

Women Who Paved the Way for NYPENN Pathways & the Movement



Many women helped pave the way for the modern Girl Scout. Discover the answers to the questions below by reading about these astonishing women. Then test your knowledge with the matching game at the end.

- When and where was the first Native American Girl Scout troop?
- In 1930, one of the first African American girls earned the Highest Award in Girl Scouting. Who was she and where was she from?
- What was Juliette Low's connection to Hyde Hall? Where is it located?
- What is the National Women's Hall of Fame and where is it located?
- What National Women's Hall of Fame honorees (denoted with blue headings) have had an impact on Girl Scouts?
- Can you complete the matching game on the last page?



Photo credit: Juliette Gordon Low (l), Anne Hyde Choate (r), c. 1915, Library of Congress

SISTERHOOD

GIRL
SCOUTS



Photo credit: National Women's Hall of Fame, photographer Marsha Hayles, 2021

Native American Troop

The Onondaga Nation was the first Native American/Indigenous People's Council to have a Girl Scout troop. These newspaper clippings from the 1920s talk about that first troop.



Lieut. Rielta Trimm and Field Captain Vena Stevens

TE-HO-TI-KA-LON-TE

(The men in the long gowns—Episcopal Priests)

Official Paper of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Onondaga Reservation, New York
 THE REV. BRY. CHARLES FISKE, D. D., BISHOP THE REV. H. W. FOREMAN, ARCHDEACON
 THE REV. JAMES F. ROOT, Priest in Charge MRS. W. D. MANROSS, Social Worker

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 Subscription Price: 50 cts per year P. O. Address, R. D. 1, Nedrow, N. Y.

VOL. IV LENT, 1923 No. 8

The Girl Scouts

A year ago this coming May, a troop of Girl Scouts was organized at the Reservation under the direction of Miss Marjorie Kirk of Syracuse. There are now fourteen members organized into two patrols. As is customary, the work of the troop was suspended during July and August so that the girls are just finishing their first tests. Three have completed them. Others have almost done so.

On January 4th, the girls conducted an entertainment to earn their uniforms. The program was opened with a court of honor at which badges were awarded to those who had earned them. Singing and a recitation followed. Then the great event of the evening, "The Magic Man," who performed some marvelous slight of hand tricks. These parts were by kind friends of Miss Kirk.

This is the only Indian Girl Scout troop in the world. Meetings are held at the Mission House immediately after school on Mondays. All girls are invited to join irregardless of their creed. Miss Kirk who is the Chief Executive of the Girl Scouts in the city, conducts the meetings personally.

The success of the troop and its wonderful effect on the girls are the highest tributes we can pay Miss Kirk. She has come out regularly all winter against most adverse weather conditions and over almost impassable roads.

Onondaga Reservation Has Only Indian Girl Scout Unit

Copper-Skinned Troop Forms Colorful and Active Addition to Ranks of County Council in Pageantry and Other Events

Active participation in outdoor scouting events at Onondaga Indian reservation opened last week with the beginning of spring work by the Indian troop of Girl Scouts, said to be the only one of its kind in the county.

The troop, made up of 18 members, met on the lawn of the mission house each Wednesday afternoon, with the opening of its spring program. Hiking, dress-o' hunts, fishing trips, games of long ball—and other outdoor events are included, giving the daughters of the Indian reservation the same opportunities for broadening their vision and forming high ideals that are given white girls.

Cookery, sewing, the history of the American flag, fire prevention, methods of keeping strong and healthy, first aid, bed making, handicrafts and sports are included in the winter program, and continued for those who prefer additional study.

Altho scouting work means much to the white sisters of Onondaga council, it means more to the members of the Indian troop, for it is virtually their sole recreation and social life. Members who make up the troop were the first girls from the reservation to go to Syracuse high schools, and one member, whose interest in nursing was aroused by her work in first aid, will continue her studies in that field, having entered training this fall.

Miss Vena Stevens, field captain of Onondaga reservation, assists at many of the meetings, and directs work to some of the merit badges, which the Indian girls have won. The award of merit badges at summer rallies has stimulated the interest of the Indian troop, and their attendance has provided a colorful addition to the pageantry and open meetings of Onondaga council.

Laurette Hinkson

Laurette Hinkson joined Girl Scout Troop 21 in the City of Elmira, NY, on June 18, 1930. In 1939, Laurette was one of the first African American girls to earn the Highest Award in Girl Scouting, the Golden Eaglet. This award was bestowed on her by Etta Peoples, a Girl Scout executive who later moved to Hawaii after marrying a pineapple plantation owner. Despite their differences and the distance between them, Etta and Laurette stayed in contact by writing to each other, a wonderful example of how Girl Scouting enhances lives by bringing people from different backgrounds together and creating lasting relationships. When asked about her most memorable experiences in Girl Scouting, Laurette mentions camping, and getting along with everyone regardless of race, color, or creed.



Laurette has been actively and passionately involved in Girl Scouting for 80 years as a Girl Scout and troop leader. She is particularly proud of her 50-year membership in the Golden Eaglet Order of the Hendrick Hudson Region. Today, she is an active member of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Jamaica, NY, where she contributes her time, talent, and treasure to support the Daisy, Brownie Junior, Cadette, and Senior troops that meet there.

At St. Philips, she works closely with the Girl Scouts and participates in many of their activities and ceremonies. She usually wears her 1950s Girl Scout uniform to show the girls what uniforms looked like in her day.



When you speak with her you realize that her busy schedule, particularly her community and church activities, keeps her on the move!

She has been profiled in Newsday and acknowledged, along with Dr. Dorothy Height, as a distinguished woman at her church. She has many other accomplishments, but cites her participation as a Girl Scout as one of her greatest joys.

Florence B. Chauncey

The Victory for Women's Suffrage in New York State, The Ladies of Lisle, and Florence B. Chauncey's Historic Vote.

The Ladies of Lisle, were a group of suffragettes in the township of Lisle in Broome County New York, and was led by Florence Chauncey. The Ladies started their movement in 1913, with a convention held at a Broome County church.

After years of struggle, headlines in November 1917 declared "Local Suffragists Frolic as New York State Gives Them Vote." With this, the battle for women's suffrage in New York was won. The first test of this newly granted right occurred on January 5, 1918, when the Ladies of Lisle went to cast their votes.



According to the Syracuse Standard, "Strange as it may seem, woman's first opportunity to vote with men upon a political issue in this state was provided in the township of Lisle." The occasion was a special election to decide whether the township would remain "dry." Chauncey organized a "get out and vote" campaign, convinced they had a good chance of defeating the liquor advocates. Women arrived at the polling stations in cars, trucks, horse-drawn sleighs, and even wagons cheering "the 'Ladies of Lisle' have come to vote!" It was an unforgettable day for this small community.

Florence B. Chauncey arrived at the Lisle village hall before dawn, determined to be the first to cast her ballot. When she attempted to vote at 6 am, an official challenged her right to do so, as well as that of any other woman present. Despite the obstacle, Chauncey persisted and went on to become the first woman to vote in a political election in New York State. The Ladies of Lisle became the first women to vote in New York State.

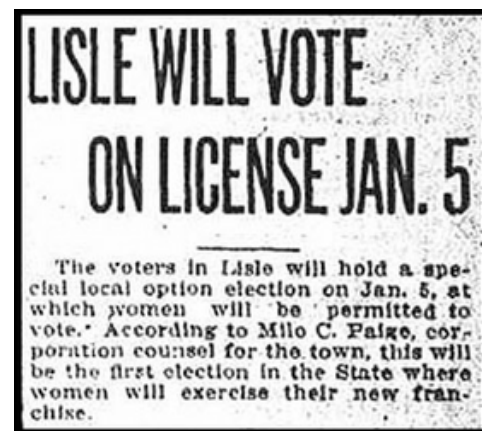


Photo credits clock-wise: Florence casting her vote & Binghamton Press article circa 1917, nyslandmarks.com; Historical marker at the old Lisle village hall, ny.gov

Anne Hyde Clarke Choate

- Anne Hyde Clarke Choate
- Lived October 27, 1886–May 17, 1967
- Born Anne Hyde Clarke in New York
- Goddaughter of Juliette Gordon Low
- An early and prominent leader in the Girl Scouts of the USA and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)



At Low's invitation, she visited England, during which she met her future husband Arthur Choate, nephew of Joseph Choate, the U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. They married in 1907 and lived in Pleasantville, NY. They had five children. He died in 1962.

In 1915, at the request of Low, she started working with the new troop in Pleasantville. In 1916, she became a National Vice President for the Girl Scouts, and in 1920, became the second President, succeeding Low. After she finished her term in 1922, she turned to international scouting, though she remained a Vice President until 1937 and an ex officio member of the board until her death. She chaired the Juliette Low World Friendship Committee from 1927 when it was founded after the death of Low, to 1955 and was closely involved in Our Chalet including becoming Chairman. She attended her last international conference in Tokyo in 1966 and died the following year at the age of 80 in her home in New York. Very active even in her old age, she was horseback riding almost daily until breaking her clavicle in a riding accident about four months before her death. She was also interested in historic preservation which she combined with scouting when she successfully worked to preserve Low's birthplace in Savannah, Georgia. To learn more visit: wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Hyde_Choate



Photo credits: Wikipedia, GSUSA Archives

At 80, A Girl Scout Fears Her Riding Days Are Over

By STEPHEN R. CONN

Special to The New York Times

PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.—At 80 years of age, Mrs. Arthur O. Choate, widow of one of the Choates of Boston, still likes to attend Girl Scout functions, tell ghost stories and ride sidesaddle.

But she did not particularly like the recent settlement that resulted in the sale by Pace College to the Briarcliff School District of 33 acres of land that had once belonged to her Westchester estate.

"The school got the land where all my beautiful little jumps are," Mrs. Choate said the other day. "And now they'll take them down." Pace had promised to preserve them.

"It will limit my riding very much—very much," she said slowly. "Perhaps the jumping days may be over."

"Maybe that's better for an old lady like me," she said, half in jest and half in seriousness. Mrs. Choate is recovering from a broken collar bone, an injury suffered in a fall from her horse in late January.

About a year ago, Mrs. Choate sold 172 acres to Pace College for \$875,000. She retained for herself a 25-acre section with three cottages, her stable, woods, a large pond (which she has told the college its students may use for ice skating) and the pink house with white pillars where she's lived for 60 years. Her late husband, an investment banker, was born there in 1875 and died there four years ago.

At the end of last year the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court supported the Briarcliff School Board in its bid to take by condemnation 50 acres of land that Pace had bought from Mrs. Choate.

The court ruled that the school district, being a public body, could force an individual to sell land for public use. Pace had planned to appeal to the highest state court, the Court of Appeals. Then two weeks ago, the college and the Briarcliff School Board settled out of court, with Pace selling 33 of the 50 acres for \$5,000 an acre, just about the same price Pace had paid Mrs. Choate.

"I ride almost every day," said Mrs. Choate. "I began fox hunting when I was 46 and stopped about 10 years ago, about the same time I stopped playing tennis."

"Sidesaddle is much the best way. It's safer when you take the jumps—and it's more elegant too."

The former Anne Hyde Clarke is a strapping woman with sky-blue eyes and gray

hair that is pulled back in a bun. Her memory is keen and she likes to entertain guests with ghost stories she's collected through the years.

She was born in 1888 near Cooperstown, in an English-style manor house that several groups are urging the state to preserve. The home, Hyde Hall, was built by her great-grandfather, George Hyde Clarke, a great-grandson of George Clarke, Acting Colonial Governor of New York from 1734 to 1740.

Like many girls of her station and generation she came to New York in 1905 to be presented to society.

"I kept meeting my husband at parties," she said. "When he asked me to marry him, I said I'd be glad to but not for five years. We were married five months later."

Mrs. Choate's husband was the only one of nine children of Dr. George C. S. Choate, to be born in the house. Dr. Choate, originally from Boston, finished first in his class at Harvard. So did his brothers, William G., founder of the Choate School, and Charles and Joseph H., who were prominent Boston lawyers. Joseph went on to become Ambassador to the Court of St. James's under President Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1920 Mrs. Choate succeeded her grandmother, the founder of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, Juliette Gordon Low, as national president of the body. She served in that capacity until 1922 when she was succeeded by Mrs. Herbert Hoover. The Scouts now call her an ex-officio member of the national board of directors and "probably the oldest Girl Scout in the United States."

She is no stranger to the cause of preservation. Besides helping spearhead the fight to save her birthplace and her present home, she persuaded the Girl Scouts to purchase and restore the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah, Ga., in 1953.

She returned in October from a worldwide conference of Girl Scouts in Tokyo at which 68 nations were represented. She flew to Japan with a friend, only after she had failed to convince a son, Arthur, Jr., that she could make the journey alone.

"I told him I wouldn't be alone," Mrs. Choate said. "I was going to see Girl Scouts all over."

After half an hour of ghost stories by a roaring fire the other day, Mrs. Choate recited by heart the poem she said had guided her life. It ends:

Give me a sense of humor, Lord;
Give me the grace to see a joke,

A Long-Time Girl Scout Leader

Organization's 2d President Was an Active Supporter Until Her Final Year

Special to The New York Times
PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y., May 17 — Mrs. Anne Hyde Clarke Choate, who devoted more than 50 years to furthering the Girl Scout movement, died here today at the age of 80.

Mrs. Choate, the widow of Arthur Osgood Choate, an investment banker, was active in various civic and charitable causes, but it was the Girl Scouts that remained her major interest.

The interest was established early in her life, and even at 80 she attended scouting meetings. Last October, she flew to Japan for a scouting conference at which 68 countries were represented.

Family members tried at the time to discourage her from making the arduous trip, but Mrs. Choate would not be dissuaded. She said later that when her son Arthur asked her not to



The New York Times (by Edward Hauser)

Mrs. Arthur O. Choate, with Scottish shepherd's crook, in front of home in Pleasantville, N. Y., which was remodeled by Stanford White's son in 1917.

To get some happiness from life, And pass it on to other folk.

She described the changes in the Pleasantville of 1907 when she and her husband moved to the house ("There was one little country road outside our door") to the town of 1967 ("Now there's the Taconic Parkway, Route 100 and Route 9A").

"We used to go riding on the Rockefeller place," she said. "But with the trucks dashing down the road it's dangerous to go out with the horses now."

Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller's Pocantico Hills estate, with its riding trails, is only about one mile down Route 117.

Asked how her section of Westchester had changed through the years, she replied: "It depends on your point of view. From the point of view of country living, it's gotten worse. From the point of view of people who want to get into the country, it's easier and better for them."

But she added: "I prefer the old solitude."

Hyde Hall

Hyde Hall is a stunning reminder of a bygone American era, when powerful English families established vast estates in their former colonies. The house itself is considered the finest example of a neoclassic country mansion anywhere in the U.S.

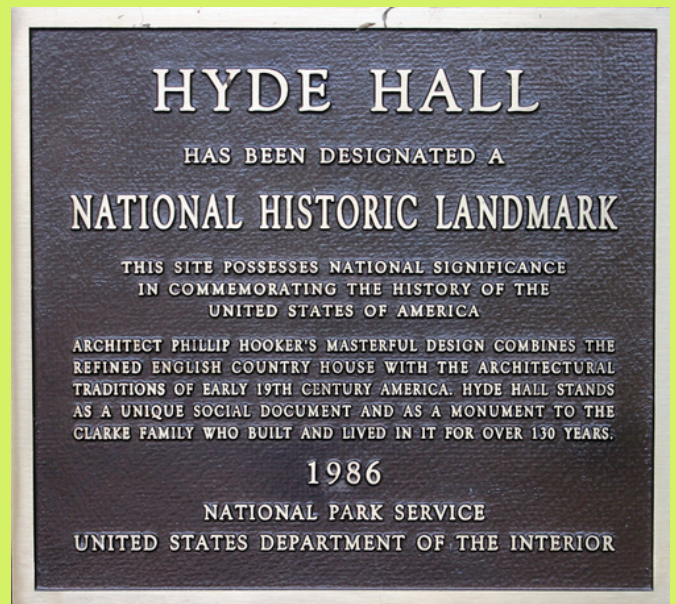
Roger Kennedy of the Smithsonian Institution has hailed Hyde Hall as “a great house, architecturally, and a social document of the first importance.” The late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan called Hyde Hall “one of the most remarkable buildings in America,” and Brendan Gill, long-time architecture critic for *The New Yorker* magazine and an early champion for Hyde Hall’s restoration, declared it one of the “three or four great buildings in America of its time.”

When New York State took over ownership of Hyde Hall, the passage of time had taken a toll on the mansion and outbuildings. There were no plans and no funds to preserve the structure, and the threat of demolition was very real. The Friends of Hyde Hall was formed in 1964 to save the house and help maintain it for the public’s use and enjoyment. It was immediately accepted on the National Register of Historic Places and subsequently declared a National Historic Landmark, the only such designation in Otsego County. In 1988, the Friends acquired a 30-year renewable lease on Hyde Hall and its immediate environs as well as responsibility for its restoration and management. This lease has been renewed for another thirty years so the restoration and sharing of the site with the public can continue. The Friends was renamed Hyde Hall, Inc. in 1999, but its purpose remains unchanged.

To learn more visit hydehall.org.



Hyde Hall today.



Hyde Hall historical marker

Photo credits: HydeHall.org

National Women's Hall of Fame

NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
HALL OF FAME

“Showcasing great women...Inspiring all!” The National Women's Hall of Fame is the nation's first and oldest nonprofit organization and museum dedicated to honoring and celebrating the achievements of distinguished American women. In August 2020, the National Women's Hall of Fame moved into the 1844 Seneca Knitting Mill, where it uses the stories of its 302 inductees to inspire and engage all who visit.

Achieving its mission in a variety of ways while preserving historical roots through the induction of great women into the Hall of Fame, its comprehensive programming and beautiful museum on the banks of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal provide the public with several ways to become engaged with the Hall and the stories of exceptional inductees.

The National Women's Hall of Fame is at a dynamic evolutionary place in its history - excited about its potential, but most excited about the expansiveness of its vision and anticipated impact for people of all ages, genders, and locations - now and for generations to come.



Inside the Hall today



Seneca Knitting Mill, est. 1844



(L-R) Hall supporter and attendee at the Founder's Tea (c. 1968) Doris Walsh and Hall founders Elizabeth Delavan, Shirley Hartley, and Ann Bantuanis

Harriet Beecher Stowe

- Year Honored: 1986
- Lived: 1811 - 1896
- Born In: Connecticut
- Achievements: Arts
- Worked In: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Ohio, United States of America
- Educated In: Connecticut
- Schools Attended: Hartford Female Seminary



Photo credit: National Women's Hall of Fame

Harriet Beecher Stowe was born into one of America's most prominent religious families. The Beecher family was at the forefront of many reform movements of the 19th century. After her short teaching career, she married Calvin Stowe in 1836. In order to supplement Calvin's teaching salary, she wrote short stories dealing with domestic life. Her royalties helped her hire household help to assist with raising their seven children.

In 1850 when the south threatened to secede, Stowe determined that she would write a serial denouncing the evils of slavery. She began, expecting to write three to four installments, but the novel grew to forty chapters. Meanwhile the nation became absorbed in the story.



Photo credit: Portrait Gallery, Wikipedia.org

Uncle Tom's Cabin, published in book form in 1852, was a huge success. Uncle Tom's Cabin was the first major American novel to feature a black hero. With a fine ear for dialogue, deft humor, and dramatic plot, Stowe made her readers understand that slaves were people who were being made to suffer cruelly. Stowe's novel also insisted that slavery undermined the moral sensibility of whites who tolerated or profited from it. Stowe wrote of the evils of slavery so that others could be free. Hers was one of the most effective pieces of reform literature ever published.

Later her Pink and White Tyranny attacked the idea that women should be ornamental and helpless. She wrote many subsequent novels but none of her later works achieved the social impact of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Eileen Collins

- Year Honored: 1995
- Born: November 19, 1956
- Born In: New York
- Achievements: Science
- Educated In: New York, California, Missouri, & Ohio
- Schools Attended: Elmira Free Academy, Corning Community College, Syracuse University, Stanford University, Webster University, Airforce Institute of Technology, & Air Force Test Pilot School
- Worked In: New York, Oklahoma, California, Colorado



Photo credit: Eileen Collins

Eileen Collins was launched into history when she became the first American woman to pilot a spacecraft. Of this trailblazing mission, Collins said, "This mission marks the first baby steps in international space cooperation."

Collins worked hard and overcome adversity every inch of the way on her journey to space. Her family struggled to make ends meet in upstate New York, and she put herself through community college and paid for flying lessons by working full time in a variety of jobs. Collins learned to fly when she was only 19: "I didn't spend money on clothes...I'd grown up watching gliders fly off Harris Hill (in Elmira, New York) and I'd always dreamed of flying." She graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor's in mathematics and economics, and obtained a master's in operations research from Stanford University in 1986. She also holds a master's in space systems management from Webster University. From 1986 to 1989, Collins was a math instructor at the Air Force Academy. During that time, she was also a test pilot at Edwards Air Force base, flying 26 different aircraft in a single year.

In 1990, Collins was selected by NASA and became an astronaut in July 1991. Collins became the first woman to pilot a space shuttle, when Discovery completed an eight-day mission in February 1995. That mission included the first space rendezvous with the Russian space station Mir. Collins made history again in 1999, when she commanded the Columbia, for mission STS-93. Throughout her career, Collins has logged over 6,751 hours in 30 different types of aircraft.

Retired from NASA since 2006, Collins has received numerous awards including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, French Legion of Honor, NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, Free Spirit Award, and the National Space Trophy.

Collins is well aware of the pioneering nature of her work: "I want to do well because I know that I'm representing other women, other pilots, military pilots as well as civilian pilots who are hoping to come here to NASA and be pilots themselves for the space shuttle."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

- Year Honored: 1973
- Lived: November 12, 1815 - October 26, 1902
- Born In: New York
- Achievements: Humanities
- Educated In: New York
- Schools Attended: Johnstown Academy, Troy Female Seminary
- Worked In: New York, Kansas, New Jersey, Wyoming, Utah, California, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia



Photo credit: Wikipedia

Widely credited as one of the founding geniuses of the women's rights movement, Elizabeth Cady Stanton used her brilliance, insightfulness, and eloquence to advocate for many important issues. In addition to being one of the first women's rights activists, she was also a dedicated abolitionist, and advocated in favor of temperance.

Unlike many of her contemporaries, Stanton enjoyed a formal education at Johnstown Academy, where she worked hard to excel in Greek, Latin, and mathematics. The child of a judge, she went on to obtain the finest education then available to women at Troy Female Seminary. A visit to her cousin, abolitionist Gerrit Smith, in Peterboro, New York, helped foster her strong anti-slavery sentiments.

At her insistence, when she married abolitionist Henry Stanton, the word "obey" was omitted from the ceremony. Their honeymoon journey was to the great World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London in 1840. After the women delegates were denied seats at that convention, Stanton became convinced that women should hold a convention demanding their own rights. This decision was delayed until her move to Seneca Falls, where she was isolated and increasingly exhausted by a growing family. Finally in July, 1848, she met with Lucretia Mott and three other Quaker women in nearby Waterloo, New York. Together they issued the call for the first woman's rights convention.

Stanton drafted the Seneca Falls Convention's Declaration of Sentiments, including the historic words "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal," She continued to argue forcefully for the ballot, a radical demand opposed by her husband and even Mrs. Mott. Soon thereafter, she met Susan B. Anthony and they formed what would be a lifelong partnership devoted to the cause. Among their earliest targets were laws that discriminated against married women, denying them the right to hold property, or wages, or guardianship of their children.

A prolific author whose works included *Solitude of Self* and *The Woman's Bible*, Stanton once wrote that "The prolonged slavery of woman is the darkest page in human history."

Judith L. Pipher

- Year Honored: 2007
- Life: 1940 - 2022
- Born In: Canada
- Achievements: Education, Science
- Educated In: New York
- Schools Attended: University of Toronto, Cornell University
- Worked In: New York



Photo credit: National Women's Hall of Fame

Dr. Judith L. Pipher, an infrared astronomer and Seneca Falls resident, had a career that people at the first women's rights convention, held in Seneca Falls in 1848, could not even imagine. Her work as an astrophysicist at two acclaimed universities, Cornell University and the University of Rochester, was a significant first among women's achievements.

Dr. Pipher, a native of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, graduated from the University of Toronto where she majored in astronomy. After graduation, she moved to the Finger Lakes region of New York State, and began graduate study at Cornell University in Ithaca. Along with her part-time study, she taught science classes at the high school and college level. Her doctoral study led her to research in the new field of infrared and submillimeter astronomy. She became the first woman to pursue this brand new research into ultra sensitive light detection of celestial bodies.

She received her Ph.D. from Cornell in 1971 and then joined the faculty of the Physics and Astronomy Department at the University of Rochester, where she became the founder of a group of observational infrared astronomers. For the next 31 years she taught full time at the University of Rochester and continued her astronomy research, which included a highly successful and frequently initiated partnership between academic and industrial research groups.

As one of the first US astronomers to turn an infrared array camera to the skies, she and her colleagues in 1983 were able to take the first telescopic infrared pictures of starburst galaxies. After her retirement as a full-time professor in 2002, the same year she received the Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award, her involvement in infrared technology continued. In 2003 the NASA Spitzer Space Telescope was launched. Dr. Pipher helped design aspects of this telescope which features infrared detector arrays. It is being used to study the distant universe, and clusters of forming stars and brown dwarfs, huge planet-like objects.

Dr. Pipher was a member of numerous astronomical organizations and the author of more than 200 scientific articles and papers. She had chaired or served on a number of national committees that determined astrophysics funding for NASA and the National Science Foundation.

Harriet Tubman

- Year Honored: 1973
- Lived: March 1820 - March 10, 1913
- Born In: Maryland
- Died In: New York
- Achievements: Humanities
- Worked In: Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, South Carolina, Virginia



Born a slave on the eastern shore of Maryland, she fled north to freedom. There she joined the secret network of free Blacks and white sympathizers who helped runaways - the "underground railroad." She became a 'conductor' who risked her life to lead her people to freedom.

Tubman returned time after time to her native Maryland, bringing out her relatives and as many as 300 other slaves. The shadowy figure of the conductor "Moses" became so feared that a huge reward was put on "his" head, for slaveowners did not at first believe a woman capable of such daring. Cool, resourceful, skilled in the use of disguise and diversions, she is said to have carried a pistol, telling the faint-hearted they must go on or die. Apparently only illness prevented Harriet Tubman from joining John Brown in the raid on Harper's Ferry.

When the Civil War began, she worked among the slaves who fled their masters and flocked to Union lines. She organized many of them into spy and scout networks that operated behind Confederate lines from bases on islands off the coast of the Carolinas. After the war she devoted herself to caring for orphaned and invalid Blacks, and worked to promote the establishment of freedmen's schools in the South.



Photo credits: Wikipedia

Juliette Gordon Low

- Year Honored: 1979
- Birth: 1860 - Death: 1927
- Born In: Savannah, Georgia
- Achievements: Humanities
- Educated In: Virginia, New Jersey, New York
- Schools Attended: Virginia Female Institute, Stuart Hall, Edge Hill, Mesdemoiselles Charbonniers
- Worked In: Georgia, District of Columbia, Illinois, England, Scotland



Photo credit: National Women's Hall of Fame

An educator and humanitarian, Juliette Gordon Low made history as the founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA, the largest organization for girls in the world. Born in Savannah, Georgia in 1860, Low earned the nickname “Daisy” at an early age and quickly became known for her stubborn but charismatic spirit. She attended private schools in Virginia and New York. In her youth, Low developed a passion for the arts and often painted, performed plays, sketched and wrote poetry.

Following her education, Low traveled throughout the United States and Europe. She met and married a wealthy Englishman, William Mackay Low (1886); however, the couple’s marriage quickly fell apart and the Lows were separated at the time of William’s death in 1905. In 1911, while in England, Low began a close friendship with Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. Low quickly became interested in the Girl Guides program, believing that girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually outside of isolated home environments. She returned to Georgia and on March 12, 1912, held a meeting to register eighteen girls as members of the American Girl Guides. In 1913, the name of the organization was changed to the Girl Scouts, and in 1915, the Girl Scouts of the USA was incorporated. Low served as the organization’s first president and gave freely of her own money in the early years.

Having suffered from the improper treatment of an ear infection in her youth and from a punctured eardrum in her twenties, as an adult, Low was completely deaf in one ear and nearly deaf in the other. She was known to exaggerate her deafness when she pretended not to hear friends who tried to beg off commitments to work for the Girl Scouts. When attending a fashionable luncheon, she would trim her hat with carrots and parsley, exclaiming to guests, “Oh is my trimming sad? I can’t afford to have this hat done over – I have to save all my money for my Girl Scouts. You know about the Scouts, don’t you?” Today, there are more than 3 million girl and adult members of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Elizabeth Blackwell

- Year Honored: 1973
- Lived: 1821 - 1910
- Born In: England
- Achievements: Science
- Educated In: New York
- Schools Attended: Geneva College (Hobart & William Smith Colleges)
- Worked In: Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York



Elizabeth Blackwell, born in Britain, was the first woman awarded the M.D. degree. Many nineteenth-century physicians, including a few women, practiced without a degree, but Elizabeth Blackwell wished to attain full professional status. She was rejected by all the major medical schools in the nation because of her sex. Her application to Geneva Medical School (now Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York) was referred to the student body. They accepted with great hilarity in the belief that it was a spoof perpetrated by a rival school. Working with quiet determination, she turned aside the hostility of the professors, students, and townspeople. She earned her medical degree in 1849.

Blackwell completed her medical education in Europe, but faced additional difficulties in setting up her practice when she returned to New York. Barred from city hospitals, she founded her own infirmary. Eventually she founded a Women's Medical College to train other women physicians. Blackwell's educational standards were higher than the all-male medical schools. Her courses emphasized the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene to prevent diseases. She later returned to Britain and spent the rest of her life there, working to expand medical opportunities for women as she had in America.

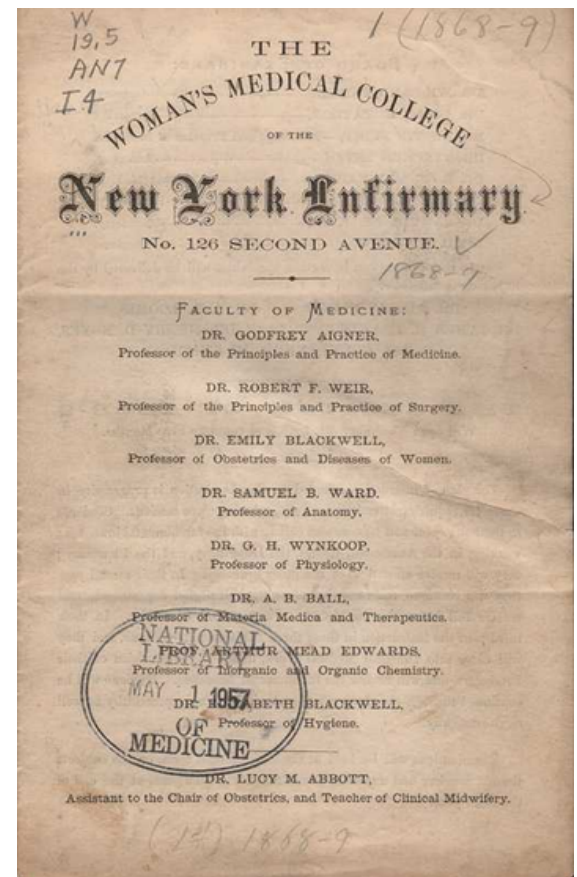


Photo credits: Wikipedia

Ruth Colvin

- Year Honored: 1993
- Born: 1916
- Born In: Illinois
- Achievements: Education
- Educated In: Illinois, New York
- Schools Attended: Thornton Junior College, Moser Business College, Northwestern University, Syracuse University
- Worked In: New York, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Zambia, Guatemala, Pakistan, Somalia, China



Ruth Johnson Colvin saw a problem - pervasive adult illiteracy - and used formidable organizing skills and tenacity to help solve it through the creation of Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.

Colvin learned the scope of illiteracy in 1962 when she discovered that more than 11,000 people in the upstate New York county where she lived could not read. Her life was transformed as she undertook the necessary training needed to help correct the situation.



Photo credits: Wikipedia

She determined that traditional classroom methods would not work and instead focused on the development of community networks in which a climate was created that empowered adult learners in new ways. The organization developed tutor training programs, special materials, community support components and a model that involves people from all walks of life in a community. Former dropouts became tutors, as did bank presidents, educators and many others. In 2002, Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. merged with Laubach Literacy International to form ProLiteracy. Of her sometimes daunting work, Colvin has said, "If you believe in your idea, you go from there. If you do it with love, it will work out."

During her more than over four decades of literacy work, Colvin has published nine books, and visited or worked in more than sixty countries. In 2006, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in Education from President George W. Bush.

More than 400,000 learned to read through Literacy Volunteers of America programs, in more than 460 locations operating in 40 states. Colvin continues to travel internationally to share her knowledge, exemplifying the power of one individual to change the world for the better.

Karen DeCrow

- Year Honored: 2009
- Life: 1937 - 2014
- Born In: Illinois
- Achievements: Government, Humanities
- Educated In: Illinois, New York
- Schools Attended: Chicago Public Schools, Syracuse University College of Law, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University, Medill School Northwestern University
- Worked In: Illinois, District of Columbia, New York

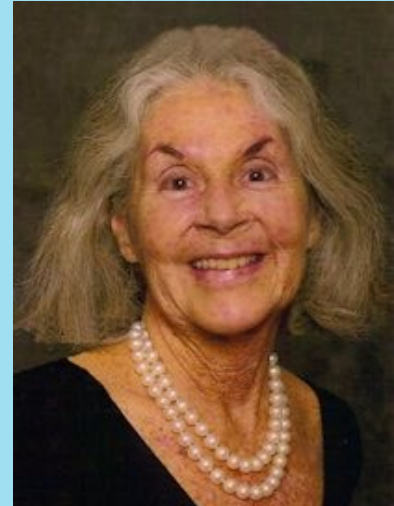
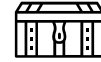


Photo credit: National Women's Hall of Fame

A nationally recognized attorney, author and activist, Karen DeCrow was one of the most celebrated leaders of the women's movement. Born in Chicago, and educated in its public school system, Karen DeCrow earned her bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism, in 1959. Her literary career began after graduation, and she spent ten years as a writer and editor. During that time she also became active in the women's movement. 1967 saw Karen ascend to the presidency of the Syracuse, New York chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). From 1968 to 1974, she also served as a member of the National Board of Directors of NOW. In 1974, she was elected National President of NOW, serving in that capacity for two terms. During DeCrow's tenure as President of NOW, the organization embarked on important initiatives including achieving non-governmental status with the United Nations, supporting the first ordination of eleven Episcopal women, persuading the federal government to include sex discrimination in the Fair Housing Law, and instituting highly publicized and successful discrimination actions against Sears and AT&T. She was the last President of NOW to serve without pay or an office.

In 1969, DeCrow returned to college at Syracuse University, College of Law, graduating as the only female in the class of 1972. She had devoted her legal career to cases promoting gender equality, eliminating age discrimination and protecting civil liberties. DeCrow campaigned tirelessly for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). During the 1970s and 1980s, she traveled throughout the United States (often at her own expense) to debate anti-feminist author, Phyllis Schlafly, on the ERA. She wrote numerous books and articles and was recognized as a noted lecturer worldwide for her expertise on topics including law, feminism, politics, civil rights, parental rights and the ERA. In 1970, she served as National Coordinator of the Women's Strike. In 1974, Time magazine named her as part of the 200 Future Leaders of America. In 1988, she co-founded World Women Watch.



Cut apart the squares below. Match the woman with the city and accomplishment they are associated with. Look for hints in their stories above to find the answers. Their city may be where they were born, where they lived, or where they made a significant difference to the community.

Juliette Low	Savannah	Girl Scouts	Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Harriet Tubman	Auburn	Underground Railroad	Eileen Collins
Ruth Colvin	Syracuse	Literacy Volunteers of America	Seneca Falls
Elizabeth Blackwell	Geneva	First Medical Degree	Elmira
Judith Pipher	Seneca Falls	Astronomer	Women's Rights
Karen DeCrow	Syracuse	National Organization for Women	Discovery Shuttle Pilot



Woman



City



Accomplishment

Juliette Low

Savannah

Girl Scouts

Harriet Tubman

Auburn

Underground
Railroad

Ruth Colvin

Syracuse

Literacy Volunteers
of America

Elizabeth
Blackwell

Geneva

First Medical Degree

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Seneca Falls

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Karen DeCrow

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Organization for
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Stanton

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Discovery Shuttle
Pilot