



Amelia Earhart

**“One of the best women pilots in the United States” ~Boston Globe
(1897-1937)**

Amelia Mary Earhart, born July 24, 1897, grew up in her grandparent’s hometown, Atchison, Kansas. Her family provided a rich education and affluent home life for Amelia and her sister. As a child, Amelia “kept a scrapbook...about successful

women in predominately male-oriented fields” and she was not hesitant to challenge conventional female behavior. At ten years, Amelia moved to Des Moines with her family, where she caught her first glimpse of an airplane at the Iowa State Fair. However, her interest in aviation would not peak for another ten years.

She moved to California where she attended an “aerial meet” with her father. The next day, she realized that her ambitions for the future sailed among the clouds. Immediately, she contacted female aviatrix Anita “Neta” Snook for flight lessons at Kinner Field. After honing her skills in her personal plane, “The Canary,” Amelia set the record for women’s altitude at 14,000 feet in October, 1922. She joined several aviator organizations, including the National Aeronautic Association and Ninety Nines. Her accomplishments and assertive mystique in male-dominated realms attracted reporters and worldwide fame. Even as she served as a social worker, she continued to promote opportunities and acceptance of female fliers.

After practice flights with husband George Putnam across the Atlantic, Amelia planned to solo herself. While conquering yet another feat, “She had broken several records on this flight...the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo and only person to fly it twice...the longest non-stop distance flown by a woman...and a record for crossing in the shortest time.” Amelia’s ventures in flight rose to new heights until she proposed an around-the-world flight in 1935, which would be her last. As her first attempt failed, she geared up for a second try in the Electra, leaving Los Angeles on May 21, 1937. She and navigator Fred Noonan traveled great distances, despite Amelia’s dysentery and utter exhaustion, but it ended abruptly one evening.

The last positioning contact report received from the Electra was July 2, 1937, 20:14 Greenwich Mean Time. After assuming that the plane had crashed, submerging itself underwater, President Roosevelt granted \$4 million in an effort to find Fred, Amelia, and the Electra. Sadly, none was found, but in one of the final letters to husband George, Amelia Earhart’s legendary words embodied the purport of her life work: “I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail their failure must be but a challenge to others.”



**“Courage is the price that Life exacts for granting peace.”
~ Amelia Earhart**

Works Cited: Amelia Earhart. <http://www.ameliaearhart.com>, October 24, 2001, 7 PM.
Amelia Earhart. http://ellensplace.net/ae_lflt.html, October 24, 2001, 6:45 PM.

Works Cited: Amelia Earhart. <http://www.ameliaearhart.com>, October 24, 2001, 7 PM.
Amelia Earhart. http://ellensplace.net/ae_iflt.html, October 24, 2001, 6:45 PM.