

Celebrating Achievers

*Behind every successful woman are
all the women who came before her*

A Quiz on New Brunswick Women's History

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Read *"We, the undersigned: A Historical Overview of N.B. Women's History, 1784-1984"*, published by the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women 1985 (available through the Advisory Council or consult your local public library).

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S HISTORY AND STATUS

Answers are provided at the end.

- 1) Name the activist writer who wrote on the lives and aspirations of Acadian women and used the pseudonym "Marichette", c. 1895.
- 2) Grace Annie Lockhart was the first woman in the British Commonwealth to graduate from a university. Name the year and the university.
- 3) The Women's Enfranchisement Association was one of the first feminist groups in New Brunswick and the only group to work solely on what issue?
- 4) Name the first Canadian-born novelist whose work was published in Canada.
- 5) Name the internationally acclaimed opera singer, originally from Shédiac, New Brunswick.
- 6) Name the N.B. woman, brought here as a slave, who in 1800 asked the Supreme Court of New Brunswick to free her.
- 7) Name the first female Speaker of the Senate.
- 8) Mary Matilda Winslow was the first Black woman to graduate from a N.B. university. Name the year and the university.
- 9) Who was the first woman to attempt to run in a federal election in N.B.?
- 10) The first woman to run in a provincial election in N.B. attempted it in Newcastle in 1935. What was her name?
- 11) Who was the first N.B. woman elected in a federal riding?
- 12) The first N.B. woman to win in a provincial election was elected in Riverview in 1967. What was her name?
- 13) Name the first woman appointed as a judge in N.B.
- 14) What was the name of the first female lawyer accepted to the N.B. bar?
- 15) Name the first woman to graduate from a teacher training school in N.B.
- 16) Edna Steel was the first woman elected to municipal office in N.B. Name the year and the municipality.
- 17) Name the first woman elected to an Indian Band Council in N.B.
- 18) Marion Upton was the first woman elected mayor of a municipality in N.B. Name the year and the municipality.

- 19) Name the first woman elected Chief of a Band in N.B.
- 20) In 1978, the first female President of a political party in N.B. was elected. What is her name?
- 21) Name the first female leader of a political party in N.B., elected in 1981.
- 22) Name the first woman elected mayor of a major N.B. city.
- 23) Name the first francophone N.B. woman to earn a university degree, St. Francis Xavier University in 1923.
- 24) Name the first (and only) female executioner in N.B., 1795.
- 25) Name the first francophone N.B. woman to be admitted to the N.B. Bar, 1953.
- 26) Bernadette Zigante was the first female police officer in N.B. Name the year and the city.
- 27) What is Sandra Lovelace noted for?
- 28) Who was New Brunswick's first female engineer, and in what year did she graduate?
- 29) What New Brunswick woman was the first female licensed sea captain in North America?
- 30) What accomplishment established Dr. Elizabeth C. Secord as the "first" in New Brunswick?
- 31) Who was the first woman to receive an honorary degree from a university in New Brunswick, and for what achievement?
- 32) In 1889, women first petitioned the N.B. Legislative Assembly to get the right to vote. In what year were women successful in winning the right to vote in provincial elections? In what year did women get the right to run as candidates?
- 33) In 1998, N.B. women who worked full-time or part-time earned 82% of what men earned, when earnings were compared as hourly pay. How much do women earn now?
 - 87%
 - 82%
 - 79%
 - 100%
- 34) Women who have a university degree and work full time earn ___% of what men with a university degree earn?
 - 97%
 - 75%
 - 69%
- 35) Who won the first Olympic medal while representing New Brunswick and in what year?
- 36) When is International Women's Day?
 - January 1
 - March 8
 - October 17
- 37) Until _____, the New Brunswick government did not employ married women.
 - 1889
 - 1923
 - 1967
 - 1985

- 38) Our system of justice is based on the accused's right to be judged by their peers. When were women allowed to serve on juries in New Brunswick?
- 1917
 - 1972
 - 1995
- 39) In what year was the first female plumber licensed in New Brunswick?
- 40) New Brunswick had a minimum wage for women and a higher one for men until:
- 1917
 - 1944
 - 1965
 - 1985
- 41) Men who work full-time in a managerial position in N.B. earn \$51,726 per year on average. How much do women in managerial jobs earn on average?
- \$50,128
 - \$42,670
 - \$29,365
- 42) Women represent ___ % of all elected members of the N.B. Legislative Assembly in 2002.
- 5%
 - 18%
 - 34%
 - 50%
- 43) Until _____, a man had to sign before his wife could have certain hospital procedures; he could sue for compensation someone who had enticed his wife to leave him or who had sheltered his runaway wife or who had injured her and caused him the loss of her domestic services; he could choose the family's residence and the wife had to follow or else risk being considered a deserting wife. The wife did not have the same privileges.
- 1985
 - 1965
 - 1939
- 44) When the problem of battered women was raised in the House of Commons in _____, there was a ripple of laughter and joking by Members of Parliament.
- 1890
 - 1960
 - 1982
- 45) Since the creation of the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick, in 1913, how many judges have been women?
- 1
 - 2
 - 17

ANSWERS

SCORE YOURSELF

Number of correct answers:

- 0 to 15** **You have a lot of interesting reading to do.**
- 15 to 30** **You appreciate how far women have come and how far we have to go.**
- 30 to 45** **Your grandmothers would be proud.**

1. Born in Memramcook in 1863, Emilie LeBlanc Carrier taught school for a number of years in Nova Scotia before returning to New Brunswick with her husband. Between 1895 and 1898, using the pseudonym “Marichette”, she wrote a series of letters on women’s issues to the French-language newspaper, *L’Évangéline*. The first of these letters championed women’s right to vote, claiming that women were “aching with the desire” to get into the polling booths. This is believed to be the first and last suffrage (i.e., the right to vote in political elections) letter by an Acadian woman to appear in a major Acadian newspaper. Marichette’s claim was certainly justified, as during this time, suffrage petitions containing over 10,000 names had been gathered in New Brunswick. But many social leaders, politicians and newspaper editors opposed women’s enfranchisement. It was many years later, on April 15, 1919, that the New Brunswick legislature granted all New Brunswick women the right to vote in provincial elections.
2. In 1875, Grace Annie Lockhart completed her Bachelor of Science and English Literature degree at Mount Allison College (later Mount Allison University) in Sackville, N.B., the first woman in the British Commonwealth to graduate from a university. At the time, there was an intense debate about whether women should be allowed to attend universities at all and whether women were capable of working as professionals. Many could not see the benefits of higher education for women, fearing that university educated women would turn away from their “natural” role as wives and mothers. By the late 19th century, however, women were accepted into Anglophone university programs throughout the province.
3. The Women’s Enfranchisement Association (WEA), founded in Saint John in 1894, worked for 25 years towards obtaining the right to vote for New Brunswick women in provincial elections. It was the only N.B. women’s group devoted exclusively to women’s suffrage, and the only separate suffrage association known to have existed in the Maritimes and Newfoundland before World War I. The WEA attempted to cooperate with other women’s organizations on the suffrage cause, but ideological differences stood in the way of a united front with prominent groups like the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the Saint John Local Council of Women before World War I. The WEA pursued its own political agenda for some years at the turn of the 20th century, focusing on the political theories of collectivism and practical socialism, as well as certain women’s rights issues such as equal pay for equal work.

4. Julia Beckwith Hart was born in Fredericton in 1796, the daughter of a Loyalist father and a French mother. She wrote her first novel, a tale of romance and adventure (*St. Ursula's Convent, or the Nun of Canada*), when she was just 17, although it was only published anonymously some ten years later in 1824. It is the earliest recorded novel written by a Canadian-born author and published in book form in what is now Canada. Julia wrote a second novel and contributed to literary magazines after marrying and while raising six children in Kingston, Upper Canada (Ontario), Rochester, New York and finally Fredericton.
5. Born in Shédiac in 1902, Anna Malenfant became one of the most famous Acadian performers. Growing up in a musical family, Anna displayed an exceptional talent for music during her early childhood. She studied both piano and singing, and at age 15, gave her first public performance before an English audience. Following this highly acclaimed debut, Anna studied music for a year at the Boston Conservatory, then went to Paris and worked with some of the finest instructors of the time. After working in radio in the United States, she returned to Canada and continued singing in stage and radio productions. Anna also composed many songs under the name of Marie Lebrun. In her later years, she opened a music school in Montreal.
6. In 1785, a slave woman known simply as Nancy was brought from Maryland to New Brunswick by her owner. In the late 18th century, popular sentiment in Britain, New England and British North America increasingly favoured the abolition of slavery. However, some of New Brunswick's social leaders, including some Supreme Court judges, still owned slaves. Nancy pled her case for freedom before the Supreme Court of N.B. in 1800, represented by two lawyers who volunteered their services. Nancy's lawyers argued that since slavery was not recognized or legalized in New Brunswick, she must be freed. Because of a deadlock ruling among the four judges, Nancy remained a slave. However, one of the judges who was a slave owner himself subsequently released all of his slaves.
7. Muriel McQueen Fergusson was born in Shédiac in 1899. Following her graduation from Mount Allison University in 1921, she studied law at Dalhousie University. Muriel was admitted to the Bar in 1925, after articling in her father's office. She was appointed Judge of Probate in Grand Falls in 1935. Following the death of her husband in 1942, she took over his practice. In 1947, Muriel became the first Regional Director of Family Allowances in N.B., a position she had to fight for when men only were invited to apply. She also went on to become the director of the Old Age Security programs in N.B. She was the first woman elected to the Fredericton City Council in 1951 and the first female deputy mayor of the city in 1953. Appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1953, Muriel became the Senate's first female Speaker in 1972. Muriel retired from the Senate in 1975 and lived an active life for another 22 years.
8. The first Black woman to attend a university in New Brunswick, Mary Matilda Winslow of Woodstock, entered the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in 1901. She graduated in 1905 with a Bachelor of Arts, and the Montgomery Campbell Prize for excellence in classics. Like Arthur Richardson, the first Black man to graduate from UNB in 1886, Mary Matilda was unable to get a teaching position in New Brunswick. She went on to teach in Halifax, but eventually moved to the United States. She married there and became a music teacher and sometime dean of the Normal Department at Central College in Alabama.

9. Minnie Bell Sharp was born in Woodstock in 1865. An accomplished pianist and singer, she ran the Woodstock School of Music for many years, and followed in her father's footsteps as a horticulturalist in the family orchards and nurseries. Minnie also operated a conservatory of music in Victoria, B.C. in the 1890's. She was the first New Brunswick woman to file nomination papers to run in a federal election, entering the 1919 race for the Victoria-Carleton riding. However, her name did not appear on the ballot. She suspected that her nomination papers were lost on purpose. She ran again for that federal seat in 1925, but was not elected.

10. Born in Newcastle in 1888, Frances Fish earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Brunswick and a doctorate of philosophy from Chicago University. Although she taught high school for a time, she had always wanted to be a lawyer, so completed a law degree in 1918 at Dalhousie Law School in Halifax, the first woman to do so. Frances was also the first woman admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar. She worked in a Halifax law firm before returning to Newcastle to establish her own law practice. She ran unsuccessfully in the 1935 provincial election in Newcastle, the first woman to seek election to the N.B. Legislature. Frances went on to be appointed deputy magistrate for the County of Northumberland in 1947, the first woman to hold such a position in the province.

11. In 1964, Margaret Rideout entered Parliament after successfully winning a by-election in the riding of Westmorland (now Moncton), following the death of her husband, Liberal MP Sherwood Rideout. She was the first N.B. woman elected in a federal election. Reelected in 1965, Margaret sat as an MP until her electoral defeat in 1968. During her time in office, she rose to be Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. When she returned to Moncton, she was appointed a judge of the Federal Citizenship Court, a role in which she delighted.

12. In 1967, Brenda Robertson became the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. In 1970, this home economist from Riverview became the first woman appointed to the New Brunswick Cabinet. She served first as Minister of Youth, and later as Minister of Social Welfare, Minister of Social Services, Minister of Health, and Minister of Social Program Reform. She remained a Progressive Conservative MLA until her appointment to the Senate in 1984.

13. In 1935, Muriel McQueen Fergusson, who had been admitted to the bar 10 years earlier, was appointed Judge of Probate in Grand Falls. She was the first woman to hold a judgeship in New Brunswick. It would be another 50 years before another female judge was appointed: In 1985, Patricia L. Cumming was named Provincial Court judge.

14. Mabel Penery French, who had graduated in 1905 from the University of King's College Law School in Saint John, was refused admittance to the bar by the N.B. Barrister's Society. The Society asked for the opinion of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick on whether a woman was a "person", for only "persons" could be admitted to the bar. Five of the Supreme Court judges ruled that Mabel French was not a person, while one abstained. The judges held strong views on the proper place of women in society. Justice Tuck, for example, declared that he had "no sympathy with the opinion that women should in all branches of life come in competition with men. Better let them attend to their own legitimate business." But French was ultimately successful. In March 1906, just four months after the ruling, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick passed a law that allowed women to study law and to be admitted to the bar. Mabel French was admitted to the bar a month later, becoming the first female lawyer accepted to the N.B. bar. Her case foreshadowed the famous Canadian Persons Case, involving the appeal by five women from western Canada in 1929 to the British Privy Council for a decision on whether women were "persons" and therefore eligible for appointment to the Senate.

15. The first woman to graduate from a teacher training course in N.B. was Martha Hamm Lewis in 1849. The Headmaster of the Saint John Training School initially refused her admission on the “grounds of custom and expediency”. She appealed the decision to Lieutenant Governor Edmund W. Head and he issued an Order-in-Council requiring her admission. The Headmaster complied with the order but applied strict conditions. Martha was to wear a veil, arrive 10 minutes before class began, sit at the back of the class, leave five minutes before it ended and speak to no one. In spite of these restrictions, she successfully completed the program. By 1856, there were almost twice as many female students as male students at the school.
16. In 1948, Edna Steel became the first woman elected to a municipal office when she was elected to the Saint John City Council. She served as city councillor and deputy mayor until 1950. Commenting on Edna’s election in 1948, a local wit remarked: “Saint John is not only built on solid rock, but its City Council is re-enforced with Steel.” Edna was also the first woman elected to the city’s Board of School Trustees, serving as a member from 1938 to 1957.
17. Irene Bernard, born in Tobique in 1901, became the first woman elected to an Indian Band Council in New Brunswick in 1951. Aboriginal women across Canada had been granted the right to vote in band elections and to hold office on band councils when the federal *Indian Act* was amended in 1951. Irene served from 1951 to 1953 on the band council of the Tobique Reserve.
18. Marion Upton, a life-long resident of the coal-mining town of Minto, became New Brunswick’s first female mayor in 1967. She defeated her male opponent by a vote of 528 to 364. An office manager who had been out working for pay for nearly 50 years, she noted that “there was only one candidate and I didn’t feel anyone should go in by acclamation.” She felt “it might be an incentive for other women to go out in the municipal field” and hoped that she wouldn’t be the last female mayor in the province.
19. Agnes Sanipass was elected chief of the Bouctouche Band in 1967. She remained Chief until 1981.
20. In 1978, Gail Walsh, a social worker from Dalhousie, became the first female president of a political party in New Brunswick when she was elected President of the New Democratic Party.
21. Louise Blanchard became the first female leader of a political party in New Brunswick when she was elected Leader of the Parti acadien in 1981. Born in Caraquet, Louise trained as an arts teacher in Moncton and Paris. She had an early introduction to social and political activism. Her mother, Mathilda Blanchard, a union organizer, was the first New Brunswick woman to run for the leadership of a provincial party, the Progressive Conservative Party of N.B., in 1967.
22. Elsie (Fairweather) Wayne, was born in Shédiac N.B., and moved to Saint John at an early age. She was first elected to the Saint John Common Council in 1977 and served two three-year terms as councillor before successfully running for mayor in 1983. She was the first female mayor of the city, as well as the first female mayor of a major New Brunswick city. She was re-elected in the 1986, 1989, and 1992 civic elections, making her the first mayor to be elected for four consecutive terms.

23. In 1923, Marguerite Michaud became the first francophone woman from New Brunswick to earn a B.A. when she graduated from Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Francophone women would have to wait until 1943 before they were to have a place in a university degree-granting program in their own language in New Brunswick. The first francophone degree-granting institution in New Brunswick, the Collège Saint-Joseph, had been founded in Memramcook in 1864 but it, like most of the other Church-run classical colleges founded later, did not admit women.
24. Moll Griff. Her only known hanging is the execution of a King's County man found guilty of murdering his wife in 1795. The following year, Moll Griff was imprisoned for burglary. We know little about the circumstances of this woman's life. "Moll", a nickname for Mary, was a slang term of the era for prostitute. It was not uncommon during this period when two or more individuals were sentenced to hang for one to be pardoned on condition that he or she hang the others. This might explain why Moll Griff was only responsible for one execution.
25. Camille Elizabeth Robichaud was the first francophone woman to be admitted to the N.B. Bar. She graduated from the U.N.B. Law School in 1953, and was admitted to the N.B. Bar that same year. She was later made a Queen's Counsel.
26. In 1962, Bernadette Zigante became New Brunswick's first female police officer (rank constable) in Saint John. Born in Waterloo, Quebec, Bernadette had been a recruiting office in the airforce since 1956. It was not until the early 1970s that other New Brunswick cities hired female constables, although over the years women had worked as police matrons.
27. Sandra Lovelace is a Maliseet woman from the Tobique Reserve in northwestern New Brunswick who petitioned the United Nations in 1977 and instigated the abolition of a discriminatory clause in the *Indian Act*. This clause, dating back to 1869, stripped aboriginal women of their Indian status if they married non-aboriginal men. This meant that the aboriginal woman who married a non-Indian (and her children) no longer had the right to live on her home reserve, to inherit family property, to vote in band elections, or to benefit from community or government services and programs offered to status Indians. She could not regain Indian status, even if she separated or divorced her non-Indian husband, or became a widow. An Indian man who married a non-Indian woman did not lose these rights. In fact, he conferred Indian status upon his non-Indian wife. Sandra's struggle was supported by other aboriginal women and attracted much public attention. In 1981, the UN Human Rights Committee ruled in her favour. The federal government finally removed the discriminatory clause from the *Indian Act* in 1985.
28. Helen Baxter was born in Herbert, Saskatchewan in 1925. She completed her early schooling in Nova Scotia, graduated from Fredericton High School in 1942 and completed her civil engineering studies at the University of New Brunswick in 1947. In 1950, she became the female professional engineer in New Brunswick, receiving her membership in the Association of Professional Engineers of New Brunswick.
29. Molly Kool was born in Alma, on the Bay of Fundy, in 1916. She began her career as first mate on her father's scow, learning to do everything from repairing the engine and setting the sails to sewing canvas. She also studied navigation. On April 19, 1939 she received a telegram from the navigation school at Yarmouth, N.S. stating that she had passed the exam for her master's ticket, entitling her to command a steam or motor propelled vessel anywhere on the coast of North America. She became the first registered female sea captain in North America, and the second in the world. The first was a Russian, who received her certificate just months before Molly.

30. Dr. Elizabeth C. Secord was the first duly qualified and registered practicing female physician in New Brunswick, and among the first in Canada. She taught school in Norton, New Brunswick, as a young woman, but when left a widow in early middle age she decided to train as a doctor. Canadian medical schools were closed to women until the 1880s, so Elizabeth went to the U.S., earning her medical degree from Keokuk College in Michigan in 1881. She registered in New Brunswick in 1883 and practiced in rural communities in the province.
31. Katherine MacNaughton, born in 1901 at Black River Bridge, N.B., was the first female scholar/teacher to be awarded an honorary doctorate degree at UNB in 1953. She was honoured because of her influential study, submitted for her Master's degree in history, "The Development of the Theory and Practice of Education in New Brunswick, 1784-1900". The study became a textbook of the history of public education in New Brunswick.
32. In 1919, N.B. women were finally able to vote in provincial elections. However, women were not allowed to run as candidates in provincial elections until 1934. All the other provinces (except Quebec where women were not granted political rights until 1940) had adopted legislation that simultaneously granted women the vote and the right to hold office.
33. Women working full-time or part-time in N.B. in 2001 earned on average 79% of what men earned as hourly pay. Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review*, 2001.
34. In 1999, women who have a university degree and work full time all year earned 69% of what men with a university degree earned. Source: Statistics Canada, *Income Trends in Canada, 1980-1999*.
35. In the 1996 Olympic games, held in Atlanta, Georgia, Marianne Limpert of Fredericton brought home a silver medal, New Brunswick's first Olympic medal.
36. International Women's Day is held on March 8, a date chosen by the United Nations in 1977. On March 8, 1857, female workers in the garment industry in New York went on strike for better working conditions.
37. 1967. Women who married while they were employed by the provincial government lost their jobs; some married women could be hired as casuals but not as permanent employees. Women had to be separated or divorced or married to an unemployable man before they could be considered for permanent employment. This was a common practice among employers. Note that men who married often received a bonus from their employer.
38. Women were finally given the same responsibilities as men on juries in 1972, thanks to the efforts of Muriel McQueen Fergusson of Fredericton who began lobbying on the issue in the early 1950s.
39. In 2001, Heather Steele of Oromocto became the first female licensed plumber in New Brunswick.
40. In 1965, the minimum wage in New Brunswick was finally standardized for female and male workers.

41. Men who worked full time in a managerial position in N.B. in 1999 earned \$51,726 per year on average, while women earn \$29,365 on average. Source: Statistics Canada, *Income Trends in Canada, 1980-1999*.
42. Women in 2002 represent 18% of all elected members of the N.B. Legislative Assembly. Source: Advisory Council on the Status of Women, *Report Card on the Status of Women 2002*, chart 24, p.16.
43. It was 1985 when women were no longer bound by these rules. The proclamation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms required provincial laws to be revised to remove such blatantly discriminatory provisions.
44. 1982. In the early 1980s, the Parliament of Canada had established an all-party committee to address the problem of domestic violence and shelters. On May 12, 1982, Margaret Mitchell, NDP Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, rose in the House of Commons to ask the minister responsible for the Status of Women why there were not more shelters for battered women. She began by noting that the parliamentary report tabled in the House the day before stated that one in ten women was beaten by their husband. The mostly male House did not take the statement seriously and a ripple of laughter was heard from all sides of the House. One MP declared "I don't beat my wife." Women across the country were angry, prompting an apology from the House to Canadian women. See House of Commons Debates, p. 17334.
45. The first woman to be appointed to the Court of Appeal of N.B. was Margaret Larlee, in 1998. She is still the only female judge on the federally appointed Court of Appeal, the highest court in the province. Eight of the 26 judges on the Court of Queen's Bench are women, for a total of 9 federally appointed female judges out of 35 on the two courts, or 26%. Four female judges sit on the 28-member Provincial Court (14%). Women currently represent approximately 20% of the practicing N.B. lawyers who have 10 years or more experience and who are eligible for appointment as judges. Source: Advisory Council on the Status of Women, *Report Card on the Status of Women 2002*, chart 27, p.17.