman Dean of the Woman’s Medical College
The Scientists

Rachel Louise Carson

Rachel Carson was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania, in 1907. Carson studied as a zoologist at Johns Hopkins University and then joined the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries in Washington, D.C., to work on their official publications. However, it was her book published in 1962, *Silent Spring*, that left a lasting impact on society. The book warned readers of the serious environmental and health effects that came from the use of the pesticide DDT, commonly found on fruit and produce. The modern environmentalist movement is forever indebted to Carson and *Silent Spring*, as the book made so many aware of the damage that humans can do to the earth.

Helped to advance environmental movement on a global level

Dr. Barbara H. Iglewski

Dr. Barbara Iglewski is a scientific researcher from Pennsylvania, born in 1938. Iglewski’s research has served as the foundation for an entire field of study on drugs that can prevent infections and interrupt the bacterial communication process. She has published a total of 150 papers, in addition to holding seven patents in her name. Her work has received awards and honors from many organizations, including the National Institutes of Health and American Society for Microbiology. In 2015, the National Women’s Hall of Fame recognized her, not only for her career accomplishments, but also for her work in breaking down barriers for women and mentoring them. Dr. Iglewski attended both Allegheny College and Penn State University.

Scientific researcher and Microbiologist

C. Delores Tucker

C. Delores Tucker was a political and social activist, born and raised in Philadelphia. In the 1950s, she became involved in the civil rights movement, registering African-Americans to vote. Tucker was the first African-American woman to be offered the position of Secretary of State. Tucker was appointed by Governor Milton Shapp as the Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1971. She worked with the Pennsylvania Democratic Committee, advocating and fundraising for black candidates. Tucker was a founder and member of many boards and commissions that worked to promote women and minorities. She started the first Commission on the Status of Women in Pennsylvania and was a founding member of the National Women’s Political Caucus and the National Congress of Black Women.

First African-American Female Secretary of State and civil rights activist

Lilith Wilson

Lilith Wilson was a Pennsylvania House Representative from Berks County, Pennsylvania. Wilson was born in 1886 in Dublin, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the Rand School of Social Science in 1918. Wilson made her first unsuccessful run for public office as a socialist candidate in 1922, finally winning in 1931 and joining the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. She held office for two consecutive terms before her death in July 1937.

Pennsylvania House of Representatives 1931–1936

Rachel Louise Carson

Dr. Barbara H. Iglewski

C. Delores Tucker

Lilith Wilson
Louisa May Alcott was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1832. She is best known as the author of the American classic novel *Little Women* (1868). Alcott worked as a domestic servant and teacher to help support her family from 1850 to 1862. During the Civil War, she went to Washington, D.C., to work as a nurse. Her work, detailing the horrors of life in Civil War era hospitals, *Hospital Sketches* (1863), is a clear picture into life at that time. In total, Louisa has over 30 published works to her name.

Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Susan Campbell Bartoletti is an award-winning author of published picture books, novels, and non-fiction. She especially likes to look at the role that young people have played in history. Her nonfiction titles include *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow*, *They Called Themselves the Ku Klux Klan: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group*, and the Sibert-medal winning *Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine*, *Growing Up in Coal Country*, and *Kids on Strike!* Her most recent nonfiction is *Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America*. Her work has received dozens of awards and honors, including the Newbery Honor, the ALA Robert F. Sibert Award for Nonfiction, the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Nonfiction, the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award, and the Washington Post/Children’s Book Guild Nonfiction Award.

Nellie Bly

Born Elizabeth Jane Cochran in 1864 in Cochran’s Mills, Pennsylvania, Nellie Bly was a pioneer of investigative journalism. She pretended to be patient at a mental institution so that she could investigate the facility. Her articles about the treatment of patients in these institutions lead to monumental reform in mental health care. Bly’s articles were turned into a book, *Ten Days in a Mad-House*. She was also the first person to travel around the world in 72 days, a feat only accomplished in Jules Verne’s fictional novel *Around the World in Eighty Days*. After her journey, she published her own book about her record breaking travel, *Around the World in Seventy-Two Days* (1890). When her husband died, she took over his iron company, Iron Clad Manufacturing, Co.

Ida Minerva Tarbell

Ida Tarbell was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, in 1857. In her early years, Tarbell attended Allegheny College in Meadville, PA to study biology. She was the only woman in the graduating class of 1880. Tarbell became famous after her 19-part series on the Standard Oil Company was published. The series, *The History of the Standard Oil Company*, outlined the tragedy of the Cleveland Massacre, in which many small oil companies were forced into merging with Standard Oil or put out of business by the company. The expose highlighted the fear of John D. Rockefeller’s prosperous oil company becoming a monopoly. Continuing her journalistic career, Tarbell wrote for *American Magazine*, of which she was a co-owner and co-editor.

Several of her biographies have won awards. She has been called an investigative journalist and the first woman to travel the world.
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Helped to advance environmental movement on a global level

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Dr. Barbara H. Iglewski

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First African-American Woman appointed Secretary of State and civil rights activist

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Pennsylvania House of Representatives 1931–1936

Rachel Louise Carson

May 27, 1907 - April 14, 1964

Dr. Barbara H. Iglewski

1938 – Present

C. Delores Tucker

October 4, 1927 – October 12, 2005

Lilith Wilson

September 13, 1886 - July 7, 1937

-American writer, scientist, biologist and ecologist

-American microbiologist

-American writer, scientist, biologist and ecologist

-American microbiologist


-Lilith Wilson was a Pennsylvania House Representative from Berks County, Pennsylvania. Wilson was born in 1886 in Dublin, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the Rand School of Social Science in 1918. Wilson made her first unsuccessful run for public office as a socialist candidate in 1922, finally winning in 1931 and joining the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. She held office for two consecutive terms before her death in July 1937.
Catherine Baker Knoll

Catherine Baker Knoll, born in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, made history as the first female Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania. After serving for many years in local government and with the Pennsylvania Democratic Committee, Knoll moved into state government. She served two terms as state Treasurer. In 2002, she was elected Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, serving under Governor Ed Rendell. While serving as state Treasurer, Knoll started many great initiatives, such as the statewide college savings program for parents. While her main job as Lt. Governor was to lead Senate sessions, she also had a role in state issues such as emergency management, domestic preparedness and economic development. Knoll was known for her blunt and honest way of speaking and for the role she carved out for herself in the male-dominated world of politics.

Catherine Baker Knoll was the first woman to be Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania.

Hannah Callowhill Penn

Born in Bristol, England, Hannah Callowhill Penn married Pennsylvania founder William Penn in 1696. After coming to what was then the British colony of Pennsylvania, Hannah lived at the Pennsboury Estate with her husband and ran household operations. After her husband became ill, Hannah not only took care of, but handled all of the Province of Pennsylvania’s official business. She sent letters of advice and instruction to then-Governor Charles Gookin, and she also handled her husband’s financial and legal affairs. When her husband died, Hannah was given full control of the colony. Hannah was the first woman granted the status of Honorary Citizen of the United States on November 28, 1984.

Served as acting proprietor (head of Government) from 1712 until her death in 1726.

Stephanie L. Kwolek

Stephanie Kwolek was born in New Kensington, Pennsylvania in 1923. Growing up she thought that she wanted to be a fashion designer, but after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, Kwolek went on to be one of the greatest scientists of the century. She is best known for developing Kevlar, a material used in various products including ultra-protective clothing and fiber tires. Kevlar bulletproof vests have saved countless lives of those serving in the military and other emergency first responders. In 1995, Kwolek was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, as well as the Engineering and Science Hall of Fame in 1992, for her contributions to the scientific community and the world.

First Woman to Govern the Colony granted status of Honorary Citizen of the United States

Ann Preston

Ann Preston was born December 1, 1813 in West Grove, Pennsylvania. She studied to be a physician at the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania and was a member of its first graduating class. Preston later became dean of the school. In addition to being an activist for women’s education and the right of women to practice medicine, Preston was active in both the abortion and temperance movements of the day.

First Woman Dean of the Woman’s Medical College

Stephanie L. Kwolek Award recognizes exceptional contributions from scientists in the area of materials

Ann Preston was the first woman granted the status of Honorary Citizen of the United States on November 28, 1984.
Susan Kelly-Dreiss

Pennsylvania native Susan Kelly Dreiss was born in 1942. Due to her own violent childhood, Dreiss has worked her whole life to protect women and children. Her first act was to assist in opening a shelter for battered women. In 1976, she lobbied for the passage of Pennsylvania’s first domestic violence law, the Pennsylvania Protection from Abuse Act. In addition to her work in Pennsylvania, Dreiss then co-founded the nation’s first domestic violence coalition, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV). She was a founding member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. She worked to draft federal legislation including the Federal Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Violence Against Women Act. Millions of domestic abuse victims and their children in Pennsylvania and across the country have been saved due to Dreiss’s work.

Saint Katharine Drexel

Born in Philadelphia in 1858, Saint Katherine Drexel committed herself to the Catholic religious order, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, where she took her final vows to become a nun. As a member of the religious order, Drexel dedicated her life and inheritance to aiding the plight of Native Americans and African-Americans. She built schools within the city of Philadelphia and gave food and financial services to minority communities. Within the Catholic Church, Katharine is known as the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists. She was canonized to sainthood by Pope John Paul II on October 1, 2000.

Genevieve Blatt

Genevieve Blatt was born in 1913 in East Brady, Pennsylvania. Blatt was the first woman in Pennsylvania to be elected to statewide office and serve on the state’s appellate court. She spent more than 50 years in public service, but her longest-held position was judge of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. She attended the University of Pittsburgh where she received her bachelor’s, masters and law degrees. Not only did she complete her education during the Great Depression when there were historically high rates of unemployment, but she achieved these academic accolades at a time when very few women were earning multiple degrees. As a result of her charitable and social work through the Roman Catholic Church, she received three separate papal honors.

Margaret Cochran Corbin

Margaret Cochran Corbin was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1751. Corbin, known as “Captain Molly” during the American Revolution, served alongside her husband. After witnessing the death of her husband on the battlefield, Corbin decided to take his place and fight on the front lines of the revolution. Corbin is widely regarded “as the first woman to take a soldier’s part in the War for Liberty.” She became the first woman to receive a pension from the U.S. government for injury during military service and was eventually buried at West Point with full military honors.

The “First Lady” of Pennsylvania and most influential women in politics

The first woman to take a soldier’s part in the War for Liberty
Tara Kristen Lipinski

Tara was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 10, 1982. She won the gold medal at the 1998 Nagano Olympics, becoming the youngest individual gold medalist ever in Winter Games history at the age of 15. Lipinski also holds the record for the youngest ever World Figure Skating Champion, as well as the youngest United States Champion. After skating professionally for many years, Lipinski transitioned her career to focus on acting, as well as becoming a TV sports host and commentator.

American figure skater and sports commentator.

American Basketball Hall of Fame player, coach and three-time Olympian

Dawn Michelle Staley

On May 4, 1970, Dawn Michelle Staley was born in North Philadelphia. She grew up in the Raymond Rosen Housing Projects. Today, Staley has become an American Basketball Hall of Fame player, coach and a three-time Olympian. During the opening ceremony of the 2004 summer Olympics, she was elected to carry the United States flag. Staley agreed to become women’s coach at Temple University. Desiring to give back to her community in Philadelphia, Staley created the Dawn Staley Foundation which offers programs to develop confidence in leadership skills, as well as social skills to under-privileged girls.

Youngest female figure skater Champion

Three-time Olympian Basketball player

Florence Kelley

Florence Kelley was born in Philadelphia, in 1859. Kelley rallied for a standard hour work day, a minimum wage for all workers and child worker protections. Kelley is also credited as a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and served as vice president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She spent her life advocating for those in society who did not yet have a strong voice. Kelley dedicated herself to women and children, especially, working to secure their equal rights and fair treatment.

Advocating for the protection of children’s rights and other work related issues

Lucretia Mott

Although she is not a Pennsylvania native, Lucretia Mott was a prominent Philadelphia activist. Mott was born in Massachusetts on January 3, 1793 and moved to Philadelphia in 1809. Mott was involved in the Underground Railroad, the abolition movement and the women’s rights movement. Her Quaker faith influenced her views on peace and equality including Native American rights. Mott founded the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in 1833, and, along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, organized the meeting in Seneca Falls, New York, that launched the American women’s rights movement. Toward the end of her life, she helped found Swarthmore College and insisted that it be coeducational.

The Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society (PFASS)

"Am I not a woman and a sister?"
Mo’ne Ikea Davis was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 24, 2001. Mo’ne Davis became a nationwide phenomenon for being the first female pitcher to win a game in the Little League World Series 2014. A member of the Taney Dragons, Davis also made history by being the first girl to ever pitch a shutout in Little League postseason. Mo’ne is also the first Little Leaguer to ever appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated. She has many big plans for her future. Mo’ne hopes to be an inspiration to young women everywhere, while continuing a career in sports.

Ruth Kramer Hartman was born in Leesport, Pennsylvania, in 1926. Hartman is best known as an original member of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. She played for the Fort Wayne Daisies during the summers of 1946 and 1947 and the Grand Rapids Chicks in the 1947 league playoffs. Hartman was also recognized as a member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and a regular season ticket holder for the Reading Phillies. She is commonly referred to as the “Queen of Baseballtown,” a reference to her dedication to the Baseballtown Charities: an organization associated with the Reading Phillies AA franchise committed to giving financial support to area youth baseball and softball programs.

Puzzle CROSSWORD

Across
2. Stephanie Kwolek is an inductee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame and is most known for developing _____________.
3. This woman was made a Saint by Pope John Paul II.
6. This American journalist was the first woman to travel around the world in 72 days.
8. American novelist _______________ authored the American classic, Little Women.
9. Violet Oakley is the artist of forty-three murals throughout this Pennsylvania ___________ building.
10. ____________ was a House Representative from Berks County for two terms.

Down
1. Ruth Hartman was an original member of the All-American Girls Professional ___________ League.
4. Margaret Cochran Corbin fought in the American ______________ war.
5. This woman published more than 150 papers and holds seven patents.
7. Taylor Swift is the youngest recording artist Sony signed. She’s from ________________ Pennsylvania.

Sports ATHLETES

Mo’ne Ikea Davis

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Jackie Ormes

Jackie Ormes was born Zelda Mavin Jackson on August 1, 1911, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ormes reached stardom as the first female African-American cartoonist in 1930-56 era. With strips in the Pittsburgh Courier, an African-American newspaper read nationwide, her comics centered on narrators of politics and race relations of the times. Some of her more well-known cartoons include the Torchy Brown comics and the Patty Jo "Ginger" cartoons. Jackie was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame.

Jackie’s "Torchy in Heartbeats" cartoon character

Taylor Swift

Taylor Alison Swift was born December 13, 1989, in Reading, Pennsylvania. Swift and her family moved to Hendersonville, Tennessee, so that she could pursue a music career. She was signed to the label Big Machine Records, and released her first single, “Tim McGraw” in 2006. Swift’s single, “Our Song,” became her first number one song on the country music charts. The following year, Swift’s second album made her the youngest ever recipient of four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year. Beyond the 31 charities and 30 causes she supports, Swift has traveled to countless children’s hospitals to spend time with patients. Most recently, in 2017, Swift began donating to organizations, including Joyful Heart Foundation, to help survivors of sexual assault bring their attackers to justice.

Youngest Grammy Award winner for singer-songwriter

Puzzle WORD FIND

Find the listed words in the word find. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

CHOREOGRAPHED REFLECT RESEARCH CEER
CFKPMISNAIPMLELOGCMRC
LEADERCOLCONSERVATION
ASBCRCAHCAICECNCFAL
CQINVENTORDPLOCKZCDNDO
IUO CXCHAETVZTSIGJAC
NILGSTICCMOLEODAANODEI
VCOICAUQACCCWCSLKENOOVS
ELGOCCYPCEAQHDSDUCRGC
ICIHOSTICTCNUINCRNTTA
TBSRURWCASEPLOIMDAEAOAS
ICTOHEDAIDODILLRBSLRTN
GRLRSLPNCKOGOOTEILNO
AALOCECREDORGNCASCEO
TBGZVCSFWSCYCZCARTIST
EREFORMBRHMCCGHECCESE
TLCNMIZBIPOETPHDKURA
SWQREHZAEACTNEACXHECWPC
PROWCATHLETESCRULRECCEF
CPAOGOCDCJRCSSCHOLIBIRK

ACTRESS
ECOLOGIST
REPRESENTATIVE
ADVOCA
INVENTOR
RESEARCH
ARTIST
INVESTIGATE
RESEARCHER
ATHLETE
JOURNALIST
SCIENTIST
BIOLOGIST
KEVLAN
SCHOOL
CAR
LEADER
SINGER
CATOON
NOVELIST
SOLDIER
CHOREOGRAPHER
OLYMPIAN
SONGWRITER
COACH
PHYSICIAN
TEACHER
CONSERVATION
DANGER
TECHNOLOGY
DANGER
POET
WRITER
DOCTOR
REFORM

Answers on page 21
Grace Patricia Kelly was born in 1929 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She became world renowned for her acting, as well as her marriage to Prince Rainier III of Monaco. In 1954, Kelly won an Academy Award for her lead role in the film *The Country Girl*. After meeting Prince Rainer III of Monaco at the Cannes Film Festival, the couple were married in 1956. Kelly gave up acting after her marriage, but traveled the world as Princess consort of Monaco and cemented her status as a fashion icon.

Violet Oakley

Although she was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1874, Violet Oakley illustrated some of the most beautiful artistic contributions to the state of Pennsylvania. Oakley received the largest commission ever given to an American female artist. At a time before Pennsylvania women could vote or hold elected office, Philadelphia artist Violet Oakley received the honor of painting forty-three murals in the state Capitol building. Oakley’s art was used as a model for many other artists during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

**Use the biographies in this book to find the woman who matches the description.**

1. **Who was the youngest individual Gold Medalist ever in Winter Games history?**

2. **This woman was the youngest woman ever to win four Grammy Awards for Album of the Year.**

3. **Who co-founded the nation’s first domestic violence coalition?**

4. **Who was a member of the first graduating class of the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania?**

5. **This woman fought as a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.**

6. **In 2014, this baseball player was the first female pitcher to win a game in the Little League World Series.**

7. **This author wrote the American classic novel *Little Women*.**

8. **This woman died with the title Princess consort of Monaco.**

9. **Largest commission of painting forty-three murals in the state Capitol building.**

10. **Who is known as “Queen of Baseballtown?”**

11. **Named “Dancer of the Year” this woman pioneered the world of dance.**

12. **This scientist is best known for creating Kevlar, the material used to make bullet-proof vests.**

13. **Her most famous book is *Silent Spring*.**

14. **The first African-American woman to perform at the White House.**

15. **She joined the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1931.**

16. **This record breaking journalist traveled around the world in 72 days.**

17. **This investigative journalist told the story of the Cleveland Massacre.**

18. **Helped organize the meeting in Seneca Falls, New York, that launched the American women’s rights movement.**

19. **Founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).**

20. **The first female African-American cartoonist.**

**American Actress**

Grace Kelly

in April 1956 became 
**Princess consort of Monaco**

**Artist, visionary and Mural painter**

in 1911 received the largest commission ever given to a Female Artist

**Grace Kelly**

November 12, 1929 - September 14, 1982

**Violet Oakley**

June 10, 1874 - February 25, 1961

**“Unity”** is one of Violet’s murals in the Senate chamber

**Grace Kelly’s star on the Walk of Fame**
Marian Anderson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1897. She was the first African-American singer to perform with the Metropolitan Opera, and the first African American to perform at the White House where she sang for President Roosevelt. Anderson also performed the national anthem at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. Her honors included the Presidential Medal of Freedom and a Grammy “Lifetime Achievement” Award. In 1977, she was a recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal. Anderson’s accomplishments paved the way to success for many other talented African-American artists.

Martha Graham was born May 11, 1894, in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Graham was a world-renowned dancer. She was a pioneer in the dance community for creating a modern form of dance outside of the classical tradition. Graham collected many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Medal of Arts for her contributions to the dance and artistic communities. Graham was named “Dancer of the Century” by TIME magazine. Martha founded her dance company in 1926 for women. Today her studio is the oldest dance company teaching her technique of contemporary dance.

Unscramble the seven words, then arrange the circled letters to form the quote answer.

It’s easy to stand with the crowd. It takes ________ to stand alone.
Inside this book you will find pages filled with the stories of women from Pennsylvania who have made a big impact on the world. They were once kids just like you. They played outside, helped their parents around the house and worked hard to learn about the world around them.

The special women in this book remind us that everyday people can make a difference. They found their passions and acted to fulfill their dreams, and that should inspire us to be curious about the world.

In this book you’ll learn about these role models. It is my hope that you’ll also learn from them.

These women from Pennsylvania are perfect examples of brave and caring people who made a difference. You can read about them today, and tomorrow you will be the one to make your mark.

Sincerely,
Judith L. Schwank
State Senator — 11th District

Create your own Comic Strip.

Pick your favorite distinguished woman and recreate her story as a cartoon. Or turn yourself into a character and/or heroine with a unique voice and storyline.

Be creative!
In the month of March, spotlighting the contributions of women to events in history and society.

Women’s History Month is celebrated in the United States during the month of March, spotlighting the contributions of women to events in history and society.

The distinguished Women of Pennsylvania

Women’s History Month is celebrated in the United States during the month of March, spotlighting the contributions of women to events in history and society.

Women’s History Month is celebrated in the United States during the month

1. Louise May Alcott
2. Marian Anderson
3. Harriet Beecher Stowe
4. Rachel Carson
5. Margaret Chase Smith
6.ernie Davis
7. Ruth Kramer Hartman
8. Martha Graham
9. Florence Kelley
10. Grace Kelly
11. Susan Kelly-Dreiss
12. Stephanie L. Kwolek
13. Gena Rowlands
14. Little Women
15. Best known for creating Kevlar, the material used to make bulletproof vests.
16. Helped organize the meeting in Seneca Falls, New York, that launched the American women’s rights movement.
17. A member of the first graduating class of the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania?
18. Founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
19. The first African-American woman to perform at the White House.
20. She joined the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1931.
21. The youngest individual Gold Medalist ever in Winter

Puzzle ANSWERS

1. Louise May Alcott
2. Marian Anderson
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4. Rachel Carson
5. Margaret Chase Smith
6. ernie Davis
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21. The youngest individual Gold Medalist ever in Winter Games history?

Answers Cryptoquote

"Imagination is the only key to the future. Without it none exists – with it all things are possible." — Ida Tarbell

"I hope that my work gives readers courage — courage to question, courage to think critically, courage to stand up, and most of all, courage to make a difference." — Susan Campbell Bartoletti
"We are so lucky that many talented and fascinating women have called Pennsylvania their home. This book will introduce you to those women and hopefully inspire you to follow your own dreams.

—Judith L. Schwank"