



## E-Newsletter | August 2012

### Girl Scouts of the USA - Inspiring Women Timeline

Check out <http://inspire.girlscouts.org/>! Girl Scouts of the USA, in cooperation with the authors of *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*, has posted the initial entries into their Inspiring Women Timeline. Many of the women featured are profiled in our book. The Girl Scouts timeline, like our book, starts in 1587, and profiles amazing women all along the way - through women of the 21st century. Here is just a sample.

In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell is the first woman to be awarded a medical degree in the United States.

1853, Mary Ann Shadd Cary becomes the first African-American female editor of the North American newspaper *Provincial Freeman*. In 1869, she becomes the first African-American female to enter Howard University's Law School and earn a degree.

In 1854, Clara Barton becomes the first woman to work at the U.S. Patent Office. During the Civil War, she nursed soldiers on the battlefields of the Civil War. In 1881, she founds the American Red Cross and serves as its president until her death.

In 1870, Sophia Smith's donation of nearly \$400,000 establishes Smith College, the nation's first liberal arts college for women and one of its most influential.



Jeannette Rankin



Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman

In 1905, Madam C. J. Walker is cited by Guinness World Records as the first American woman to become a self-made millionaire. She was a groundbreaking American entrepreneur and pioneer in the African-American hair care and cosmetics industry.

In 1916, Jeannette Rankin is the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. She serves two terms, one beginning in 1916 and one in 1940.

In 1921, aviator Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman becomes the first African-American female pilot despite facing both racial and gender discrimination. In 1989, First Flight Society inducts Coleman into their shrine, honoring those who have

achieved significant "firsts" in aviation development.

In 1952, Admiral Grace Murray Hopper develops the first computer compiler. In 1991, she becomes the first individual woman to receive the National Medal of Technology. Hopper was a pioneering computer programmer who helped computers make the leap from the worlds of science and the military to our daily lives.

In 1954, Shoshone Indian Sacagawea is pictured on a U.S. postage stamp commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Her own stamp is issued in 1994 as part of the Legends of the West series. Starting in 1805, she served as a guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In 2003, Sacagawea is inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Rose Blumkin pioneered a new model for sales: buying in bulk and selling at a discount. The founder of Nebraska Furniture Mart wasn't an American citizen until 1958 but became a self-made millionaire in Omaha, Nebraska, and is recognized as one of the greatest entrepreneurs of her time.

In 1993, Ellen Ochoa is the first female Hispanic astronaut in space. She joined NASA's astronaut corps in 1991 and flew in the space shuttle Discovery in 1993.

The diversity of women's accomplishments is amazing and we are proud to continue to bring them to the attention of the American public. Our project helping Girl Scouts of the USA is part of our continuing effort to share more about the girls and women who came before us. Let us know what else we can do!

**Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America**

**Charlotte S. Waisman and Jill S. Tietjen**

**[www.herstoryatimeline.com](http://www.herstoryatimeline.com)**

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