-WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH-

WOMEN HISTORY MAKERS OF ARKANSAS
AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS SCAVENGER HUNT

Using the advanced search option on the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* (EOA)
www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net, answer these questions about ten notable Arkansan women who made history by being the first in these categories.

1. Who was the first woman on the Arkansas Supreme Court? Name the governor who appointed her and list the year of the appointment.

2. Who was the first African American to attend and graduate from the University of Arkansas Medical School? What year did she graduate?

3. Who was the first woman in the United States to head a multi-million-dollar firm? Name the firm.

4. Who was the first Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) officer from Arkansas? What was her age when she joined WAAC?

5. Who was the only woman to ever own, manage, and start her own professional basketball team? What was the team’s name?

6. What famous American aviator was the first and only pilot to hold the women’s altitude, solo endurance, and speed records simultaneously? In what year did she receive her pilot’s license?

7. Who was Arkansas’s first woman to be a published cartographer? What is the title of her first published map?

8. Who was the first Miss Arkansas to be crowned Miss America? Who was the second to do this?

9. Who was the first woman elected as a United States senator? What nickname did she earn by her behavior in the Senate?

10. Who was the first Arkansas woman to be included in *Authors and Writers Who’s Who*? What was the title of her first book?
Answer Key with EOA text and media entry links for further research:

1. **Elsijane Trimble Roy (1916–2007);** Governor David Pryor appointed her in 1975. She was Arkansas’s first woman circuit judge, the first woman on the Arkansas Supreme Court, the first woman appointed to an Arkansas federal judgeship, the first woman federal judge in the Eighth Circuit, and the first Arkansas woman to follow her father as a federal judge. 
   [Image of Elsijane Trimble Roy] 
   EOA entry; EOA image

2. **Edith Irby Jones (1927–);** She graduated in 1952. She was the first African American to attend and to graduate from the University of Arkansas Medical School, now the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), in Little Rock (Pulaski County). Not only was she a pioneer in the desegregation of higher education in Arkansas and the South, but she also has served as a highly successful doctor, educator, and philanthropist in Arkansas, Texas, and overseas. 
   [Image of Edith Irby Jones] 
   EOA entry; EOA image; AV/AR clip about Edith Irby Jones

3. **Dorothy Shaver (1893–1959);** Lord & Taylor is the name of the firm. 
   [Image of Dorothy Shaver] 
   She was the first woman in the United States to head a multi-million-dollar firm. After she became president of the prestigious New York City Fifth Avenue firm of Lord & Taylor in 1945, she was credited with much of the company’s success. A trailblazer and a trend setter in her time, her legacy continues today. 
   EOA entry; EOA image

4. **Margaret Heller Himstedt Letzig (1898–1982);** She was 43 when she joined the WAAC. 
   [Image of Margaret Heller Himstedt Letzig] 
   She was the first Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) officer from Arkansas during World War II. She served from 1942 to 1945, achieving the rank of first lieutenant. 
   EOA entry; EOA image
5. **Hazel Leona Walker (1914–1990);** Arkansas Travelers was the name of the team. Recognized as the greatest amateur women's basketball player of the 1930s and 1940s, eleven-time Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) All-American Hazel Walker was the only woman ever to own, manage, and star for her own professional basketball team. For sixteen seasons, from 1949 to 1965, Hazel Walker's Arkansas Travelers barnstormed the country playing only men's teams under men's rules and winning eighty to eighty-five percent of their games.

EOA entry; EOA image

6. **Louise McPhetridge Thaden (1905–1979);** Thaden received her pilot's license in 1928. She was an aviation pioneer and holder of numerous flight records during the late 1920s and 1930s. At one point, she was the most famous female American aviator, with the exception only of Amelia Earhart.

EOA entry; EOA image; EOA image - Thaden's pilot license

7. **Frances Lillian (F. L.) Blaisdell (1884–1924);** Her first published map was *Blaisdell's Wall Map of Little Rock, Argenta and Pulaski Heights.* Blaisdell was Arkansas’s first published woman cartographer and one of the first woman map makers in the nation. Her maps and her atlas of Arkansas were widely distributed. (No photo available.)

EOA entry; EOA Gallery of Maps

8. **Donna Axum Whitworth (1942–);** The second Arkansan to win the Miss America title was Elizabeth Ward. Whitworth was the first Miss Arkansas to win the title of Miss America. She retained the distinction from 1964 until 1982 of being the only Miss Arkansas crowned Miss America; Elizabeth Ward was crowned in 1982.

EOA entry; EOA image
9. **Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway (1878–1950);** Her nickname was Silent Hattie. Caraway was the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, the first woman to preside over the Senate, the first to chair a Senate committee, and the first to preside over a Senate hearing. She served from 1932 to 1945 and was a strong supporter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic recovery legislation during the Great Depression.

EOA entry; EOA image; EOA image – Caraway’s appointment certificate

10. **Bernie Babcock (1868–1962);** *The Daughter of the Republican* was the title of her first book.

   In 1903, she became the first Arkansas woman to be included in *Authors and Writers Who’s Who*. She published more than forty novels, as well as numerous tracts and newspaper and magazine articles. She founded the Museum of Natural History in Little Rock (Pulaski County), was a founding member of the Arkansas Historical Society, and was the first president of the Arkansas branch of the National League of American Pen Women.

EOA entry; EOA image; AV/AR search results for Bernie Babcock