



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN WHO CHANGED AMERICA



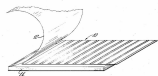
## October 2022 Her Story ENewsletter Young Women

It might be surprising to you that among the more than 850 women profiled in *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* are a few young women in their pre-teens or teen years whose accomplishments were so important. In this month's eNewsletter we profile two of these young women – Sybil Ludington and Becky Schroeder.



Did you know there was a female “Paul Revere?” Her name is **Sybil Ludington**. Ludington was sixteen years old when she made her famous ride. The daughter of Colonel Henry Ludington, her 40-mile ride occurred in Dutchess County, New York, on the evening of April 26, 1777. Riding through rain and fending off highwaymen, she alerted 400 militiamen that the British were planning to attack colonial supplies housed at Danbury, Connecticut. Among the people said to have congratulated her and saluted her bravery was General George

Washington. A U.S. postage stamp was issued in Ludington's honor in 1975, as part of the U.S. Bicentennial series and a statue of her was sculpted and erected near Carmel, New York in 1961. A chamber opera was also composed in her honor and her story has been featured in a documentary and a movie.



Pre-teen **Becky Schroeder** wanted to be able to write in the dark. One day, while her mother was shopping, Becky waited in the car doing her math homework. When the sun started to set, she didn't have enough light. She thought there might be a way for her to do her homework in the dark. She remembered seeing phosphorescent paint at the hardware store. After buying the paint at the hardware store on a trip with her father, she painted a piece of cardboard with the paint and waited for it to dry. She then exposed it to ordinary light and placed several sheets of paper over it and went into the darkest room in the house – the bathroom. Light shone through the paper – she could see! Becky was lucky that her father was a patent attorney, and he helped her file for a patent. Becky had invented the “Glo Sheet.”

Becky Schroeder is cited as the youngest woman and possibly the youngest person to get a U.S. patent. She was 12 years old when she got her patent in 1974. The Glo Sheet was soon used by nurses on night duty in hospitals as they made their rounds to patients' rooms. Now the nurses didn't have to wake up the patients by turning on the light. U.S. Navy personnel use Glo Sheets when working at night on the decks of ships. She also developed a battery-operated version called the Glo Panel. And she started her own company, B.J. Products in Toledo, Ohio. Today, Becky Schroeder has at least nine patents.

Sybil Ludington and Becky Schroeder 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. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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