

**1999 *Write Women Back Into History*  
Essay Contest Winners**

**Iowa Commission on the Status of Women  
Iowa Department of Education  
State Historical Society of Iowa**

**6-7th Grade Judging Category: First Place**

**JESSIE FIELD SHAMBAUGH**

**by Greg Blair**

**Grade 6, Urbandale Middle School  
Sponsoring teacher: Kelly McNace**

The 4H Club is a large club for children that began in the United States. It started mostly for farm children to learn about farming and how to do things around the home. 4H didn't form all at once, but has developed according to the needs of people in various parts of the country and is the result of the work of many people. But the person who developed the idea of a club lived in Iowa and her name was Jessie Field Shambaugh.

Jessie Field was born in Shenandoah, Iowa on June 26, 1881. When she was a little girl she was always asking questions. Her father, Solomon Field, was proud of little Jessie for being interested in farm life. When Jessie grew up, she married Ira Shambaugh in 1917. They had a son, William, and a daughter, Phyllis Ruth. Jessie Field Shambaugh was born, raised, and educated in Iowa. She died in 1971 and is buried in Clarinda, Iowa.

After Jessie graduated from Shenandoah High School in 1899 she attended Western Normal College in Shenandoah. During her sophomore year in 1901, she was asked to be a teacher in a small country school called Goldenrod School in Page County, Iowa. She was thrilled with a chance to teach farm children but her excitement changed when she learned that her male students didn't know about dragging roads, judging livestock, and seed selection. The girls were just as bad as the boys. The girls didn't know how to sew or garden, and they did not know how to bake. It was at this time that Jessie took matters into her own hands.

Jessie formed a Boy's Corn Club to teach the boys how to be good farmers and a Girls Home Club to teach the girls homemaking skills. The club had a big response from the children and their parents who had been cautious at first. Jessie made their farm lives more exciting and they began to feel good about being raised on a farm.

Jessie quit teaching to go back to school at Tabor College for a Bachelor of Arts degree. After finishing college, she accepted a principal's job in Montana. She was later asked to return to Page County, Iowa, as a superintendent of 130 country schools. In her new job as a superintendent,

Jessie motivated her teachers to establish Boys Corn Clubs and Girls Home Clubs for the students. She organized and started competitions for the club member's projects and brought in professors from Iowa State University to help teach livestock and seed corn judging. The club grew and the students won many prizes in baking, sewing, and corn

and livestock judging. People from all over America came to Page County to watch her youth clubs.

As a way to reward the children's hard work and good results, Jessie made a three-leaf clover pin. Each leaf has a "H" on it for Head, Heart, and Hands. Later it became a four leaf clover with the four "H"s in 4H. The four "H"s are Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

After Jessie died, she was chosen to be in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1977. Every year the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame selects four women (living or dead) who have had a strong impact on Iowa and on Iowa women. Jessie Field Shambaugh was an outstanding woman who has helped to shape Iowa and many future leaders through her hard work with the children of Iowa and the 4H Club.

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**6-7th Grade Judging Category: Second Place**

**WRITE WOMEN BACK INTO HISTORY**

**by Autumn Huinker**

**Grade 6, Parnell Elementary**

**Sponsoring Teacher: Judy Lillis**

On a beautiful fall day in Iowa County you would more than likely see Maria Koschmeder doing what she loves to do the most—taking bus loads of school children on hiking trips in the woods. I am just one of the thousands of students that Maria Koschmeder has motivated to take an interest in the outdoors.

Maria Koschmeder is currently the naturalist for Iowa County. Prior to 1998, she also served as the naturalist for Poweshiek County. In 1997, she worked with 11,000 students (some students more than once) in Poweshiek and Iowa Counties to introduce them to plants, wildlife, and conservation issues where they live.

Maria was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As a child, she really liked to spend time outdoors. She attended high school in Forest City, Iowa, and loved biology class. She studied at Iowa State University and graduated with a biology degree. Her major was

in Fish and Wildlife. Maria always knew that she wanted to combine her interest in the environment with education, but Iowa State didn't have an environmental education program at that time. Maria said the following about her college education:

“I was ahead of my time. When I talked to my professors at ISU and told them that I wanted to work in environmental education and conservation, they said there wasn't a major like that.”

After graduating from Iowa State University, Maria knew that to be happy she had to combine her interest in the outdoors with her passion to share it with young children. Maria's career vision came true. Today she spends 90% of her time in the schools. Exposing students to another aspect of the outdoors, Maria tried to connect students to the outside and nature. “We spend too much time inside and watching TV,” explains Maria.

Some of Maria's accomplishments also include that she is married and has a family. Maria is married to Kent Koschmeder and has two children, a boy, Casey, and a girl, Jessica. Maria was able to come to Iowa County and try something brand new and make it work.

Maria contributes something very unique to our society. She provides a public service to students and adults. Maria puts it like this, “We need to get back outside and see what is going on in nature.”

When asked why she likes to work with young people, Maria explains, “I'm a kid at heart! I think like them. I know what they think and enjoy.” By working with young people, Maria has made a difference in society. She exposes students and adults to conservation issues.

Maria Koschmeder's legacy to Iowa students is an appreciation for outdoor education and conservation issues. Many students continue to enjoy outdoor education and now feel like this is a legitimate area of study.

Maria thinks that we are falling behind in the education of our students to appreciate all that the outdoors has to offer.

“In the olden days, teachers worked with students to identify trees, flowers, and wildlife. The students hunted, fished, and trapped. They had to be outside in the woods, prairies, and creeks. These skills are lost today. We need to bring this back. We are really separated from the natural world and a key thing is to make the connection again.”

Maria Koschmeder connected me to the outdoors with her fun way of teaching cool things about animals, plants, and how they connect. She made me realize that there is more to the world than meets the eye.

**6-7th Grade Judging Category: Third Place**  
**ISABELLE M. TRIPP**  
**by Emili Vondrak**

## **Grade 7, Kingsley-Pierson Middle School, Pierson Sponsoring Teacher: Valerie Sitzmann**

To have “self-control, self-reliance, and self-respect” was the basis of Isabelle Tripp’s teaching philosophy. For nearly sixty-five years Isabelle Tripp applied this expectation in her career as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in Northwest Iowa. Her other belief was that if you are going to accomplish something “the time to do it is now.”

Isabelle M. Tripp was born in Scott County, IA on January 19, 1869. Her parents, James and Isabelle Steele, both emigrated from Scotland. She completed her twelve years of education in LeMars, IA. At age sixteen, she started teaching in a rural school in Stanton Township.

In 1890 she left teaching and married H. C. Tripp, who served as the editor of the Kingsley paper and was also a published poet. The couple had two children, Lloyd and Helen. Isabelle returned to teach in Kingsley in 1895. She was an instructor for a while and later became the principal and superintendent for the school system. Isabelle had a great influence on her students. She demanded a lot of respect and she received that from her pupils. One example of her discipline occurred with my Great-grandpa Pete, Woodrow Wormley. When Woodrow was a freshman he was caught talking to another student, Errol Sternborg and Mrs. Tripp caught him. He put his hands in front of his face and she had asked him to take his hands away from his face “because it makes you look guilty.” It was also recorded that one of Isabelle’s students was May Hoover, sister of former President Herbert Hoover, whose aunt resided in Kingsley at the time.

As an active member in the community, Isabelle was one of the charter members of the Chapter GS P.E.O. One of the group goals was for higher educational opportunities for women. Isabelle was also a charter member of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) in the community. Temperance organizations were established to prohibit the sale and use of alcoholic beverages. Isabelle Tripp served as the President for Kingsley’s W.C.T.U. for a while.

Isabelle retired in 1937. She continued as a substitute teacher during those retired years. With some of her students, Isabelle kept correspondence for the rest of her life. On her 90th birthday she was presented with an oil portrait painted by Edward Knowles, one of her former students. The portrait still hangs in the Kingsley-Pierson High School Library.

One April 3, 1961, Isabelle Tripp died at the age of 92. She was buried in the Kingsley Cemetery.

I selected Isabelle Tripp for this essay, because she played an important role in the education of the Kingsley area. She was actively involved in the community and women’s education and privileges. She was a highly respected woman in Kingsley. Isabelle Tripp was also my great-great-great aunt, and she began five generations of teachers in my family.

After researching and discovering about Isabelle Tripp’s life and philosophies, I realized that I could apply her motto of “self-control, self-reliance, and self-respect” to my own life and my choices for the future. I believe that other people can learn a lot through her example and use these disciplines in their lives Isabelle M. Tripp is definitely a woman worth remembering in our Iowa history.

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**Best Essays on Women in Science and Engineering  
for 6-7th Grades:**

**First Place**

**A GREAT WOMAN IN HISTORY: THERESA HOLT, D.D.S.**

**by Malia Charleston**

**Grade 6, Fairfield Middle School**

**Sponsoring teacher: Jo Ann Justmann**

There are many great women in the world, but they are not always recognized. Dr. Theresa Holt is one of them.

Dr. Holt has been a professional, dedicated dentist for twelve years, and practices dentistry in her family-owned business called Holt Family Dental Care. She is a general dentist and does everything including crowns, bridges, dentures, fillings, and more.

Dr. Holt grew-up in Honolulu, Hawaii, along with two brothers, two sisters, and her parents. By high school she knew she wanted to be a dentist. Dr. Holt attended dental school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska for four years. She then became an understudy graduate student for three years. Her husband, Michael, is also a dentist. They have a daughter named Lauren.

Dr. Theresa Holt should be written into history because she has proven to be successful in a field dominated by men. Dr. Holt also works to make her patients feel better, and uses her friendly manner to comfort her clients during dental treatments. Dr. Holt volunteers her time by giving dental hygiene talks and demonstrations at local elementary schools. These presentations help children to learn how important dental hygiene is to their health, and also takes some fear away from their future visits to the dentist.

Dr. Holt is important to me because she is a great role model as a successful professional and also a dedicated wife and mother. Dr. Holt does such a good job on my teeth, it makes me proud to smile. She is also a friend as well as my dentist.

**Best Essays on Women in Science and Engineering**  
**for 6-7th Grades:**

**Second Place**

**AMELIA EARHART**

**by Paul Kaldahl**

**Grade 7, Spencer Middle School**

**Sponsoring teacher: Mick Ketchum**

Amelia Earhart was born on July 24, 1897, in Occasion, Kansas to Edwin and Amy Earhart. Seven years before Amelia's birth, her mother became the first woman to climb Pike's Peak. Amelia and her younger sister, Muriel, had a rough childhood. The family's struggle with money and an alcoholic father often caused setbacks in Amelia's flying career.

At age six, Amelia saw a plane for the first time in 1908 at the Iowa State Fair but wasn't impressed. Nine years later America joined World War I and Amelia became a volunteer nurse in Toronto. She told her mother, "I can't bear the thought of going back to school and being useless." Amelia saw some planes at a local show while in Toronto, and this time she liked them. She then moved to New York City to study medicine at Columbia University. Her parents were having troubles with their marriage so she left school once again and went to live with them.

Her parents rented part of their house in California to three boarders. One of them was Sam Chapman, a chemical engineer. Amelia and Sam seemed perfect for each other, but Amelia had other ideas. She didn't want to get married.

One day Amelia asked how much some flying lessons would cost. Her father booked a flight for her for the next day. Soon after the take-off she knew that she had to fly. Amelia booked herself for twelve hours of lessons. Her parents couldn't afford it so she got a job to pay for them herself. She searched for a female flight instructor and found one named Anita "Neta" Snook. Before Amelia became twenty-five, she bought herself a yellow Kinner Airster airplane that she named *Canary*. With this plane she set the women's altitude record in 1922 at 14,000 feet. Two weeks later the record was broken by Ruth Nichols. Amelia failed to regain the record before she had to sell the *Canary* because of her family's poor financial problems.

In 1927 Amelia was very interested in the news of Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic. She was then chosen to fly across the Atlantic Ocean with a male crew in the airplane *Friendship*. As captain, she would be in charge of the flight, even though someone else would be the actual pilot. In 1928 she accomplished the goal of crossing the Atlantic and became famous.

After many proposals, on February 7, 1931, Amelia Earhart married George Putnam. It could have been the marriage of the century, but they chose to keep it quiet. Amelia didn't even tell her mother and sister that she was engaged. Unlike her own parents, Amelia was very happily married.

One year later, Amelia became the first woman to cross the Atlantic in a solo flight. She set many more records and had a very successful career. Always wanting to try something new, Amelia went for the gold. She attempted to fly around the world with navigator Fred Noonan. They flew 22,000 miles in one month and had only 7,000 miles to go when their plane disappeared somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. After a vast search

covering 25,000 square miles the rescue team found nothing. Amelia's disappearance became one of the greatest mysteries of the 20th century.

I think Amelia Earhart is an important part of American History because she overcame many obstacles to achieve her personal goals. She was an independent thinker who always stood up for what she believed in, yet she was sensitive to others and liked helping other people.

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## **Grade 8-9th Grade Judging Category: First Place**

**"IT JUST STRIKES ME AS A MIRACLE!"**

**by Meghan Minner**

**Grade 8, Roland-Story Middle School, Roland**

**Nominating Teacher: Wade Nelson**

Being self-determined, hard-working, and confident through most of her life has made Dr. Paula Mahone who she is today: a heroine in the eyes of many and not only female role model but an African-American female role model, "thriving in a state where about 95% of population is white".

Mahone is the eldest of three girls. Her father, a captain of the Air Force, died in Vietnam when she was nine. Growing up in Youngstown, Ohio Mahone endured hard times with her family and school.

Mahone, the only black student in elementary school, knew she wanted to be a doctor. Her high school physics teacher discouraged her from taking physics. He said "nurses" do not need physics. Mahone wisely ignored his comment. She believes incidences like this made her better prepared for the future.

Mahone received her B.A. in biology from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. She received her Doctor of Medicine in 1987 from the Medical College of Ohio. In 1991 she completed her residency in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Emory University Hospitals in Atlanta, Georgia where she met her future husband, Ron, on a blind date. After completing a Maternal Fellowship at the University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital in New York, she became the Medical Director at Iowa Methodist Perinatal Center in 1993. As director, Mahone also researches the effect of cocaine on a fetus and assists minority teen-age girls whose babies she has delivered. She lives in Des Moines with her husband and son.

Occasionally, patients refused to be treated by Mahone. It is unclear whether it was because of her gender or race, or both. "I get angry, but to spend my time concentrating on that would just be paralyzing" says Mahone who uses past experience to control her emotions. One such experience was when she was in medical school with four black men. None finished. "Not because they weren't bright, but because they were angry", Mahone says. No Iowans have refused to be treated by her.

A classmate accused Mahone and affirmative action of keeping his best friend out of medical school. "This encounter only encouraged me to work harder and excel in

medical school. I wanted to strive for my personal best and prove him and others wrong.” Mahone did just that!

When she heard about the McCaughey septuplets her reaction was “You’re kidding!” Septuplets never had been delivered successfully alive before. As their perinatologist, Mahone warned them of the complications and what options they had. Bobbi McCaughey’s choices were selective reduction, abortion or to try and have all seven babies. Mahone says, “I’m born again. However, I’m pro-choice and think women should have all the options. Sometimes I have resolution about this and other times I question it.”

McCaughey delivered seven babies on November 19, 1997. She had less problems than most of Mahone’s other patients. “It just strikes me as a miracle!” remarks Mahone. “I have yet to find out why the septuplets made it when others didn’t.”

Now, Mahone’s opinion is asked when people “couldn’t have given two cents for it the day before.” This shows how important not only I, but others, think she is. Her message is clear: strive for excellence; your gender or race should not be an obstacle. Mahone has come a long way for not just a female, but for a human being. She has left her stamp on history by delivering the world’s first septuplets. Paula Mahone has earned her place here and will continue to be admired throughout history.

## **Grade 8-9th Grade Judging Category: Second Place**

**UNTITLED**

**by Portia Abernathy**

**Grade 8, Franklin Middle School, Cedar Rapids**

**Sponsoring teacher: Carroll Shogren**

Listen my children and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of.....Sybil Ludington?

Although this name is new to many, and does not rhyme as agreeably as Paul Revere’s, Sybil Ludington’s heroic midnight ride during the American Revolution had equal significance to his.

On the damp night of April 26, 1777 in Fredricksville, New York, Sybil’s father, Colonel Ludington was awoken by an American soldier.

“The British are burning Danbury!” he informed the Colonel. “We need you and your soldiers to defend the city!” Colonel Ludington was in a frenzy. He had no idea who could go and alert his soldiers.

“I must stay here and prepare. Who will alert and gather my solders?” he questioned.

“I will go, Father,” spoke his brave daughter Sybil. Colonel Ludington was bewildered, the thought of his 16-year-old daughter making the perilous journey to gather his soldiers made him quite nervous. “I have made the trip many times before with my horse Star, we know the way, I can do it,” she confidently informed him. Colonel Ludington was hesitant to approve the proposed solution, but knew that he could find no one else to complete the ride.



Sybil mounted her trusted horse, Star, and began her courageous journey. Sybil knew there could be British soldiers and spies lurking in the woods, but she bravely cantered on. She rode through town, village, and farm shouting boldly: “ The British are burning Danbury! Meet at Colonel Ludingtons!” The soldiers awoke to her exclamation and hurried to the Colonel’s house in Fredricksville.

Sybil rode over forty miles through the rain and forests. When she knew she had awakened all of the soldiers she returned home. Brave Sybil and her horse Star were greeted and cheered by the soldiers gathered in Fredricksville, before they left to defend Danbury.

Sybil’s dauntless act set her apart from most women of her time. She showed others what truly courageous and significant roles women could have. Her role, of equal stature to Paul Revere’s, helped the cause for freedom during the American Revolution. She was honored by many, and the town of Fredricksville was even renamed Ludington after her brave ride. Sybil’s midnight ride was recognized by the United States Post Office when an eight cent stamp was issued to commemorate the youthful heroine. Sybil was not only an American Revolution hero, but also a hero and role model to future women, who dare to put their stamp on history.

### **Grade 8-9th Grade Judging Category: Third Place**

#### **WRITE WOMEN BACK INTO HISTORY**

**by Ingrid Larson**

**Grade 8, Hoover Middle School, Sioux City**

**Sponsoring teacher: Carole Johnston**

When asked why she teachers, Amy Schnell said, “When considering a career there was never a doubt about what it would be. Teaching gives me a chance to share something I love with people I love to be around. The students give me energy and offer challenges that are exciting. And the best part is that every day is different.”

The woman I think should be written into history is Amy Schnell. The reason I think this is that she has made a big difference in my life and the lives of many other people.

To me, it’s hard to think of her as just a music teacher. She’s more like a friend.

When she took time off of school to have a baby, we all *really* missed her.

She’s really unbelievable when it comes to teaching. She makes it very interesting. For my next block class in school, I have music taught by Mrs. Schnell. I’m really excited. But normally, for any other class, I wouldn’t care very much.

Mrs. Schnell has cool ways of doing things too. She makes jokes to keep her students laughing. She also plays fun games with them and has “Mad Friday”, which is where her students get to bring a CD or tape of their choice--as long as it’s appropriate--and play a song for the class; then they all have to fill out a worksheet about it. So it’s educational as well as fun.

I’ve never heard Mrs. Schnell yell, but she does have a way of getting through to everyone. She has different ways of getting people’s attention that we all understand such as clapping her hands in a rhythm, then having the class repeat it.

If you took a survey at our school for the most popular teacher, I'd be willing to bet that she would win. I always hear people saying things like, "Mrs. Schnell is so cool!" and no one disagrees. Shanna Harms said, "I like Mrs. Schnell because it's cool to know your teacher on a personal level."

Mrs. Schnell has changed the way I feel about going to school. I actually look forward to it so I can talk to her. She acts just like one of my friends, and I can talk to her about anything. I've never been lucky enough to have a teacher like that. She loves all of her students, and they love her.

She always says "hi" to me, and once, when it was too cold to walk, she gave me a ride home. She goes out of her way to help people, and if they're sad, she'll do what she can to make them feel better. She never gets mad unless she has a very good reason to do so.

Each year Mrs. Schnell takes many hours out of her schedule to put on the school play. She makes rehearsals very fun and interesting, and still stays on task. The play always turns out wonderful. And I'm sure everyone agrees.

During lunch she walks around and talks to her students and fellow teachers. It's pretty much impossible not to like her.

She has a beautiful singing voice, and the CD she has out called Walk With the Life proves that.

I've never met someone as amazing as she is. She's a combination of great teaching, talent, and all the qualities of an awesome friend.

Mrs. Schnell has only taught at Hoover Middle School for two years, and already she has made a huge impact on everyone that goes there. I really hope she keeps teaching and gets the recognition she deserves for it.

**Best Essays on Women in Science and Engineering**  
**for 8-9th Grades:**  
**First Place**  
**UNTITLED**

**by Stacey Goodman**

**Grade 8, Lewis Central Middle School, Council Bluffs**  
**Sponsoring teacher: Colleen Wallenberg**

Clearing paths and leaving a wake for the 3,000 students that have passed through the doors of her Council Bluffs classroom in the past 20 years has been the goal of high school chemistry teacher Dr. Shannon C'deBaca. Dr. C'deBaca hopes that those students will use what she has taught them to go beyond their own limitations and become great.

Though education was not her first choice as a career, C'deBaca has used teaching to its fullest potential by inspiring and encouraging the young minds of America. Not only in her classroom has she touched the lives of young people, but also through her work with the National Standards Committee.

Dr. C'deBaca is the lone science teaching representative on the Standards Committee. With this title she is responsible for writing the science standards and collecting student data for publication in the Performance Standards book. This book sets

standards that all students throughout the nation should be able to accomplish at various age/grade levels. Dr. C'deBaca took examples of student work and evaluated them so that teachers would have a model of what expectations to have and how to evaluate their own student work.

Her work in various science areas has not gone unnoticed. She received the \$25,000 Miliken Award for Outstanding Teaching and was selected as the Council Bluffs Teacher of the Year. She then was chosen as runner up for the Iowa Teacher of the Year. She is active with Iowa Public Television and was honored for her use of audio visual in the classroom. One of her major awards was National Science Teacher of the Year.

Not only has she personally been recognized for her science involvement, but her programs have received national recognition. She developed a program called KidChem, where high school students go to elementary classrooms and teach younger students science concepts.

Her travels have led her to meet some interesting and influential people. Recently she visited Washington, D.C. and met with Hillary Clinton. Bill Nye (the science guy), Mr. Wizard, former governor Terry Branstad, author Judy Blume, Texas Representative Barbara Jordon, and Nobel Prize winner Glen Seaborg are also personalities she has visited with. Her best relationships she feels are formed at conferences where she works with other women in the science field.

Dr. C'deBaca has impacted our society through her teaching methods and her participation in organizations that promote excellence in education. She teaches students more than just what is in textbooks. It is through her caring, kindness, and encouragement that students learn to reach their full potential. They realize that whatever dream they may have, it is within their reach.

Dr. C'deBaca has done a great deal with her professional life to assist student learning, but it is what she does personally for each individual student on a daily basis that has left its real mark. Dr. C'deBaca has influenced me through her view of women and their roles in society. She continually pushes females to excel in math and science areas.

Through the years Dr. C'deBaca has always been there for me. She has helped me on projects, given me positive reinforcement, and just plain old advice. Her sense of humor has made even the impossible seem possible. I feel that Dr. C'deBaca is my mentor. She has overcome many battles both personally and professionally to achieve the status she has today. In my lifetime I hope that I can be a positive influence to people and have as great an outlook on life as she does. I feel privileged to have the official Dr. C'deBaca stamp of approval.

**Best Essays on Women in Science and Engineering**  
**for 8-9th Grades:**

**Second Place**

**UNTITLED**

**by Andrea L. Austin**

**8th grade, Tilford Middle School, Vinton**

**Sponsoring teacher: Jan Roth**

When most people think of Dr. Paula Mahone being written into history, they think of her participation in the delivery of the McCaughey septuplets. The other reasons she should be written into history haven't been in the limelight, but they're a combination of her past, her additional successes, and her contributions to society.

Dr. Mahone was born on August 12, 1958. She was the daughter of William and Norma Mahone. William Mahone was a captain in the United States Air Force. As a result, Dr. Mahone's family moved around the country numerous times until 1965, when Captain Mahone was ordered to go to Vietnam. Paula, her mother, and her two younger sisters moved back to their hometown of Youngstown, Ohio. In 1967 the Mahone family received word that Captain Mahone was killed in active duty. Her family decided to stay in Youngstown.

After high school, Dr. Mahone majored in biology at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. Throughout college she worked at the Gerontology Research Center, which is part of the National Institute of Health. After graduating from college, she continued to work there for two more years while she applied for medical school.

Dr. Mahone was accepted at the Medical College of Ohio. She developed an interest in women's health issues. She decided that obstetrics was the speciality she wanted to pursue. She enjoys the incorporation of primary care and surgery that obstetrics offers.

Dr. Mahone has received several awards and honors in the course of her schooling and career. She received The American Business Women's Scholarship that she used at the Medical College of Ohio from 1982-1987. She graduated from there with Psychiatry Honors. In 1990 she was awarded with The John D. Thompson Resident Research Award. From University of Rochester she received a Teaching Award in Obstetrics.

Dr. Mahone participated in the delivery of the McCaughey septuplets, which was the first successful delivery of seven live babies. She has used the media attention to speak out about controversial issues such as affirmative action and women in medicine. She has also been able to give others a more genuine image of the Midwest. Her clinic in Des Moines, Iowa, provides exceptional care to women. As a result, in 1998 Dr. Mahone received three national awards in recognition of the McCaughey delivery. She received the Scroll of Merit and Women in Medicine Award from the National Medical Association. The Black Women's Agenda, Inc., honored her with the Award of Excellence.

Medicine in itself is an extremely demanding field. As an African-American woman in this field, Dr. Mahone has had challenges to overcome. A few professors and doctors went out of their way to make a class or rotation difficult. Some patients have refused treatment from her solely based on the color of her skin.

Despite Dr. Mahone's busy schedule, she responded to my letter. Her answers were detailed, and she made it easy for me to get a hold of her again. I'm not the only young woman she has taken time to help. She informally mentors teenage girls whose babies she has delivered.

Dr. Mahone is important to me, because she has really given back to society by helping women. The true reason she should be written into history isn't for an award, or even the McCaughey delivery, but for her dedication and determination in the field of

medicine. In summary, Dr. Mahone continues not only to be a wonderful doctor, but a great role model.

**Edith Rose Murphy Sackett Award: First Place**  
**GLADYS BURKHEAD**  
**by Alex Munns**  
**Central Academy, Des Moines**  
**Sponsoring teacher: Jan Williams**

Gladys Burkhead should be in history not as a Martha Washington or Rosa Parks, but among the little people who help make this a better world. For without her and her aide, there would be many people without food, clothing, a job, or a friend. Gladys is a person who Iowa should include in their books of history, because of her work in the state. It is an honor that I might consider her a personal family friend.

Gladys Burkhead was born in 1906 in the small town of Prole, Iowa. She got her high school education and moved from that small farm community to another called Allerton. Gladys began teaching in 1936, and continued until she started to look for more. She moved to Des Moines to sell insurance. This may not seem like a job destined for greatness, but it gave her spare time to help the community. Gladys began to pay more attention to national situations in the 60s, and admired a great number of people, especially Rosa Parks. She decided to join the Church Women United. This group went to downtown business' and demanded the hiring of African Americans, pushed for better laws for women, and had an annual clothing drive for needy children in Africa. Gladys was right in the middle of all these activities, and spoke out against many things.

It was in Church Women United that Gladys had an idea. Gladys had lived in a neighborhood around Drake while in Des Moines, and neighborhoods had no political power. From the Church Women United Gladys saw what people could do if they worked together. So Gladys formed the Drake Neighborhood Association (DNA), almost totally by herself in 1979. She said that she wanted "to make people proud of where they lived," and she felt that an association would do just that. The DNA very quickly reached out to the community, by replacing screen-doors, painting houses, having block parties, and planting gardens. Once again, right in the middle of all the activities was the insurance saleswoman, Gladys. Under her guidance, the DNA created the Kingman Boulevard gardens, the Daffodil gardens and park at Wittmer Park, annual parties for the inhabitants of the Drake Neighborhood, and much more. On Gladys' spare time she and her sister babysat children, which is when I became in contact with her, and every Valentine's Day she sent valentines to inmates at the Women's Corrections Facility in Mitchellville.

Not only did the DNA make the Drake Neighborhood a better place to live, it also helped launch organization members to higher things. Former members are now Preston Daniels, mayor of Des Moines, who Gladys encouraged to join politics because he "had lots of personality," Diane Munns, who is a lawyer argued before the Supreme Court, and Ed Fallon, now a State Legislator

Gladys is important to me and to history for basically the same reasons: she helped us grow. She helped me grow as an individual and the city grow as a community. Without her, Drake would be without an association, houses would be without screen doors and paint, street boulevards would be without flowers, Wittmer Park would be without daffodils that grow so abundantly in the spring, Des Moines would be without a great mayor, Iowa would have lost a state representative, the people would have lost a voice to speak for them, and many children would be without a loving sitter and mentor. Wittmer Park has a memorial honoring Gladys, it's about time history had one too.

## **Edith Rose Murphy Sackett Award: Second Place**

**ANNIE WITTENMYER**

**by Meredith McKean**

**Grade 8, Armstrong-Ringsted Middle School, Ringsted**

**Sponsoring teaching: Lori Meyer**

Annie Wittenmyer is an unheard of name to many, but yet she did so many helpful things that changed lives.

When she visited a soldier's hospital during the Civil War to see her brother, she was horrified by the food that they offered the soldiers to eat. It was unhealthy and provided no nutrition. Annie assigned two women to each kitchen at the camp hospitals. The women's job was to make sure that the men got food that they needed. She became the Union's superintendent in the kitchens. Her diet kitchens became a permanent requirement at army hospitals.

Annie was always involved with the war in one way or another. Before she changed the kitchen's environment, she helped mend the wounded soldiers. She was an Iowa Sanitary Agent, traveling to army camps to make sure they met the standards. As part of the Keokuk Soldiers' Aid Society, she often found herself working during battles.

Along with being much help to soldiers, she also reached out to children, especially soldiers' children. She started a school for poor children where they didn't have to pay. While serving on the Board of Trustees of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home Association, she played an important part by starting and managing facilities throughout Iowa. She started the Cedar Falls Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home because of her love for children. It was later renamed the Iowa State Normal School and eventually, University of Northern Iowa.

She gathered together the women who sang and prayed outside of saloons to embarrass the men who drank there. With them, Annie Wittenmyer started the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). She became its first president. WCTU was the largest of any other older suffrage association. When she left her home state of Iowa, she became the first National Chaplain of the National Women's Relief Corps. She was also their president years later.

I believe that Annie Wittenmyer should be put back into history for many reasons. For one, she volunteered for so many organizations. When she saw a need for the orphans of the Civil War soldiers, she did something about it. She never stood back and watched; she was always helping. If Annie Wittenmyer was living in modern times, she would be a

great role model. Few people volunteer instinctively. The people that do volunteer are told to. Annie did out of her heart and her will. No one told her to start orphanages. When she started the orphanages and schools, she got the benefits of helping someone else and not herself. She didn't have any kids that would be going to those schools. They were kids she didn't even know before.

She has been recognized by some organizations such as with a statue at UNI and the City of Davenport purchased the orphanage she founded and renamed it the Annie Wittenmyer Branch and Bookmobile (at the library).

Many of the people that are in the news today are bad influences on kids. The news is packed with bank robberies, school shootings, and run ins with the law. Annie Wittenmyer did good deeds. She helped other people even if she didn't know them or disagreed with their ideas. Unlike many of today's leaders, she is remembered as a nice and kind person, with nothing in her past that would make her ashamed. If America wants a more thoughtful, kind youth, they should encourage them to be more like Annie.

It might be tough because information on Annie isn't found in easily-accessible reference materials. Yet, a man who started a way has two pages in a reference material, but Annie who was not involved with fighting, but helped many people isn't even mentioned. For the importance of a more kind and helpful society, I think Annie Turner Wittenmyer should be written back into history.

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