

KOBIETY W HISTORII

AMELIA EARHART

resume

Amelia Mary Earhart, daughter of Samuel 'Edwin' Earhart (1868-1930) and Amelia Otis Earhart (1869-1962), was born in Atchinson, Kansas, in the home of her grandfather, Alfred Otis, a former judge and president of the Atchinson Saving Bank.

She was named, according to family custom, after her two grandmothers (Amelia Josephine Harres and Mary Wells Patton).



The Lonely Transatlantic Flight (1932)

At the age of 34, on the morning of May 20, 1932, Earhart set out from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, carrying the latest edition of the local newspaper. Her goal was to reach Paris in a single-engine Lockheed Vega, repeating an earlier achievement by Charles Lindberg. After a flight of 14 hours and 56 minutes, during which she had to contend with strong northerly winds, excruciating cold and technical difficulties, she landed in a pasture at Culmore, near Londonderry in Northern Ireland. The site where she landed is now a museum.

As the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, Earhart received high honors from Congress, U.S. President Herbert Hoover, and the French government. As her fame grew, she befriended a growing number of officers and, among others, Eleanor Roosevelt, with whom she shared many passions.



The circumstances of death

In 1937 she made an attempt to circumnavigate the globe along the equator (if successful, she would be the first woman to fly around the world). After 40 days of travel (in a Lockheed L-10 Electra airplane) and covering about 3/4 of the distance, after taking off from New Guinea, flying over the Pacific Ocean together with the navigator Fred Noonan they lost radio contact. Despite the immediate search (on which the U.S. government spent about \$4 million), no trace of the missing plane was found.

The plane went missing near the Phoenix Islands in the central Pacific. A shoe believed to be a woman's shoe, a box from an American sextant, a bottle of Benedictine that the pilot liked, and human bones were found on Nikumaroro Atoll. In 1940, they were considered male, but an anthropological re-analysis published in 2018 indicates that they belonged to a woman after all. The dimensions of the bones match those that can be determined from photographs and Earhart's surviving clothing. This suggests that the pioneering aviator ended her life as a castaway on an isolated island.

