

A Cornucopia of Women:

Who do we thank for the following and for so much more? We Thank Women!

*A Thesaurus of Women From Cherry Blossoms To Cell Phones*

For: Developing imaging techniques of statistical analysis to measure social data and display it in proportional mathematical wedges (a pie chart) through which she revolutionized health care in the 1850s, we thank Florence Nightingale. Chapter Thirty-eight.

For: Inventing a machine in 1868 that folded paper in such a way that it became a flat-bottom bag, we thank Margaret Knight, the female Edison, holder of 87 U.S. patents. Knight was the first woman to appear before the U.S. Commissioner of Patents to successfully defend her invention that had been copied by a man who received its patent. Chapter Twenty-seven.

For: The civil engineering proficiency of the Brooklyn Bridge, we thank Emily Roebling. Albeit as a woman in the 1870s she worked under the guise of her invalid husband's official title: Rumor had it she was the brains behind the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. Chapter Twenty-seven.

For: The frozen and refrigerated food aisles in our stores and the refrigerators and freezers in our homes, we thank Mary Engle Pennington, a female bacteriological chemist in the late 1800s who developed cooling temperatures to keep food from bacterial growth and safe to eat. She initiated refrigerated railroad cars that preserve food from farm to store and designed the egg carton. Chapter Seventeen.

For: Being the first doctor, male or female, to study occupational health and safety in the new industrial era at the turn of the century and to initiate legislation for non-existing workplace regulations which subsequently developed into OSHA signed into law in 1970, we thank Dr. Alice Hamilton. Chapter Thirty.

For: Her 1905 proposal to plant cherry blossom trees in the swamplands of Washington, D.C. as an ecological and aesthetic improvement that grew into a breathtaking display of multi million cherry blossoms responsible for multi million tourism dollars that benefit the District, and established a bond with Japan, we thank Eliza Scidmore. Chapter One.

For: International Women's Day, a day begun in 1908 because nowhere in the world did women have equal opportunity with men, and now celebrated by every woman, every where, every year because nowhere in the world do women have equal opportunity with men, we thank Luise Zietz. Chapter Thirty-six.

For: Her initiation of a meeting in 1909 bringing together a representative of NYC's mayor's office and author/abolitionist William Walling to discuss racial justice which started the NAACP, we thank Mary White Ovington who saw to it that more than one

third of positions be held by women. Chapter Twenty-six.

For: Calculating star distances up to ten million light years away and discovering more than twenty-four hundred variable stars in 1912 that enabled others, i.e., Edwin Hubble, to further calculate and further discover, we thank astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. Chapter Twenty-four.

For: Championing the cause as the chief architect and chairwoman of FDR's committee to write legislation to secure old age benefits for Americans (Social Security/1935), we thank the first female Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, albeit there were demands for her resignation due to her gender. Chapter Thirty-one.

For: Publishing her extremely unwelcome and unpopular scientific data in the early 1940s along with her plea for a response to the dangers of chemical use on the environment which led to the extremely welcome and popular scientific environmental movement of the 21st century, we thank Rachel Carson. Chapter Forty-eight.

For: The frequency hopping technology she patented (U.S. 2,292,387) in 1942, which the U.S. used during the Cuban Missile Crisis three years after her patent expired, and which today is used in all wireless devices, i.e., your cell phone, we thank Hedy Lamarr. Chapter Fifty-two.

For: Testing World War II army aircraft for male pilot safety despite being denied military recognition, pay, uniforms, honors, even burials when killed in the line of duty, we thank the Women Airforce Service Pilots. Chapter Thirty-five.

For: Being the molecular biologist whose scientific superior DNA X-ray photograph in the early 1950s displayed evidence to form a double helix model, stolen by her three male lab partners who received the 1962 Nobel Prize without her for the double helix model, we thank Rosalind Franklin. Chapter Eight.

For: The APGAR score developed in 1953, the test now given immediately after birth to every baby born in every medical facility around the globe to identify any health risk and allow for immediate treatment, we thank Dr. Virginia Apgar. Chapter Two.

For: Mimeographing 52,000 flyers the night Rosa Parks was arrested in 1955 calling for a bus boycott in Montgomery, that thirteen months later resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision which declared racial segregation on public transportation unconstitutional, we thank Professor Jo Ann Robinson. Chapter Twenty-six.

For: Developing the first programming computer language in English (COBOL) in 1959 after having been told by computer savvy men of the time "computers didn't understand English," notwithstanding that computer language today is understood by men, women, and children, we thank Rear Admiral Dr. Grace Murray Hooper. Chapter Eight.

For: Co-authoring legislation in 1972 to end gender discrimination against females in federal educational programs and activities, that were being financed with tax dollars

from females as well as males, to fund federal educational programs and activities that discriminated against females but not males (Title IX), we thank U.S. Representative Patsy Mink. Chapter Nine.

Finally, not last but everlasting.

For: Relentlessly advocating from 1848 to 1920 (72 years) to “secure” their 1787 constitutional right to vote, a right denied to women citizens (for 133 years) by male citizens, we thank a myriad of relentless women from Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Susan B. Anthony to Alice Paul. Chapter Thirteen.

Source: “A Thesaurus Of Women From Cherry Blossoms To Cell Phones,” Barbara Joan Zeitz.