



E-Newsletter | November 2014

Florida Women

Most of our readers know of the National Women's Hall of Fame and its home in upstate New York. Do you also know that a number of states (including our home state of Colorado) have a state Women's Hall of Fame? In this month's e-newsletter, we profile two women from our book who are also inductees into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Althea Gibson. The Florida



Marjorie Kinnan

Gibson. The Florida Women's Hall, established in 1982, is the responsibility of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. To date, over 90 women have been inducted.

Born outside of the state of Florida, author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings is probably best remembered for her novel, *The Yearling*, which was published in 1938. Her 1930 collection of short stories about Florida, written after she moved to the state,

brought her national fame and an O. Henry short story prize. These stories involved poor, backcountry residents; people who could have been (and in some instances apparently were) her neighbors. Her 1933 book, *South Moon Under*, was selected for the Book-of-the-Month Club and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.



Althea Gibson

Rawlings won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Yearling*, a story of a Florida boy, his pet deer and his relationship with his father. The book was used as the basis of an Academy Award-winning movie. Rawlings is also featured on a U.S. postage stamp that was issued in 2008. The home in Cross Creek, where she did much of her writing is now designated as a National

Historic Landmark. Her honors included several honorary degrees and election to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Tennis player Althea Gibson graduated from Florida A & M University, which she attended on a full athletic scholarship. She began playing tennis in New York City after being given a racquet when she was 13 years old. In 1942, at the age of 15, she entered and won the first tennis tournament in which she competed. The honors Gibson received in her career have made her almost a legendary athlete-and certainly an outstanding role model.

Gibson was the first African-American woman to compete and win at Wimbledon and was named Woman Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press in 1957. She was also the first African-American to win the French and U.S. Open Tennis titles. Gibson

won a total of 11 Grand Slam tournaments and has been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame as well as the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame. After Gibson's retirement from tennis, she played professional golf; she was the first African-American competitor on the women's golf tour. After her retirement from golf, Gibson served as Commissioner of Athletics for the State of New Jersey. Gibson has also been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Amazing women come from all fifty of our United States. We are proud to stand on the shoulders of these accomplished women with ties to Florida.

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Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

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