



Women On The Move and Making History

Beverly Mahone

Women on the Move and Making History

by Beverly Mahone

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“There is in every true woman's heart, a spark of heavenly fire, which lies dormant in the broad daylight of prosperity, but which kindles up and beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity.”

◆ American Writer Washington Irving (**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**)

We Are Women — Hear Us Roar

Throughout history women have demonstrated a burning passion for what they strongly believed in. Despite the many obstacles that were placed before them, they continued to persevere. As early as the 1800's, women were positioning themselves to be heard and to be treated equally. The first Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, NY on

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July 19, 1848. Susan B. Anthony and her fellow “Suffragettes” were the early pioneers for the Equal Rights Movement.

A century later, feminist **Betty Friedan** would carry on the torch for the movement as one of the founding members of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Betty was the author of **The Feminine Mystique**.

Although the debate continues even today whether women are truly considered “equals” to their male counterparts, there is no doubt that women have made tremendous strides throughout history.



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Women as Inventors

Are you old enough to remember the old wooden alphabet blocks that you used to play and learn with? Did you know they were created in 1882 by a woman named **Adeline Whitney**? Did you also know the school desk was invented by a woman? That's right. It was created in 1889 by **Anna Breaden**. I wonder if Anna and Adeline knew each other. Did they teach at the same little school house? If you find the answer, drop me an email.



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Women in the Arts

As a journalist, I can't imagine what it would have been like to do my job 100 years ago. But Fisk University graduate **Ida B. Wells-Barnett** didn't let oppression and segregation stop her from fulfilling her dream to be a journalist. This incredibly talented writer and free-thinker worked for a newspaper called the Memphis Free Speech. She eventually became a part owner until the office was destroyed by an angry mob upset over her article denouncing the lynching of three of her friends who were accused of raping three white women. Ms. Wells went on to become one of the original founders of the NAACP.

Two other African-American women have made notable firsts in the Arts: **Gwendolyn Brooks** was the first African-American woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize and **Rita Dove** served as the first African-American female Poet Laureate.

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Because music is a part of the Arts, I just had to share with you the fact that one of my all-time favorite songs is **Crazy** by **Patsy Cline**.



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Women in Politics

Frances Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland, was the youngest First Lady to ever live in the White House. She was just 21 years old when she married the 49-year-old Cleveland. If you would have asked me who the youngest First Lady was I would've gotten it wrong; I would have sworn the youngest First Lady was Jacqueline Kennedy.

The first, First Lady to hold the Bible at her husband's swearing-in ceremony was **Lady Bird Johnson**. That was only about 40 years ago. I believe the President-Elects were holding the Bibles themselves prior to that.



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Another interesting tidbit is the fact that **Mary Todd Lincoln**, the wife of President Abraham Lincoln, was declared **insane** after losing her husband and son within a few years of each other and was put away in an institution for a year.

There are currently **87 women representing the 110th Congress**. The only African-American woman to serve as a Senator was **Carole Mosley-Braun**.

California's Senior Senator **Dianne Feinstein** was also the **Mayor of San Francisco**.



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Women on the Move

Even though mothers have always been practicing as doctors on their own children, the first woman to actually be recognized as the first female physician was **Elizabeth Blackwell**.

Did you know Sally Ride was the first woman in space in **1983**? Mae Jemison became the first African-American to take a similar trip in **1992**.

And how about **Harriet Quimby** who became the first woman pilot to fly across the English Channel?



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Marian Wright Edleman was a successful lawyer and advocate who later went on to establish the **Children's Defense Fund**. If you've ever heard her speak, you know she is passionate about the cause of protecting children.

Another interesting tidbit I discovered while putting this eBook together is the fact that **Meg Whitman is the CEO of eBay**. But that makes sense to me the more I think about it. I mean only a woman could come up with a million and one things to sell all at one time. Men just aren't that creative.

Another prominent female CEO is **Cathy Hughes** who owns a conglomerate of radio stations known as **Radio One**.



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Other Interesting Facts

- ◆ There are 82 million mothers in the US
- ◆ There are 63 million married women and 55 million unmarried
- ◆ 26 million women 25 years and older have a bachelor's degree
- ◆ There are 203,000 women on active duty in the military (as of Sept. 05)
- ◆ 6.5 million women own businesses (as of 2002)

Were you aware that **10 women** have won the **Nobel Peace Prize** since the prize has been given out?





Conclusion

Yes, women have made quite an impact on the way our world is shaped today. We've come a long way, but there's still a lot of ground to cover.

I hope you enjoyed reading this **Women in History** eBook.

Peace & Blessings,
Beverly Mahone

Author, *Whatever! A Baby Boomer's Journey Into Middle Age*
<http://www.talk2bev.com>

“We are Strong...We are Invincible...We are Baby Boomers!”
Subscribe to the **Live to be Drama Free** newsletter today



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P.S. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Ginger Marks of DocUmeant, who took my manuscript and created this masterpiece. And I thank all of you who are striving to be drama-free for your continued support.

“A woman who is convinced that she deserves to accept only the best challenges herself to give the best. Then she is living phenomenally.”

◆ Maya Angelou



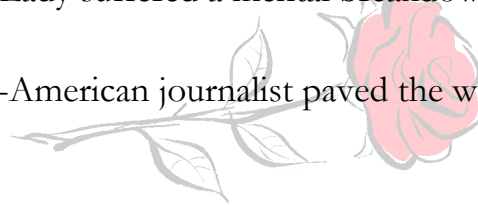
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Appendix

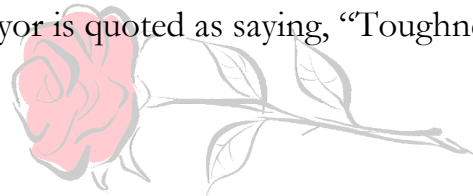
You've read the answers; now here are the questions

1. Name the woman who made learning our ABC's fun with her invention back in the 1800s.
2. What woman kept us "grounded" when we were in the classroom?
3. Who was the "youngest" First Lady?
4. Which former First Lady suffered a mental breakdown after her husband was murdered?
5. What noted African-American journalist paved the way for journalists like me?



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6. Who followed in Susan B. Anthony's steps when it came to Women's Rights & Equality?
7. Who was the first woman to be recognized as a physician?
8. Sally Ride was the first woman in space in 1982 — true or false?
9. Mae Jemison followed Dr. Ride into space in 1990 — true or false?
10. Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly across the English Channel — true or false?
11. Who was the first African-American woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize?
12. What was Rita Dove's claim to fame?
13. What former female Mayor is quoted as saying, "Toughness doesn't have to come in a pin stripe suit"?



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14. What did Marian Wright Edleman do for a living before devoting her life to the Children's Defense Fund, which she founded?
15. N.O.W. stands for what?
16. Who is the woman responsible for putting a conglomerate of radio stations together known as "Radio One?"
17. Who is the brains behind what could be considered the "largest shopping mall" online?
18. There are more unmarried women than married — true or false?
19. There are 87 women representing the 107th Congress — true or false?
20. Who held the Bible for present Lyndon B. Johnson during his swearing-in ceremony?



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21. Who sang a song about being insanely in love with her man (which happens to be one of my favorite songs)?
22. As of 2002, there were more than 10 million female-owned businesses earned \$939 billion dollars — true or false?
23. How many women over age 25 have a Bachelor's degree?
24. How many women have won The Nobel Peace Prize?
25. How many women on active duty in the military as of September 2005?



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Beverly Mahone

Beverly Mahone is a veteran journalist, author and motivational speaker who writes about issues affecting middle-aged women in her book, **Whatever! A Baby Boomer's Journey Into Middle Age**. In addition, Beverly is using her media expertise as a consultant to train individuals how to market themselves to radio, television and newspapers professionals. For more information on how you can become a part of this exciting and interactive class, go to: <http://www.talk2bev.yourtimetoshine.htm>

Beverly currently resides in North Carolina with her husband and teenage daughter. She describes herself as a “Babyboomer Diva on the Move” who has a passion for God and family. Her favorite Bible scriptures are Psalm 121 and Philippians 4-13 and her favorite poem is **The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost**.

