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*Amias Thompson:
Settler*

by Sally Wilkins



An **Opening Portrait** illustration showcases the time period through the character's clothing, hairstyles, and accessories.

*A*mias Thompson stood by the table, listening. Miles Standish was telling her husband, David, about the trouble at the Plimoth, Massachusetts colony. Three ships had arrived bringing more **Puritan** families. For three years the Plimoth settlers had struggled. In England they had been town dwellers, not farmers. Now, there were more mouths to feed and not enough food. Could the Thompsons help?

Amias did not pity the Puritans. She had grown up in town, too. She had been a shopkeeper, selling herbs and ointments in an **apothecary** shop. The Thompsons had been in New Hampshire for only four months. They had built a sturdy log house and Amias had planted a garden as soon

Tidbits are high-interest additional facts about the featured woman.

TIDBITS

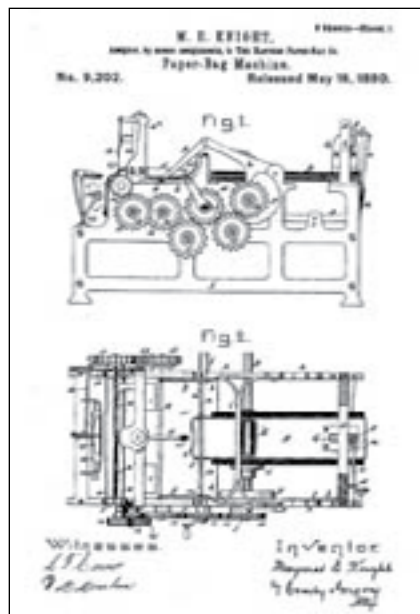
A plaque is on the Curry Cottage at 287 Hollis St. in Framingham recognizing her as the “first woman awarded a U.S. patent” and holder of 22 U.S. patents. However, Knight was not actually the first. The first female patent-holder was Mary Kies, who patented a weaving process in 1809.

After her death, Margaret’s picture hung in the U.S. Patent Office. She was the most famous woman inventor of her time. The picture has been lost.

Mattie was a natural-born thinker. She had her father’s tools and had learned to use them. Mattie thought up an invention that stopped shuttles from flying into people. Mill owners and workers loved it. In time, weaving machines all over the world included Mattie’s invention.

She never made a dime from that invention. That didn’t matter. She was happy to help. It didn’t stop her from inventing. During her 76 years of life, Mattie developed about ninety inventions. She received patents for 22 of them. Among Mattie’s inventions were a silent automobile motor, rotary engines, a window and sash, shoe manufacturing equipment, and improvements to the can-making machine.

Back in the courtroom, Mattie showed the judge her notebooks. They were filled with drawings, notes, and her thoughts about square-bottomed bags. The judge declared that Mattie had invented the machine. Charles Annan had not. She was granted a patent for it in 1871. New Hampshire’s Lady Edison proved that women are as smart—and inventive – as men.



This machine is one of the more than six dozen inventions by American-born inventor Margaret Knight.

Images directly related to the text reinforce student’s comprehension

A **Timeline** highlights the sequence of key events in each woman's life.

Timeline: Marian Nevins MacDowell

- 1857 ➤ November 22, Marian Griswold Nevins is born to David H. Nevins, a Wall Street banker, and his wife Cornelia L. Perkins, in New York, NY.
- 1865 ➤ Her mother dies in childbirth.
- 1880 ➤ Marian goes to Germany to study piano under Clara Schumann. She ends up studying under American Composer Edward MacDowell.
- 1884 ➤ July 21, Marian and Edward marry in Waterford, CT.
- 1896 ➤ Marian buys Hillcrest Farm, a summer home, in Peterborough, NH as a place for Edward to work undisturbed. Their main residence is in NY.
- 1904 ➤ Edward resigns as head of the Music Department at Columbia University. He becomes ill and his mind begins to fail.
- 1907 ➤ Marian transfers her deed to Hillcrest Farm to the newly formed Edward MacDowell Association, an artists' colony. The colony opens that summer.
- 1908 ➤ January 23, Edward dies. Marian resumes her career as a pianist and begins touring to raise funds for the colony.
- 1923 ➤ Marian is awarded a \$5,000 Annual Achievement award from Pictorial Review as the American woman who made the most valuable contribution to American life that year.
- 1930 ➤ She receives an honorary degree from the University of NH, Durham.
- 1938 ➤ A hurricane destroys much of the colony. For the next two years, Marian rebuilds.
She receives an honorary degree from NJ State College for Women.
- 1940 ➤ Marian receives the Pettee Medal from the University of NH for her valuable contributions to the state of New Hampshire.
- 1941 ➤ She receives the Henry Hadley medal for outstanding service to American music.
- 1952 ➤ August 15 is declared Marian MacDowell Day in Peterborough, NH.
- 1954 ➤ Hallmark Hall of Fame portrays her life story in *Lady in the Wings*.
➤ She is honored by the National Institute for Arts and Letters.
- 1956 ➤ August 23, Marian dies at age 98, at a friend's house in Los Angeles.

Students expand their research skills with the **Learn More About** section—a perfect vehicle to practice ELA standards

 Persis Foster Eames Albee

Learn More About Persis Albee and the Beauty Industry

- Krohn, Katherine E. *Madam C. J. Walker: Pioneer Business Woman*. Capstone Press, 2006.
- Lasky, Kathryn. *Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker*. Candlewick, 2003.
- Shuker, Nancy. *Elizabeth Arden (Giants of American Industry)*. Blackbirch Press, 2001.
- Epstein, Rachel. *Estee Lauder: Beauty Business Success (Book Report Biographies)*. Franklin Watts, 2000.
- Older, Jules. *Anita!: The Woman Behind the Body Shop*. Charlesbridge Publishing, 1998.

Website:

- The Historical Society of Cheshire County. Persis Foster Eames Albee: The First “Avon Lady.” by Vicki E. D. Flanders:
<http://www.hscsnh.org/educationhp/hp8.cfm>

Glossary

circumference – (sur KUHM fur uhns) The outer edge of a circle.

collectors – (kuhl LEK tuhrz) People who gather things together, such as dolls, coins, or stamps, as a hobby.

depot agents – Salespeople who sold goods door-to-door. They did not sell outside of the area in which they lived, and they usually lived in a town with a railroad depot.

guild – (GILD) A group or organization of people who do the same kind of work or have the same interests.

literary – (lit uhr AIR ee) Having to do with novels, plays, short stories, poems, and essays. A literary guild is a club that reads and discusses literature.

The **glossary** strengthens students' comprehension

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*Annalee Thorndike:
Doll Maker
and Businesswoman*

by Kathleen W. Deady



Annalee wondered what she and her husband would do. Their farm was failing, and they could no longer earn enough money to pay their bills. But what else could they do to for work?

Annalee thought about the dolls she made. She had sold them before to make money. She could return to making dolls again, but could she sell enough? Could she possibly even build her doll making into a real business?

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Barbara Annalee Davis was born in Concord, New Hampshire in 1915. As a child, Annalee loved to watch her mother sew. She also loved dolls, but did not play house with them. Instead, she and her mother made doll clothes together as a hobby.