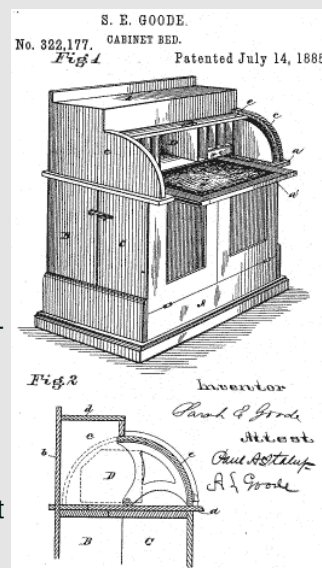
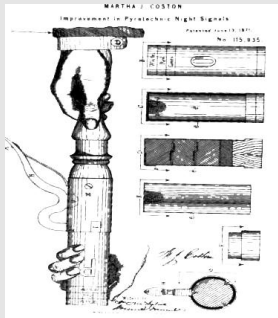






Fast forward about 150 years to Martha Coston. Her interest was in an area considered "highly unfeminine". She was determined to make a signal flare. Signal flares were very hard to make: they had to be both durable and simple and they had to last for a long time. In the mid-1800s, to make a flare required gunpowder, chemicals, pyrotechnics, as well as the ignition apparatus. Martha Coston's green, red and white signal flares worked so well that the navy bought them from her for \$20,000, an astounding amount of money at that time. Coston

flares were used during the Civil War battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack. Martha Coston received her patent for this flare in 1871.

Another early woman inventor of note is Sarah Goode, the first African-American woman to receive a patent. In 1885, she received a patent for her cabinet bed. She sold furniture in Chicago, Illinois and her customers complained about the limited spaces in their apartments. She came up with an ingenious solution - a bed that when not in use could be folded up into a cabinet that was actually a roll-top desk and stationery shelf. Necessity truly is the mother of invention!

Women continue to invent and come up with new and fascinating ideas. We'll talk about some more recent inventors in next month's enewsletter.

Next Month:
**How Modern Women Innovators
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