Historical Nonfiction



Women of the Prairie State: 25 Illinois Women You Should Know

By Marty Darragh, Jo Pitkin and Others Illustrated by Lisa Greenleaf

RL 5.5 – ages 9 and up Interest level: grades 5 and above (136 pages)

These pioneers, torchbearers, and trendsetters of the Prairie State were everyday women who accomplished both personal and professional goals through their strength and determination.

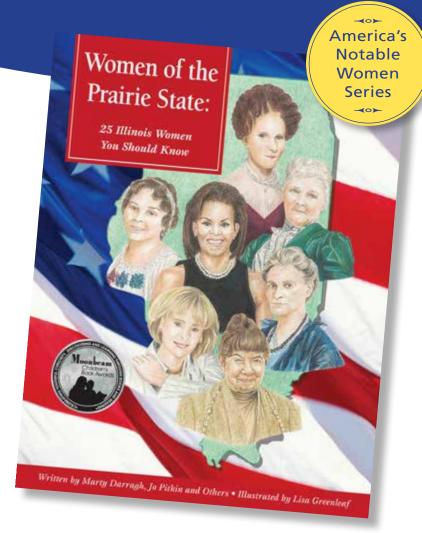
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Featuring 25 Illinois Women

Mary Ann Bickerdyke: Civil War Nurse
Willa Beatrice Brown: Pioneer AfricanAmerican Aviator

Jane Byrne: Chicago's First Woman Mayor

Mary Chase: Botanist

Loïe Fuller: Dance Artist

Aida Giachello: Hispanic Health

Advocate

Jennie Hodgers: Civil War Soldier Irene Hunt: Teacher, Writer, Newbery Medal Winner

Janet Jagan: First American-Born Woman to be President of a Nation

Mary Harris Jones: Fighter for Workers' Rights

Jackie Joyner-Kersee: World's Greatest Woman Athlete

Annie Turnbo Malone: Beauty-Products

Geraldine McCullough: Welded Metal Sculptor

Pioneer C. H. C. H. L. M. L. M. C. H. L. M

Michelle Obama: First Lady of the United States

Elizabeth P.W. Packard: Activist for the Mentally III

Jeanette Ridlon Piccard: Scientist and Priest

Florence Price: African-American Composer

Kathy Reichs: Bone Detective and Mystery Writer

Edith Spurlock Sampson: First African-American Delegate to the United

Hannah Solomon: Faith and Service

Mary Harris Thompson: Determined to Help

Christiana Holmes Tillson: Prairie Pioneer

Jennie Ward: A Beautiful Flyer

Ida B. Wells-Barnett: African-American Crusader for Justice

Willye B. White: Track and Field Olympian

Tidbits from the Women of the Prairie State: Illinois



"Mother" Mary Ann
Bickerdyke left her children
with friends to bring supplies
to Civil War soldiers. She
nursed soldiers during the war
and ran a boardinghouse for
them when the war ended.

Jennie Hodgers stowed away on a ship to America as a cabin boy. She earned more money working as a man than as a woman and enlisted in the Civil War as Albert Cashier.

Hannah Greenebaum
Solomon created the National
Council of Jewish Women
and held study circles to
teach women and help
people in need.

Loie Fuller created a new kind of dance movement using yards of swirling silk that would "glow" as she danced.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett helped start the NAACP and will have a monument built in her honor in Chicago.

Annie Turnbo Malone

started a beauty products empire that led to beauty salons being opened in the Caribbean, Africa, South America, and the Philippines.

Mary Chase became a worldwide expert on grasses with only a grammar school education. She travelled the world to study plants and grasses—even travelling by mule in Brazil to conduct her research.

Willye Brown became the first African American woman in the US to get a pilot's license passing her exam with a 96%. Later, she became the first African American woman to run for Congress.

Irene Hunt *Across Five Aprils* based on Civil War stories her grandfather told her.

Jane Byrne won the largest number of votes in Chicago history to become the first woman mayor of Chicago.

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Kathy Reichs is a bone detective who has written books and produced TV shows based on her work as a forensic anthropologist. She even has a skeleton named Jones Bones in her house.

Jackie Joyner Kersee

is named after Jacqueline Kennedy and has been called "the greatest female athlete of all time" for setting multiple world records in track and field.

Michelle Obama's

"Let's Move" campaign encourages kids to exercise and make better food choices. Kids from Washington D.C. schools helped plant a vegetable garden at the White House to encourage healthy food options.