



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN  
WHO CHANGED AMERICA

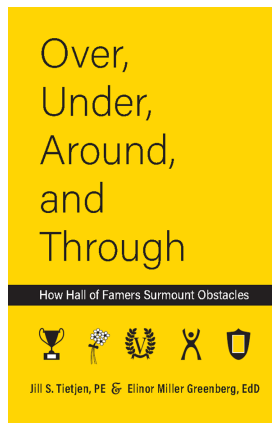


## May 2022 Her Story ENewsletter Hall of Famers Surmounting Obstacles

On May 3, 2022, a new book, *Over, Under, Around, and Through: How Hall of Famers Surmount Obstacles*, co-written by Jill Tietjen, co-author of *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*, will be released by Fulcrum Publishing ([overunderaroundandthrough.com](http://overunderaroundandthrough.com) to order).

The book provides fifty 350-450 word stories of how women used ten skills in combination or singly to overcome significant obstacles in their lives. Those are the skills that every reader of this newsletter has – and thus every reader is also capable of surmounting the obstacles that they face! The skills are mental intelligence, emotional intelligence, social support, moral compass – spirituality, determination – perseverance – persistence, optimism, creativity, resilience, action-orientation, and passion.

Of the women whose stories are told, quite a number are profiled in *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* including Anna Lee Aldred, Marilyn Van Derbur Adler (see our November 2021 newsletter), Marion Downs, Temple Grandin, Frances Wisebart Jacobs, Martha Maxwell, Cleo Parker Robinson (see our March 2022 newsletter), Dr. Florence Sabin, Pat Schroeder, and Babe Zaharias. The following paragraphs for Martha Maxwell and Anna Lee Aldred are adapted from their stories in *Over, Under, Around, and Through*.



Colorado Hall of Famer, taxidermist **Martha Maxwell** was frustrated by the incredulous questions signifying doubt that a woman could have prepared the specimens and habitats at her wildlife displays at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. So she put up a sign that read, “Woman’s Work.”

The lessons that Maxwell learned as a youngster from her grandmother Abigail about animals and birds stayed with her even as she experienced the other duties commonly associated with “women’s work.” After the financial crash of 1857, she set her mind on becoming a taxidermist.

She had to learn how to handle a gun. She had to learn how to clean and prepare animals. She hiked for hours to observe animals in their natural habitats. By 1868, Maxwell had six hundred specimens. At the governor’s behest, she represented Colorado at the St. Louis Fair in 1870. She was not deterred by the comments she heard in Philadelphia, for she said, “My life is one of physical work, an effort to prove the words spoken by more gifted women . . . The world demands proof of woman’s capacities, without it, words are useless.” Truly Maxwell did shine as she did “Woman’s Work.”

An inductee into the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame and several other Halls of Fame, **Anna Lee Aldred** began riding horses shortly after she



began to walk and wanted to get her license as a jockey as she was approaching adulthood. But no racetrack in the United States would issue her one, due to her gender. Being very determined and not one to take no for an answer, she went to Tijuana, Mexico and applied for her jockey's license at the Agua Caliente Racetrack. Track officials there really didn't want to license her either but could find no rule prohibiting women from becoming professional jockeys. She got this license in 1939 and became the first woman jockey in the U.S.

Over the next few years, she won many races at county and state fairs. But she grew too big to be a jockey when she reached 5 feet 5 inches tall and 118 pounds. With her love of horses, she taught herself to be a trick rider on the rodeo circuit. Those tricks included standing on the saddle of a horse and hanging off the side by one foot. In her last years, she slept under a horse blanket. Aldred said, "God forbid I should go to a heaven where there are no horses."

Martha Maxwell and Anna Lee Aldred 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 all. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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