November Homework-
Kate Gleason Female Engineer

Kate Gleason was a female engineer who was born, raised and died in Rochester, NY. Kate was born November 25, 1865 and died January 9, 1933 of pneumonia. That means she was 67 when she died. Her final resting place was still in New York. It was in Riverside Cemetery.

Kates education was in Cornell University, and Rochester Institute of Technology. Although Kate did not have any thorough engineering training, she attended Cornell University as a “special student” in 1884 to study mechanical arts. Which back then, was impressive if a women could go to college. She also studied part time at the Sibley College of Engraving the Mechanics Institute. Kate began her career at her father's machine-tool factory.

By 1893, she and her father had designed and perfected a machine that could produce beveled gears quickly and cheaply. With Kate’s help, the factory became the leading U.S. producer of gear cutting machinery prior to World War I. Due in large part to her reputation the machine-tool business, Kate became the first woman elected to membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 1918, she served as ASME’s representative to the World Power Conference in Germany.

During World War I, the president of the First Bank of Rochester resigned to join the military. From 1917 to 1919, Kate Gleason served as the president of the bank. She was the first women to serve as president of a national bank. Kate had many business

interests. She developed a new method for pouring concrete, and in 1921, she began selling low-cost concrete box houses in East Rochester, New York. As a result of her work, Kate became the first female member of the American Concrete Institute.

Now Kate's childhood was something else.Her full name is Catherine Anselm “Kate” Gleason. When she was 11 her step brother Tom who helped their father at the company, died of typhoid fever. This caused considerable problems to her father as he lost a valuable helper. She started helping her father out when she was 12 and realized that she had the aptitude for engineering work. By the time she was 14, she had become the company bookkeeper. She actually in 1884 was the first women to be admitted to study at Cornell University. But, she was unable to complete her studies due to her obligations towards her family business. She then continued her studies at the Mechanic's Institute which was later named Rochester Institute of Technology.

One fun fact about Kate is that she viewed marriage as a hindrance to her professional life and she never got married. In 2011, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers’ Foundation established the “Kate Gleason Award” in her honor. An achievement she “achieved” was that in 1914 she was elected to full membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as the first women member.

When Kate died in her hometown of Rochester, NY, January 9, 1933, she left an estate of $1.4 million for charity and education. One of the beneficiaries was the Rochester Institute of Technology, who named their College of Engineering after her. I would say she was an incredibly successful person at a young age.

http://www.engineergirl.org/engineers/historicalengineers/4413.aspx and

http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/kate-gleason-7083.php were the websites i used for my information on Kate Gleason.