Inspirational stories of successful women

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**Charlotte Marie Baldwin Allen**

Charlotte Allen, considered by many as the mother of Houston. She was born on July 14, 1805, at a small town called Baldwinsville and died on August 3rd, 1895 at the age of ninety. Charlotte's dad ran a port business; hence she knew all the tactics and strategies of the business. After his death, he left two thousand dollars for Charlotte which back then was a huge amount of money. In 1836, Charlotte gave the money to her husband Augustus Allen, and he bought eight thousand five hundred acres land of Texas with his brother John Kirby Allen. The mosquito bite killed John Kirby which arose a fight between Charlotte and her husband. Charlotte did not agree with her husband on the division of Kirby's land hence they both got separated. As it was Charlotte's money used to buy Texas land thus, the court gave all the property to her.

After the separation, Charlotte lived in Houston for another forty-five years. Charlotte donated the famous Market square of the Houston. She started her own business, and in 1838 she introduced her own cattle brand. Eventually, Charlotte ran a slaughterhouse as a part of her cattle operation. She sold many properties, and she also sold the land for the famous Rice hotel. Even the name Houston was her idea to name it after Sam Houston who was the hero of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Charlotte Allen was the real founder of Houston. She was a leader to Houston and achieved many goals in the time when women were given few rights and minimum opportunities to excel. Every founding and flourishing of the city is somehow related to Charlotte Allen. Her achievements and accomplishments are of a great deal in the history of Houston[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Gertrude Bell**

Gertrude Bell was an archaeologist, British writer, political officer, and mainly known for her work in the establishment of Iraq after World War I. She was born on July 14, 1868, in Durham, England. She majored in history from Oxford and started her career as a writer, traveler, and archaeologist. In 1892, she took a trip to Tehran, Iran which initiated her interest in the Middle East and it also started her writing career.

In 1894, she wrote Safar Nameh, and her traveling around the globe showed the British audience their distant parts of the empire. The work of Bell which was published during the preceding of World War I was Poems from the Divan of Hafiz (1897), The Desert and the Sown (1907), The Thousand and One Churches (1909) and Amurath to Amurath (1911). Her books were highly appreciated and frequently read by the people. In World War I she joined the British intelligence unit known as Arab Bureau in Cairo, Egypt. There she tried to make alliances with Arab tribes by collaborating with British traveler T. E. Lawrence. She started her political career when British forces captured Baghdad in 1917. She helped colonial authorities to install ruler Faisal I as monarch of Iraq. As Bell shined in Arabic and Persian languages hence she assisted British diplomats and local rulers in the development of stable government infrastructure. She was the only woman present in the Conference at Cairo in 1921. In this conference, Winston Churchill determined the boundaries of the Iraqi state.

Bell funded and strived very hard to construct the archaeological museum so that the government could retain the antiquities rather sending them to European centers for learning. Her efforts pay off, and the National Museum of Iraq came into existence. Bell died in Baghdad on July 12, 1926. She was the inspiration for the women of that time, and her literature is still used as the reference in the 21st century[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Hatshepsut**

Hatshepsut was the most prolonged reigning female Pharaoh in Egypt. She ruled for twenty years in the fifteen century B.C. She was born in circa, 1508 B.C. She was considered the most successful Pharaoh of all. She started her reign in 1478 B.C. Under her supervision, Egypt prospered and excelled in trading and as well as in retaining the ancient buildings. Unlike other rulers, Hatshepsut showed her interest more in economic development and in the construction and restoration of monuments throughout Egypt and Nubia other than conquering new lands.

Hatshepsut built the temple Djeser-djeseru which means a place which is holiest of holy of all. This building was dedicated to Ammon who was considered as a god for the Egyptian, and they used to worship him. This temple is regarded as one of the architectural wonders of ancient Egypt. Hatshepsut also showed great achievements in trading. She sent a trade-mission to Punt to re-establish the commercial link which was destroyed years ago. She helped Egypt to bring back the raw materials and plants like myrrh tree, and they were considered to be the first trees transplanted successfully. Her trade got so successful that ships full of gold, ivory and myrrh trees used to come back from Punt. The trading policies of Hatshepsut massively increased the wealth and economy of Egypt.

The queen died in 1458 B.C. She was the third women who became Pharaoh in the Egyptian history of three thousand years. She was the first queen who attained the full power of her position. Her achievements and accomplishments are very rare and unique in Egyptian history[[3]](#footnote-3).

References

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3. Hawass, Zahi A., and Sahar Saleem. *Scanning the Pharaohs: CT Imaging of the New Kingdom Royal Mummies*. Oxford University Press, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)