OLLI @ University of Illinois Fall 2021 Semester

Women and Medicine

Session 2: September 20, 2021

Blocking Women from Medical Schools

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Inferiority Argument
Menstruation Argument
Modesty Argument
Intelligence Argument

WHY WOMEN SHOULD NOT STUDY MEDICINE

Inferiority Argument (1)

False claims regarding the social superiority of the male sex have been amply propagated:

- It is often said as an axiom that men are socially superior because they are naturally superior.
- Male supremacy is not a social phenomenon at a particular stage of history, but an immutable natural law.
- Men are endowed by nature with superior physical and mental attributes.

Inferiority Argument (2)

Women are naturally sickly and frail.

 Darwin reasoned that males are more evolutionarily advanced than females.

 In a trial, the court reasoned: it is obvious that a man can understand the subject of medicine better than a woman because of his gender.

Inferiority Argument (3)

- Darwin's contemporary anthropologists said that women's brains were like those of animals because they had overdeveloped sense organs to the detriment of the brain.
- Carl Vogt, a University of Geneva natural history professor argued that children, females and senile whites all had the intellect and nature of a grown-up Negro.
- George Romanes concluded that evolution caused females to become increasingly less cerebral and more emotional.
- Romanes wrote books and articles that influenced a whole generation of biologists.

Supporters of the Inferiority of Women

- Herbert Spencer
- Charles Darwin
- S. Weir Mitchell
- Henry Maudsley
- Francis E. Anstie
- Nathan Allen
- T. W. Fisher
- W. R. Greg
- Rev R. Todd
- And many others

Menstruation Argument (1)

- Edward H. Clarke, Harvard professor argued in 1873 that any exertion, including study, during menstruation was dangerous.
- His 1875 book: Sex in Education; or, A Fair Chance for Girls, reinforced the widespread belief that women were biologically incapable of participating in politics, medicine, or intellectual life.
- He said that the strain of higher education was too much for a woman to handle, especially if she was on her period.
- If a woman were to power through the ordeal of going to college, the effort could make her infertile!



Menstruation Argument (2)

- Articles published in medical journals argued that women's menstrual cycles made them unfit for scientific pursuits.
- If women went through the stress of learning, blood supply to their reproductive organs would decrease and harm their development.
- Menstruation depletes the brain of blood flow, so women should not be in situations that demand the brain to work harder.

Modesty Argument

 It is immodest and disgraceful for women to talk about the human body.

 The presence of women during anatomy classes produces discomfort in male students and professors and restricts learning.

Male bodies should not be seen by female students.

Intelligence Argument (1)

- By nature, women are less intelligent than men.
- Their skull is smaller with a decreased brain size.
- Broca collected the most information on size of the brains of women vs. men.
- He concluded that "the relatively small size of the female brain depends in part upon her physical inferiority and in part upon her intellectual inferiority".

Intelligence Argument (2)

Gustave Le Bon (1895)

- Even in the most intelligent races, many women's brains are closer in size to those of gorillas than to the most developed male brains.
- This inferiority causes them to excel in fickleness, incapacity to reason, inconsistency, and absence of thought and logic.
- Women represent the most inferior forms of human evolution and are closer to children and savages than to an adult, civilized man.
- There may exist some distinguished women, very superior to the average man but they are an exception and we may neglect them entirely.

Concepcion Arenal Ponte

"A serious mistake, and one of the most harmful, is to impress upon woman that her sole mission is to be wife and mother; it amounts to tell her that she can be nothing by herself and to annihilate her moral and intellectual self."

WOMEN BLOCKED FROM ENTERING MEDICAL SCHOOL

JACQUELINE FELICE de ALMANIA

Jacqueline Felice de Almania (1)

(Jacoba Felicie)

- Born in Florence (?) in the late 13th Century, referred to herself as nobilis mulier domina Jacoba, suggesting that she was of a high social class.
- In Paris, in November 1322, Jacqueline Felice was accused by the Medical Faculty of Paris of practicing medicine without a license.
- This trial exposed :
 - An insider view into the Parisian medical marketplace,
 - The perception of women's roles within that marketplace,
 - The university's power to affect medical culture.
- Her accusers said that she visited several patients, examined them, and claimed to cure them, despite being warned against practicing without a license.

Jacqueline Felice de Almania (2)

- The Archbishop expressed concerns that practicing without a license could result in the mortal sin of murder, which was punishable by excommunication.
- Her accusers claimed that preventing her from practicing was in the interest of her soul.
- Her defense presented 8 witnesses who attested to her experience and skill in curing them.
- They had previously received unsuccessful treatments from well-known licensed physicians.

Jacqueline Felice de Almania (3)

- The prosecution's case was based upon the absence of formal training at a university, but no effort was made to test her knowledge of medicine.
- The court reasoned that it was obvious that a man could understand the subject of medicine better than a woman because of his gender.
- This decision essentially banned women from studying medicine and obtaining licenses in France until the 19th-century.

Jacqueline Felice de Almania (4)

- At the end of the trial, she was found guilty and punished with excommunication.
- She was banned from practicing medicine, and was fined 60 Parisian livres (pounds of silver).
- Historians know that traditional healers continued to cure when academically-trained physicians could not.
- The population of Paris was bigger than the licensed physicians could accommodate, so the likelihood of Felicie staying in business was high.

Jacqueline Felice de Almania (4)

- Physicians felt offended because she used techniques practiced by licensed physicians :
 - Visiting the ill.
 - Examining urine by its physical appearance.
 - Touching the body & limbs of patients, men and women.
 - Feeling the pulse.
 - Prescribing potions, digestives, and laxatives.
- She believed in "women's secrets": only a woman should look at other women's private parts, breasts, belly etc., to keep men from knowing about "women's business".
- She had a policy of not charging a fee unless there was a cure following the treatment.

Jacqueline Felice de Almania (5)

 So, what were the motivations of the Medical Faculty of the University of Paris?

 Was the health of Parisians their main concern, or was this an attempt to reduce the competition to university-trained physicians?

- In early 14th century Paris, traditional healers, were the predominant practitioners.
- Many women who were skilled through apprenticeship or practice acted as healers for lay people.
- Women weren't admitted to the University, so they were unable to obtain the licenses that the Medical Faculty mandated.
- Academically trained physicians were all male, and women were at a disadvantage when the university began to regulate medical practice.
- Parisian medicine requiring university-training and licensing seriously restricted female traditional healers.

Medical Opinions (2)

- "Desegregation of the sexes would mean the death of moral standards." (Joseph Lister) 1
- Women want to go to school, graduate and come out as healthy, as fresh, as eager, as they went in.
- But they can't do all this, and retain a future secure from neuralgia, uterine disease, hysteria, and other derangements of the nervous system.
- Boys must study and work in a boy's way, and girls in a girl's way.
 - 1. British Medical Journal, Feb 9, 1878
 - 2. EH Clarke, Sex in Education, 1875

Medical Opinions (1)

 "Ladies are all very well in their place, and that is looking after the latest Paris fashions and making tea at home." 1

- No woman in any dangerous crisis would trust herself in the hands of a woman."
- "There is an abundance of cases of disease when a physician absolutely cures ...in one word, by being a man."
 1. Medical Press and Circular, January 5, 1870
 - 2. The Lancet, May 7, 1870

Blocks to Women in Medicine

 Women were charged higher fees than men and were graded more harshly than men.

 University permitted professors to teach women but did not require them to.

 University provided course materials but women had to arrange their own lectures.

Men were taught separately from women.



Why Women Doctors?

 Prevent under- or mis- treatment of many illnesses in women (modesty and prudery).

Preserve and elevate profession of midwifery.

Improve safety and outcomes of deliveries.



LESBIANS



Lesbanism

Over the next few weeks we will show several examples of how the fact that some of these women champions remained unmarried but chose to have lifetime women companions helped fuel their activism in all fields.



WHY MEN OPPOSED EDUCATION of WOMEN



Science and Women (1)

- Science has been gendered as a male field.
- Women report a distaste for the excessive competition fostered by academic science.
- Gender roles in personal life may be a reason that is hindering women in scientific fields from accomplishing more.
- Women's desire to study was just an attempt to defy the patriarchal power exerted by men.



Science and Women (2)

- After the 1750's, anatomical sex characteristics became the base to build functional natural differences between the sexes and their relationships.
- The seemingly superior build of the male body (and mind) was cited to justify his social role.
- At the same time, the particularities of the female body justified her natural role as wife and mother.
- Women were not to be men's equals in science and society, but their complements.



Science and Women (3)

- Including women in the fields of science does not mean those sciences will adopt a more feminist view point.
- A simple increase in the number of women in a given field does not change the culture of that field.
- The various contradictions shown through the achievements and silencing of women in science throughout history shows how nature and the society can influence gender and science.
- Gender should be adressed in the context of science.
- Feminism has changed through history and cultures.



IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM... JOIN THEM.



Agnodice
James Miranda Stuart Barry
Enrique (Henry) Faber (Favez)
Mom Chung

WOMEN POSING AS MEN



Men's clothing is a significant symbol of the power and domination over the physical, mental and social spheres of women that has been granted to males.





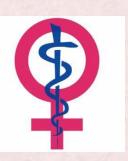
Agnodice (1)

"Chaste Before Justice"

Wealthy Athenian family around the 4th century BCE.

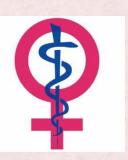
- Growing up, she was appalled by the high mortality of mothers and infants during childbirth and became inspired to study medicine.
- Women were prohibited from studying or practicing any form of medicine, especially gynecology.

This was considered a crime punishable by death.



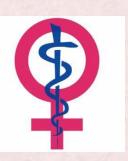
Agnodice (2)

- Studied medicine under Herophilus, and worked as a physician in Athens disguised as a man.
- Was the physician to women of Athens who didn't want to be seen by male doctors.
- To her patients, she identified as female by showing them her genitals.
- As her popularity grew, rival physicians accused her of seducing the women of Athens.



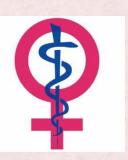
Agnodice (3)

- Before Hippocratic medicine, childbirth was overseen by close female relatives or friends of the expectant mother.
- Women who had experience for this position came to be known as maia, or midwives.
- Midwives accumulated lore and talent, and learned enough to perform abortions and teach women about contraception.



Agnodice (4)

- Men, realizing the capabilities of midwives, began to feel uncomfortable, even intimidated and no longer wanted midwives to practice their arts.
- The sexual independence offered to women by midwives and their knowledge posed an enormous threat.
- Men attempted to dominate the medical field, and this was made easier because Hippocrates and his teaching facilities only admitted men.
- It is at this point that midwifery became punishable by death in Athens.

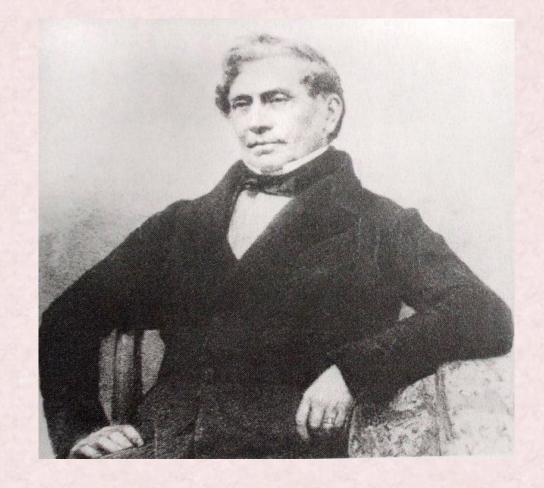


Agnodice (5)

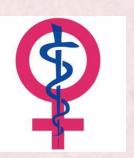
- She was defended by the women of Athens who praised her treatments.
- Athenian women protested during her trial, and the accusation was defeated.
- At trial, she lifted her tunic revealing her sex to the jury (anasyrma).
- She was acquitted, and the law against female physicians in Athens was revoked.







JAMES MIRANDA STEUART BARRY



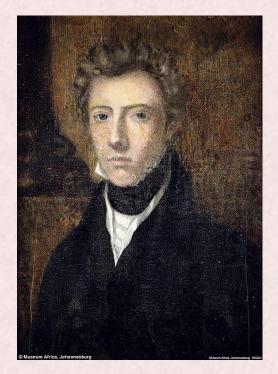
James Miranda Steuart Barry (1) (1789-1865)

- Irish born, Military Surgeon in British Army.
- Initially rejected by Edinburgh University due to short stature, unbroken voice, delicate features and smooth skin, but eventually got his degree in 1812.
- Served in S. Africa, Mauritius, St. Helena, and Jamaica.
- Was Inspector General in charge of military hospitals.
- 2nd highest medical office in the British Army.

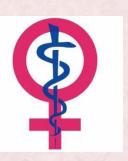


James Miranda Steuart Barry (2)

- Served for over 40 years in the Army.
- Never allowed anybody else present while dressing.



- Efforts to appear masculine, but many witnesses reported effeminacy.
- Reputation for being argumentative, tactless, impatient, and opinionated.
- Considered to have had a good bedside manner and very famous professional skill.

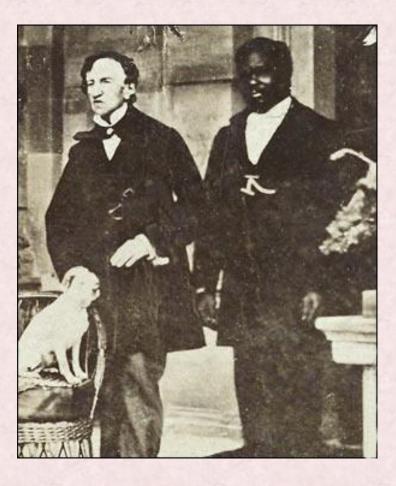


James Miranda Steuart Barry (3)

- Did 1st successful cesarean in Cape Town in which both mother and child survived.
- Improved:
 - Sanitation
 - Water systems
 - Conditions for slaves, prisoners and the mentally ill
 - Diet of common soldiers and prisoners
 - Sanctuary for the leper population
- Had an infamous public argument with Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War: She described him as a "blackguard and a brute".



James Miranda Steuart Barry (4)



- Had a tactless, heavy-handed approach while demanding improvements for the poor.
- Incited anger from officials and military officers causing frequent arrests and demotions.
- Had a duel with a commanding officer in Cape Town.
- Was a complete vegetarian and a teetotaler.

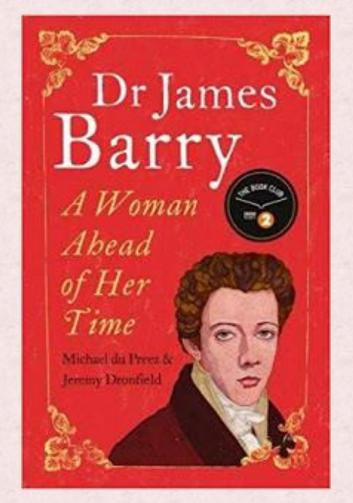


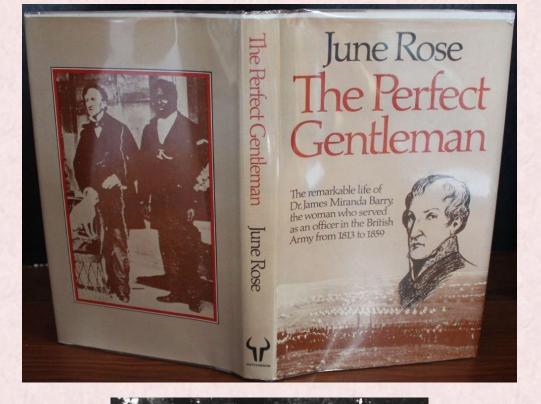
James Miranda Steuart Barry (5)

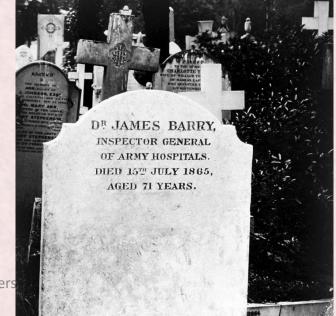
After death, it was revealed that Brigadier General James Miranda Steuart Barry, Military Surgeon and officer of the British Army was indeed *Margaret Ann Bulkley*:

A WOMAN!!!















HENRIETTE (ENRIQUE) FAVEZ



Henry (Enrique) Faber (1)

(1791 - 1856)

- Henriette Faber (Favez) Crane was born in Switzerland and was married by her uncle to a French soldier at the age of 15 (~1806).
- 3 years later, her husband died in battle and her infant daughter died at 8 days old.
- In Paris she studied medicine at the Sorbonne, taking on the dress and identity of a male officer with her deceased husband's rank.
- In 1812, became a surgeon in the Great Napoleonic Army.
- Imprisoned by Wellington's forces in Spain, where she learned Spanish and went to Cuba in 1819 to start a new life.



Henry (Enrique) Faber (2)

 Licensed by the medical board in La Habana, she started a practice in Baracoa, a small outpost in eastern Cuba.

- Her clients included the rich and the largely poor (black & mestizo) local population.
- In 1820, married Juana de León, an impoverished mestizo woman from a nearby town.



Henry (Enrique) Faber (3)

- After 4 years marriage, confusing circumstances led to the discovery that she was woman.
- In 1824, Juana sued Faber for annulment, and the court ordered a public exam by 2 physicians and then to have her paraded nude through the town streets.
- Was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in the Women's Jail until she could be extradited.



Henry (Enrique) Faber (4)

The sentence read:

"She committed the following crimes: falsification of documents, bribery, incitation to violence, illegal practice of medicine, imposture (pretending to be a man), violation and grave threats to the institution of matrimony. She has been forbidden to reside in Cuba or in any other dominion of the Spanish Crown, and now remains at the disposal of the authorities of New Orleans."



Henry (Enrique) Faber (5)

- One of her defenses was that she was a male spirit in a female body.
- Lídice Pérez López, producer of a film on Favez says "It's a story of sacrifice, a story that all these women must know about, who continue to be exploited without their rights being recognized, living in the shadow of a macho society that doesn't let them move forward."
- The author of one of the books on the topic, refers to Favez as a woman confronting the challenges of her time and to her marriage as a lesbian one, but raises the possibility that Favez may have been a trans man.



Henry (Enrique) Faber (6)

- After appeal, her sentence was reduced to 4 years in the Hospital in Habana, dressed as a female.
- After her second recorded suicide attempt, Favez was barred from the institution, and from all Spanish territories, and placed on a ship to New Orleans.
- There, she joined the Daughters of Charity Services as a nun, Sor Magdalena, and continued providing medical aid to the poor.
- She later became the Mother Superior of her order, died in New Orleans at the age of 65, having never returned to Cuba.



Lady Mount Cashell

Mrs. Mason.

Mrs. Tighe

MARGARET KING



Margaret King (1)

(1773-1835)

Born into the Kingsborough family of Anglo-Irish artistocracy in Mitchelstown Castle, north County Cork.

- She was the middle child among 9 siblings, and was thrust under the care of tutors and governesses before her 3rd birthday.
- Wollstonecraft's children's book, Original Stories from Real Life had a character named Mrs. Mason.
- Her lifetime spanned 2 marriages, 3 countries and 4 identities.





Margaret King (2)

- King married Stephen Moore, 2nd Earl Mountcashell, in 1791, at the age of 19, bearing seven children over the ensuing decade.
- In 1801, the Mountcashells started a lavish grand tour of Europe.
- In Rome, Margaret fell in love with another Irishman, George Tighe.
- When her family began their journey home, she stayed with Tighe.



Margaret King (3)

- Under the laws of the time, this meant completely relinquishing her rights to her children.
- Mary Wollstonecraft's widower, William Godwin, wrote that she was 'uncommonly tall and brawny', and dressed in plain grey gowns inappropriate to her social standing.
- It was then that King adopted the name Mrs. Mason, publishing her first novel in 1807.
- She decided to study medicine at Jena in Germany, dressing as a man, a disguise which made use of her unusual height.



Margaret King (4)

 Cultivated a surly and taciturn persona, to keep away curious persons.

 Continued her studies in Italy, with professor of surgery, Andrea Vaccá Berlinghieri of the University of Pisa.

She opened a dispensary for the poor in Pisa.



Margaret King (5)

- In 1823 she published Advice to young mothers on the physical education of children, by a grandmother:
 - Superiority of female midwifes.
 - Benefits of the mother herself breastfeeding.
 - Breastfeeding delays the likelihood of conceiving, thus avoiding the risks of near-constant pregnancy.
- Following the success of the book, she undertook translating medical works from German.



Margaret King (6)

Margaret King, Lady Cashell, Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Tighe can all be found in a grave in Livorno in Italy's oldest British Protestant cemetery.





MARGARET "MOM" CHUNG



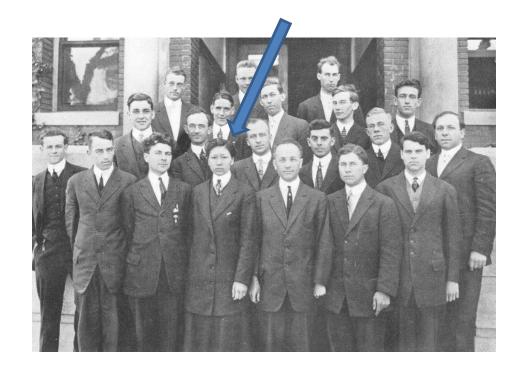
Margaret Chung (1)

- Chung was born in Santa Barbara, the eldest of eleven children.
- By 1902, in LA, her parents became sick, and she supported the family and helped raise her younger siblings from when she was ten.
- Helped to pay for her college by:
 - Selling newspaper subscriptions.
 - Working as a waitress.
 - Selling surgical instruments and supplies to other students.
 - Winning cash prizes in several speech contests.
 - Lecturing on China in churches and clubs.



Margaret Chung (2)

- Won an LA Times scholarship to study at USC, graduating in 1909.
- Enrolled in medical school in 1911, as "the first Chinese girl" to enter a medical school in California.



 She was non-white and the only woman in her class, dressed in men's clothing, and called herself 'Mike.'



Margaret Chung (3)

- MD degree in 1916, couldn't get any residencies or internships, due to her gender and race.
- In Chicago, interned at the Mary Thompson Women's and Children's Hospital and did a residency at the Kankakee State Hospital.
- Was the resident assistant in psychiatry for the first Juvenile Psychopathic Institute of the State of Illinois at the Cook County Hospital in 1917.
- Became state criminologist for Illinois.



Margaret Chung (4)



In 1922, moved to San
Francisco and opened a clinic
which served white and
Chinese women patients.

- Presbyterian Missionary Board rejected her for mission work in China. (Female and gay(?)
- Started as a surgical nurse in LA, and later as a surgeon at the Santa Fe Railroad Hospital.
- Went to Chicago, did a surgical residency, and came back to California in 1919.



Margaret Chung (5)

 During the growth of Hollywood, she became the physician to celebrities like Mary Pickford, Sophie Tucker and Elsa Gidlow.

- At the beginning of the Sino-Japanese war, she was contacted by several Reserve pilots who wanted to fight.
- She housed, fed, and generally "mothered" them, so they started calling her Mom Chung.



Margaret Chung (6)

- She volunteered as a front-line surgeon during the Sino-Japanese War, but instead, was asked to secretly recruit pilots for a unit that would become famous as the "Flying Tigers."
- These squadrons of American pilots from the Marines, Air Corps, and Navy flew under Chinese colors.
- They called themselves "Mom Chung's Flying Bastards".



Margaret Chung (7)

By the end of WWII, more than 1500 "children":

- Aviators were part of the "Fair-Haired Bastards".
- Submarine men were called "Golden Dolphins."
- All other non-flyer servicemen were known as "Kiwis."
- Hollywood stars like John Wayne and Ronald Reagan.
- Fleet Admirals Chester Nimitz & William Halsey Jr.
- Pilot and adventurer Amelia Earhart was one of a few "bastard daughters."
- Multiple Senators and Governors.



Margaret Chung (8)

- 1939 movie, King of Chinatown, had a female Chinese physician role loosely inspired on her.
- In 1943, the comic book series Real Heroes, featured a story on her and her airmen.
- The comic used the term: "Fair-Haired Foster Sons", instead of the "Fair-haired Bastards".





Margaret Chung (9)

W.A.V.E.S.



- She pushed for legislation to create the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).
- With her connections to government officials and her network of "adopted children" she lobbied behind the scenes.
- She succeeded in getting the WAVES established in 1942, but did not get proper credit for her role in its creation.
- Her repeated applications to join the corps were rejected because of her race and rumors about her sexuality.



Margaret Chung (10)

- Each "son" had a numbered jade Buddha, so they could identify themselves.
- Dr. Margaret Chung died from ovarian cancer on January 5, 1959, at the age of 69.
- She never got married.
- Admiral Nimitz was one of her pallbearers.
- At least 3 Flying Fortresses were named "Mama Chung" in her honor by her "adopted" sons in World War II.



MARY EDWARDS WALKER

Mary Edwards Walker (1) (1832-1919

- In 1855, she earned her MD at Syracuse Medical College in New York, the only woman in her class.
- She volunteered with the Union Army at the outbreak of the American Civil War and served as a surgeon at a temporary hospital in Washington, D.C.
- At the time women and sectarian physicians were considered unfit for the Union Army Examining Board.
- Captured by Confederate forces after crossing enemy lines to treat wounded civilians and arrested as a spy.
- Was sent as a prisoner of war to Richmond, Virginia until released in a prisoner exchange.

Mary Edwards Walker (2)

- Received Medal of honor, was retracted, then reinstated.
- Attended Falley Seminary in Fulton, New York, where she was exposed to social reform in gender roles, education, and hygiene.
- This reinforced her determination to defy traditional feminine standards on a principle of injustice.

Mary Edwards Walker (3)

 She married a fellow medical school student, Albert Miller in 1855.

- As a show of her obstinate nonconformity, she wore a short skirt over trousers, refused to include "obey" in her vows, and retained her last name.
- Walker was infamous for contesting traditional female wardrobe.

Mary Edwards Walker (4)

- "The greatest sorrows from which women suffer to-day are those physical, moral, and mental ones, that are caused by their unhygienic manner of dressing!"
- She strongly opposed women's long skirts with numerous petticoats, not only for their discomfort and their inhibition to the wearer's mobility but for their collection and spread of dust and dirt.
- By 1861, her typical ensemble included trousers with suspenders under a kneelength dress with a tight waist and full skirt.







Ben Barres

BARBARA A. BARRES



Barbara A. Barres (1)

(1954-2017)

- Given female gender at birth.
- During childhood, was rather a tomboy, and always felt that she was really a male.
- At 17 was diagnosed with Müllerian agenesis.
- Had surgical correction (1972), continued as a female but was never happy.
- Found out she had been exposed prenatally to masculinizing hormones.



Barbara A. Barres (2)

 MD degree from Dartmouth Medical School (1979), and a residency in neurology at Weill Cornell Medicine.

 Resigned the residency to pursue research in neuroscience at Harvard Medical School.

She completed a PhD in neurobiology.



Barbara A. Barres (3)

- Had experiences of gender discrimination at an early age, being denied for science and math courses, which she liked.
- In MIT, she solved a difficult math problem that stumped many male students; the professor charged that it was solved for her by a boyfriend.
- She was the top student in the class, but found it hard to get a willing supervisor for research.
- She lost a scholarship to a man who had only one published paper, while she already had six.



Ben A. Barres (1)



- Bilateral mastectomy due to breast cancer.
- Chose testosterone treatment.
- Had ovaries removed.
- In 1997, officially transitioned to male.



Ben A. Barres (2)

- While working for a PhD at Harvard, in a scientific competition, between her and one man; the Dean said: "I have read both applications, and your application is so much better."
- But the award was given to the man, who dropped out of science a year later.
- After transitioning, academic people treated him with more respect much more than when he presented as a woman.
- After delivering his first seminar as a man, one scientist said: "Ben Barres gave a great seminar today, and his work is much better than his sister Barbara's."



Barres Quotes

- "For about a week, I was almost unable to sleep from the stress as I pondered whether I should transition or commit suicide."
- "Reading about the experiences of other folks who had transitioned, I strongly feared that a transition would end my career."
- "It seemed that it must be my fault, that somehow I should be able to make myself be a woman."





I AM SUSPICIOUS WHEN THOSE WHO ARE AT AN ADVANTAGE PROCLAIM THAT A DISADVANTAGED GROUP OF PEOPLE IS INNATELY LESS ABLE.

- BEN BARRES