



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



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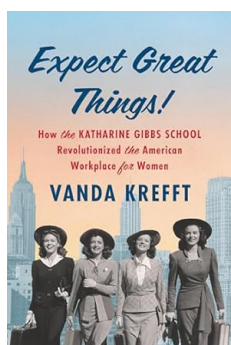
Recent Books on Women Who Changed America

Two new books have come out profiling the accomplishments and contributions of two of the women from our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Physician Mary Putnam Jacobi's story is told in a book titled *The Cure for Women: Mary Putnam Jacobi and the Challenge to Victorian Medicine that Changed Women's Lives Forever*. The legacy that Katharine Gibbs established is told in *Expect Great Things! How the Katharine Gibbs School Revolutionized the American Workplace for Women*. Let's learn about these two extraordinary women.



Mary Putnam Jacobi, daughter of New York publisher George Palmer Putnam, wanted to follow in the footsteps of the first female doctor to graduate from medical school in the U.S., Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. Sadly, Putnam also faced the same backlash that Blackwell experienced from the male medical establishment who argued that women's reproductive capabilities should take precedence over their education and any other responsibilities; motherhood was their primary duty and due to their menstrual cycles, they were always "sick." The book's promotional materials state that Jacobi was *the first woman to be accepted into the world-renowned Sorbonne medical school in Paris. As one of the best-educated doctors in the world, she returned . . . for the fight of her life. Aided by other prominent women physicians and suffragists, Jacobi conducted the first-ever*

data-backed, scientific research on women's reproductive biology. The results of her studies shook the foundations of medical science and higher education.



Katharine Gibbs started her first school in 1911 to train secretaries. Here is what the promotional materials for the book say: *Katharine Gibbs was one of her own success stories. She started her school when, as a 46-year-old widow, she was left near-broke with two young sons. The school taught typing and stenography but Gibbs also hired accomplished professors from elite colleges to teach academic subjects—it was a well-rounded education that produced early feminists ready to tackle the sexism of their era. "Expect great things!" was her motto and her philosophy.*

The materials continue: *The famed Katharine Gibbs School, which from the 1910s to the 1960s, trained women for executive secretary positions . . . but surreptitiously was instilling the self-confidence and strategic know-how necessary for them to claim equality, power, and authority in the wider world. The iconic institution was in its heyday in the 1950 and '60s synonymous with supplying secretaries—always properly attired in heels, ladylike hats, and white gloves—to male executives. . . . While the school was getting women who could type 90 words per minute into the C-suite, its more subversive mission was to get them out of the secretarial pool to assume positions of power on the other side of the desk. And Gibbs graduates did just that, tackling the sexism of the era and paving the way for 21st-century women to succeed in any profession.*

Mary Putnam Jacobi and Katharine Gibbs 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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J189 | Greenwood Village, CO 80112 US

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