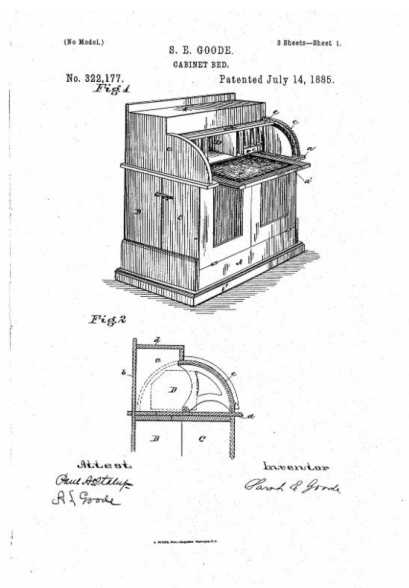




## January 2018 Her Story ENewsletter Household Inventors

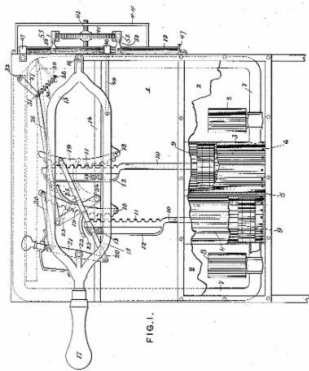
A series of exhibits on inventors and discoverers was recently put together for Google Arts and Culture. These exhibits featured women inventors and discoverers in medicine, science, engineering, health and beauty, and the household. In this month's ENewsletter we feature two of the women who were included in the household inventors and discoverers exhibit: Sarah Goode and Josephine Cochran. Let's learn about these two innovative women.

On July 14, 1885, Sarah Goode received a patent for her folding cabinet bed. Credited by many as the first African-American to receive a patent (although there is now information that Judy Reed received a patent in 1880 for a dough-kneading machine), Sarah Jacob was born a slave in 1850. After being freed at the end of the Civil War, she and her family moved to Chicago and she married Archibald Goode, who was a carpenter. The Goodes opened a furniture store after their marriage.



### Sarah Goode

Learning about the space constraints that their customers faced (often living in small apartments that didn't accommodate much furniture or storage space), Sarah invented her folding cabinet bed to meet their needs. Like today's hide-away, her "bed" had another function during the day when it was not being used for sleeping - a roll-top desk. The desk had space for writing utensils and stationery. Given the carpentry skills of her husband and her father, they were able to make her idea a functional furniture reality. Her patent was the precursor for the Murphy bed, which received a patent in 1900. In 2012, the Sarah E Goode STEM Academy, one of five Chicago Public Schools Early College STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Schools, opened on the south side of Chicago.



Attest  
for the Commissioner  
of Patents  
W. W. Wood

Inventor:  
Josephine Cochran  
J. Knight

## Josephine Cochran

The inventor of the first commercially successful dishwasher, Josephine Cochran (she changed her last name to Cochran after her husband's death) received her patent on December 28, 1886. Necessity was definitely the mother of invention in Cochran's case. After hosting many dinner parties using heirloom china, and having the china chipped by household help as well as desiring to avoid the tedium of the dishwashing itself, she decided to invent a dishwashing machine. Legend has it that she ran through the streets saying "If nobody is going to invent a dishwashing machine, I'll do it myself!" The Cochran dishwashers were popular and the Garis-Cochran Manufacturing Company was established in 1897 to make them. Earlier efforts (by others) at inventing a dishwashing had been unsuccessful. Hers was the first to use water pressure instead of scrubbers to clean the dishes. Initial customers were primarily restaurants and hotels. Most U.S. homes didn't have dishwashers until the 1950s when the plumbing became adequate to handle them. Cochran was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2006.

Sarah Goode and Josephine Cochran are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us. Help us to tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen  
*Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*

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