

WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY HISTORY



ELIZABETH FULHAME
BORN ? DIED ?

The first person to describe catalytic processes in her only publication in 1794. She also stained cloth with light sensitive silver salts, later used in photography.



JANE MARCET
BORN 1769 DIED 1858

Published 'Conversations on Chemistry', the most popular 19th century chemistry textbook. A standard text in U.S. girls' schools, it also inspired Michael Faraday.



ANNA SUNDSTRÖM
BORN 1785 DIED 1871

Thought to have been the first woman chemist in Sweden. Worked with Jöns Jacob Berzelius, but her employment was forcibly ended when Berzelius married.



ANNA VOLKOVA
BORN ? DIED 1876

Claimed to have been the first woman to graduate as a chemist, in 1870. She was also the first woman to publish her own chemical research from a modern lab.



ELLEN SWALLOW RICHARDS
BORN 1842 DIED 1911

The first American woman to gain a chemistry degree. Her work led to the first water quality standards in America and the first modern sewage plant.



AGNES POCKELS
BORN 1862 DIED 1935

Had no education in chemistry, but carried out experiments in her kitchen on the surface tension of water. Now considered a pioneer of surface science.



LUCY EVEREST BOOLE
BORN 1862 DIED 1904

The first woman to research pharmacy in England, and the first woman to co-author a pharmaceutical research paper. Also the first female fellow of the RSC.



MARGARET SEWARD
BORN 1864 DIED 1929

Tutored, researched, and lectured in chemistry. Carried out vital work on food nutrition during the First World War, and was later awarded an MBE for her work.



ANNIE MALONE
BORN 1869 DIED 1957

Malone, a chemist and entrepreneur, developed hair care products for black women. Her success made her the first African-American woman millionaire.



EDITH HUMPHREY
BORN 1875 DIED 1977

The first British woman to obtain a PhD in chemistry. Carried out key research on inorganic complexes, but was forced out of a research career by sexist attitudes.



MAUD MENTEN
BORN 1879 DIED 1960

Carried out key research in biochemistry. In 1913, she co-devised the Michaelis-Menten equation for study of the rate of enzyme-catalysed reactions.



ELLEN GLEDITSCH
BORN 1879 DIED 1968

In her early career, Gleditsch worked under Marie Curie. She established the half-life of radium and contributed to the confirmation of the existence of isotopes.

