

Jedediah Smith

Jedediah Smith was one of the premier frontiersmen of his day. In his short life he **became the first white man to traverse Utah, Nevada, and parts of California**. He also helped find a new route over the continental divide to the western side of the Rocky Mountains through South Pass in Wyoming.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jedediah-Smith>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-jedediahsmith/>

Theodore Judah

Judah was a brilliant civil engineer who dreamed of **building a transcontinental railroad**. He worked tirelessly surveying a route for a railroad to connect California to the rest of the country. Judah convinced several Sacramento businessmen to invest in the Central Pacific Railroad.

<http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist4/practical.html>

<https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/65317/theodore-judah-railroad-pioneer-and-pathfinder/>

<http://www.donnersummithistoricalociety.org/pages/JudahLooppgs/MtJudah.html>

Junipero Serra

Junípero Serra y Ferrer O.F.M. was a Spanish Roman Catholic priest and missionary of the Franciscan Order. He is credited with establishing the Franciscan Missions in the Sierra Gorda, a UNESCO World

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Junipero-Serra>

<http://www.sfmuseum.net/bio/jserra.html>

Jim Bridger

James Felix "Jim" Bridger was an American mountain man, trapper, Army scout, and wilderness guide who explored and trapped in the Western United States in the first half of the 19th century. He was known as Old Gabe in his later years. he is believed to have been the first white man to visit (1824) Great Salt Lake and was among the first to explore the geysers and sights of the Yellowstone region.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jim-Bridger>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/jim-bridger-born>

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Mexican-American War began in 1846, due to territorial disputes over the southern border of the United States. In 1848, after two years of bloody fighting, Mexico City fell to the United States and the Mexicans were forced to sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The treaty established the Rio Grande as the southern border of the United States and ceded vast tracts of land to the United States, adding a total of 525,000 square miles to the country's territory. In exchange, the Mexican government received 15 million dollars. The Treaty helped establish the United States as the dominant power in North America, and defined national boundaries that still stand today.

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/guadalupe-hidalgo#documents>

<https://www.history.com/topics/mexican-american-war/treaty-of-guadalupe-hidalgo>

The Chinese Exclusion Act

The Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, imposed a moratorium on all immigration to the United States by Chinese laborers. The Act was passed in response to the economic fears of West Coast Americans, who blamed Chinese immigrants for declining wages and growing unemployment. The Chinese Exclusion Act continued to limit Chinese immigration to the United States until 1943, and set a precedent for the immigration restriction acts that would follow it, including the National Origins Act of 1929.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/chinese-exclusion-act-1882>

<https://openborders.info/chinese-exclusion-act-1882/>

Hedy Lamarr

Born in Vienna, Austria in 1913, Hedy Lamarr was at one point one of Hollywood's most glamorous and beautiful actresses. She was also one of the most important inventors of the twentieth century: her "spread spectrum" technology, initially conceived as a method of encoding messages to prevent interception from enemy forces, eventually went on to see many vital uses, up to and including providing a backbone for the development of cell phones and other forms of wireless communication. Her contributions to technology remained unknown, however, especially next to her status as a movie celebrity. Only in 1997, with the granting of two awards recognizing her contributions, was Hedy Lamarr finally recognized for the brilliant mind she possessed, proving that women could be much more than pretty faces.

<https://www.biography.com/actor/hedy-lamarr>

<https://invention.si.edu/movie-star-some-player-pianos-and-torpedoes>

Bridget “Biddy” Mason

A former slave, Mason became an entrepreneur, landowner, philanthropist and co-founder of First African Methodist Episcopal Church. After being granted freedom by a California court, Mason became a midwife and nurse thus becoming economically independent. Mason is remembered for her work with the poor and imprisoned, as she provided food and shelter to people of all races. Mason was also one of the first African American women to own land.

<https://www.aclunc.org/sites/goldchains/explore/biddy-mason.html>

<https://americacomesalive.com/bridget-biddy-mason-1818-1891-businesswoman-and-philanthropist/>

1980 Olympic Boycott

During the heat of the Cold War, United States President Jimmy Carter delivered an ultimatum to the Soviet Union; withdraw troops from Afghanistan or face the consequences, including a boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics which were to be held in just a few months in the Soviet Union. The Soviets didn't pull out their troops, and Carter stuck to his guns as well as called on US allies to boycott the games as well. Canada, Japan, and West Germany all fully boycotted the games, and other US allies including France, Australia, and the United Kingdom all sent much smaller delegations to the summer games. The Soviet Union retaliated by boycotting the 1984 Summer Olympics held in Los Angeles, California.

<https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/qfp/104481.htm>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/carter-announces-olympic-boycott>

Copyright Extension Act

Copyright is a legal right that lets creators stop others from “copying” their work. It is most often used for books, movies, and other art forms. The Copyright Extension Act happened in 1998. Before the act, 50-75 years after the original creator's death, anyone could use their work. After the act, work was protected for 95-120 years after the original creator's death. The act is sometimes called the “Micky Mouse Protection Act” since it extended Disney's copyright on Micky Mouse.

<https://www.copyright.gov/legislation/s505.pdf>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/print/20030120/26460-supreme-court-upholds-copyright-extension.html>

Dr. Elizabeth Follansbee

Follansbee was Southern California's first woman physician and helped found the Children's Hospital of San Francisco. After moving to Los Angeles, Follansbee became the first woman member of Los Angeles County Medical Association and taught pediatrics at the University of Southern California.

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/dictionaries-thesauruses-pictures-and-press-releases/follansbee-elizabeth-1839-1917>

<http://www.laalmanac.com/people/pe30ef.php>

Pony Express

The Pony Express was a way for packages and mail to be passed from the Eastern Continental states to California. It was used in 1860 and was the best form of communication before the transcontinental railroad. Before the transcontinental railroad it was the only means of communication that California had and was therefore important in facilitating communication.

<https://nationalponyexpress.org/>

<https://www.nps.gov/poex/index.htm>

Dolores Huerta

Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta is an American labor leader and civil rights activist who, with Cesar Chavez, is a co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, which later merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee to become the United Farm Workers

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/dolores-huerta>

<https://doloreshuerta.org/doloreshuerta/>

Mary Ellen Pleasant

Abolitionist Pleasant or "The Mother of Civil Rights in California" was born a slave in Georgia yet worked to bring enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad. Pleasant eventually moved to San Francisco where she passed as white in order to earn money that she used to fight discriminatory laws against former slaves. As a brilliant entrepreneur she used her fortune to obtain jobs and rights for African Americans giving her the nickname, "The Black City Hall."

<https://www.aclunc.org/sites/goldchains/explore/mary-ellen-pleasant.html>

<https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2013/01/mary-ellen-pleasant.html>

Elizabeth Blackwell

Elizabeth Blackwell and her family immigrated from England to the United States in 1832. Blackwell's true passion was medicine and in 1847 she began the process of applying to medical schools. Although many schools denied her acceptance, she was eventually admitted to Geneva Medical School in New York. During her time in medical school, Blackwell faced many obstacles like harassment from the male student body. However, Blackwell broke the gender barrier by becoming the first woman in the U.S. to graduate from medical school and becoming the first woman to officially practice medicine.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elizabeth-Blackwell>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/elizabeth-blackwell>

Dr. Murray E. Jarvik

Dr. Murray E. Jarvik, emeritus professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at UCLA and co-inventor of the nicotine patch. Partnered with Jed and Daniel Rose.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uN1EfEb-RA>

https://www.research.va.gov/research_in_action/Development-of-the-nicotine-patch-for-smoking-cessation.cfm

Levi Strauss

In 1852, Levi Strauss, an immigrant from Bavaria, opened a dry goods company in San Francisco at the height of the California Gold Rush. While he was working, he recognized a need among hardworking people: clothes built to endure anything. He and tailor Jacob Davis combined copper rivet reinforcements with tough denim, leading to the first manufactured waist overalls in 1873. Today, we call them "blue jeans."

<https://www.levistrauss.com/levis-history/>

<https://www.biography.com/fashion-designer/levi-strauss>

Steve Jobs

While at the helm of Apple, Jobs led the company in developing groundbreaking products, including the iPod, iPhone, and iPad. Jobs founded the NeXT computer company, which developed an operating system that Apple eventually acquired to boost its personal computers.

<https://www.biography.com/business-figure/steve-jobs>

<https://allaboutstevejobs.com/>

Billie Jean King

For more than 20 years, King dominated the world of tennis. As a player, she won 39 Grand Slam singles, doubles and mixed doubles tennis titles, including a record 20 titles at Wimbledon. In 1973, King defeated Bobby Riggs in the most talked-about tennis match in history.

<https://www.billiejeanking.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b8PLQJ3bCk>

Fred Korematsu

Fred T. Korematsu was a national civil rights hero. In 1942, at the age of 23, he refused to go to the government's incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. After he was

arrested and convicted of defying the government's order, he appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/fred-korematsu-fought-against-japanese-internment-supreme-court-and-lost-180961967/>

<https://korematsuinstitute.org/freds-story/>

Bloomer Girls

Disapproving scolds. Sexist condescension. Odd theories about the effect of exercise on reproductive organs. Though baseball began as a gender-neutral sport, girls and women of the nineteenth century faced many obstacles on their way to the diamond. Yet all-female nines took the field everywhere.

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/news/topics/bloomergirls.html>

<https://www.historycolorado.org/story/stuff-history/2018/05/26/bloomer-girls-baseball>

Anna May Wong

Wong Liu-tsong, known professionally as Anna May Wong, was an American actress, considered the first Chinese American Hollywood movie star, as well as the first Chinese-American actress to gain international recognition. Her varied career spanned silent film, sound film, television, stage, and radio.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/anna-may-wong>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rdjiMN_NSs

Ann Calvello

Ann Theresa Calvello was an American athlete and notable personality in the sport of roller derby. Ann Calvello graduated from Presentation High School in San Francisco in June 1947. Calvello competed in roller derby in seven decades, the 1940s through the 2000s.

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Ann-Calvello-the-flamboyant-villainess-of-2501749.php>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/17/sports/othersports/ann-calvello-76-a-legend-in-roller-derbys-rowdy-rinks.html>

Charles Richard Drew

Charles Richard Drew was an American surgeon and medical researcher. He researched in the field of blood transfusions, developing improved techniques for blood storage, and applied his expert knowledge to developing large-scale blood banks early in World War II.

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/african-americans-in-sciences/charles-richard-drew.html>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx_ZCp8_ibs

David Ho

David Da-i Ho is a Taiwanese-American AIDS researcher, physician, and virologist who has made a number of scientific contributions to the understanding and treatment of HIV infection.

<https://www.californiamuseum.org/inductee/david-d-ho-md>

https://www.pbs.org/becomingamerican/ap_pjourneys_bio3.html

Patti McGee

Patti McGee is a former professional skateboarder. She was the 1964 Women's first National Skateboard Champion, Santa Monica.

<http://www.skateboardingheritage.org/archive/skateboarding-heritage-hall-of-fame/patti-mcgee-skateboarder/>

https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1448124

Golden Gate Bridge

When it was built, the Golden Gate Bridge spanned 4,200 feet and staked its claim as the longest suspension bridge in the world. This is one of the most interesting facts about the Golden Gate Bridge because it held this record until 1964. That's over 25 years!

<https://www.goldengate.org/>

<https://www.presidio.gov/places/golden-gate-bridge>

Charlotte Parker

California stagecoach driver who lived as a man and became the first American woman to vote in a presidential election

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/parkhurst-charlotte-d-1879>

<https://westerntrips.blogspot.com/2011/09/most-famous-stagecoach.html>