

Elizabeth Blackwell:

First Woman Doctor

Heidi Schoof



PACIFIC
LEARNING

© 2004 **Pacific Learning**

© 2004 Written by **Heidi Schoof**

Edited by **Rebecca McEwen**

Designed by **Anna-Maria Crum**

Photography: Schlesinger Library (cover, pp. 1, 5, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31); Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine – Drexel University of Medicine (p. 6); Getty Editorial (p. 9); National Library of Medicine (pp. 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 27).

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

08 07 06 05 04

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published by

Pacific Learning

P.O. Box 2723

Huntington Beach, CA 92647-0723

www.pacificlearning.com

ISBN: 1-59055-363-2

PL-7312

Printed in China.

Contents

	page
Introduction	4
Chapter 1: Journey to America	6
Chapter 2: Career Choice	8
Chapter 3: Medical School	12
Chapter 4: A New Doctor	16
Chapter 5: A Hospital for Women	19
Chapter 6: The Doors Are Open	27
Story Background	30
Index	32
Glossary	32

Introduction

“I have never been as sure of anything in my life. I want to help the sick. I know I can because I am as good as any man.”

– Elizabeth Blackwell

With these words, Elizabeth Blackwell changed the field of medicine forever by becoming the first licensed woman doctor in the world.

Elizabeth was a true **pioneer**. She was smart, fearless, and full of energy. Besides opening the way for women to practice medicine, she also was a leader in teaching **preventive medicine**. Her ideas about **hygiene**, fresh air, and diet set the stage for modern public health programs and social work.



Elizabeth Blackwell

Elizabeth Blackwell knew that women were naturally good at taking care of people. She also knew that most women had special gifts of both healing and understanding.

Elizabeth didn't set out to be the first woman doctor. She just wanted to make it easier for other women to follow their dreams.

CHAPTER

1

Journey to America



Elizabeth Blackwell, age twelve

Elizabeth Blackwell was born in Bristol, England, on February 3, 1821. She was the third of Samuel and Hannah Blackwell's nine children.