

HISTORY OF WOMEN IN TRANSPORTATION

From the early 1800's women have been making a difference in the way we travel.



Mary Riggin invented the railway crossing gate.

Eliza Murfey invented a lubricating system that reduced track derailments caused by seized axles and bearings.

Mary Walton, in 1879, developed an air purifying method that was later adapted for use on locomotives. She also invented a noise reduction system for the elevated trains being built in large U.S. cities, including her hometown, New York City.



Amelia Earhart, who piloted across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932, is undoubtedly the most famous woman in flight.

Harriet Quimby, outfitted in a purple satin flying suit of her own design, was the first woman pilot to cross the English Channel in a Bleriot monoplane, April 16th, 1912

Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman pilot, received her license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale. Bessie refused to perform at exhibition unless the audiences were desegregated and everyone that attended was allowed to use the same entrance.



Mary Anderson was granted a patent, in 1903, for her invention of a swinging arm-window cleaning device. By 1916, the windshield wipers became standard equipment on all American cars.

Florence Bridgwood, arguably the first "movie star", was not only a wildly popular silent film star, but also an avid inventor. By 1914 she had invented the first turn signal, called an auto signaling arm. She also invented a brake signal arm, a precursor to the modern day brake signal.

Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space.

Sally Ride was the first U.S. woman in space.

Mae Jemison was the first African-American woman in space.

Shannon Lucid set the U.S. record for continuous time in space.

Did you know...

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RECENT HISTORY

Beverly Cover

was the second women in history to earn a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology. On April 2nd, 1962, she was the first woman highway engineer to join the Bureau of Public Roads.

Elizabeth Dole

became the Secretary of Transportation on February 7th, 1983. Her main focus during her tenure was to improve the safety of transportation. In 1989 she was honored, with the National Safety Council's Distinguished Service to Safety Award, for her efforts to require auto manufacturers to install rear window brake lights, improve seat belts and include passenger air bags.

Carmen Turner

was named General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in 1983. She was the first African-American woman to lead a major transit agency. Under her watchful eye, Washington Metro was awarded the coveted Outstanding Achievement Award from the American Public Transit Association. One year later she was named Transit Manager of the Year.

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WOMAN AT WORK

Part 3 . Transportation