

Emma Lilian Todd – The first woman to design & build an airplane (1909). She was too small to actually fly it, so a male friend sat in as the test pilot.



Her parents were horrified and made sure she told nobody, because "no man would want to marry a woman who had done such a thing."

Aida de Acosta, the first woman to fly a dirigible (1903)... and the only person Alberto Santos=Dumont ever allowed to do so!



Who taught Orville & Wilbur how to use tools? Their mom, Susan Wright (1831 – 1889)



Katherine Wright graduated from Oberlin in 1898 (neither of her brothers graduated from high school). She played a HUGE role in developing the first airplane with her brothers.

We really should talk about the Wright Siblings, not the Wright Brothers!
- Wilbur Wright
remember our sister."
connection with aviation, it must

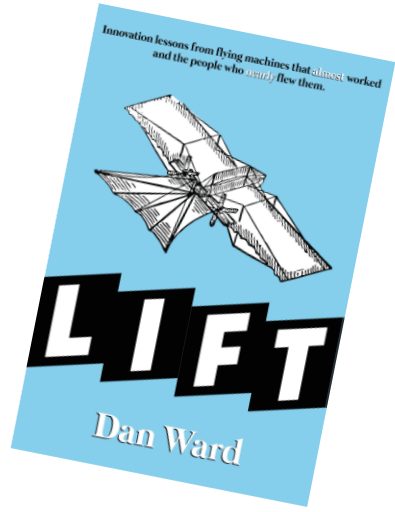
"Our mother fostered in every way our mechanical proclivities..."
- Otto Lilienthal



Catherine Lilienthal
1825 – 1872



Rossa Richter, aka Zazel, the FIRST human cannonball performer, began at age 14. She's not in the book, but I think she's amazing



Learn more about these women in Dan Ward's new book LIFT!

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Wonder Woman's Invisible Jet



Introducing some of the unseen & overlooked women who helped create the field of aviation