

A HISTORY OF GENDER DIVERSITY

Chevalier d'Eon



1728

The Chevalier d'Eon was a spy and diplomat for King Louis XV of France. They presented as a man and as a woman, to much speculation and intrigue by the public.

Albert Cashier



1862

Assigned female at birth, Cashier lived most of his life as male, and served as an infantryman in forty Civil War battles. Charged with defrauding the government after his birth gender was revealed, he was defended by his comrades as "a small but brave soldier who showed bravery on dangerous missions." In cognitive decline at the end of his life, he was confined to a state hospital, where he was forced to dress in women's clothing.

Lili Elbe



1882

Elbe was a transgender Danish painter who underwent experimental surgeries to live as a woman. Although she died from complications during surgery, her story was a beacon of hope to those grappling with gender dysphoria.

1849



We'wha

We'wha was a two-spirit Native American from New Mexico. Using both he and she pronouns, We'wha was a notable weaver and potter and met with President Cleveland as a part of the Zuni delegation.

1868



Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld

Dr. Hirschfeld was a gay, Jewish physician who dedicated his life to the study of sex and gender, saving countless LGBTQ+ lives through support and treatment.

1886



Lucy Hicks Anderson

As a child, Anderson wore dresses to school, and was instructed by a doctor to be allowed to live as female. She changed her name at fifteen and moved to California, where she lived the rest of her life as a woman.

**John Kenley
born**



1906

**Billy
Tipton**



1914

Tipton, assigned female at birth, rose to prominence as a male jazz pianist. He toured with Duke Ellington and other jazz luminaries. Tipton began living as male at nineteen. His posthumous outing caused an uproar of transphobic gossip in the media.

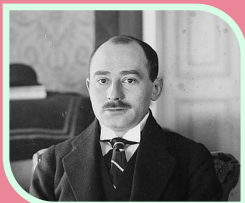
**Dora
Richter**



1931

Richter, a German native, was among the first to receive gender-affirming care from Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld. When Nazis stormed Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Science in 1933, they burned his research and murdered his patients, including Richter.

**Dr. Harry
Benjamin**



1948

Dr. Benjamin was an endocrinologist and sexologist who pioneered the Harry Benjamin Standards for Care. It was a major shift in how patients were treated, and the start of gender-affirming care that respects the dignity of transgender patients.

1920s



**Dr.
Margaret
Chung**

Dr. Chung was the first known American-born Chinese female physician. A beloved figure among her "adopted sons," i.e., the U.S. soldiers she treated, Chung was known to wear male clothing and go by the name "Mike."

1926



Jan Morris

Morris was a transgender journalist, travel writer, and historian. She was also a part of the first confirmed expedition to summit Everest.

1934



**Gladys
Bentley**

Although their true gender identity is a bit unclear ("I inhabited that half-shadow no man's land which exists between the boundaries of the two sexes,"), Bentley thrilled and entertained countless audiences in both male and female attire.

**Carlett
Brown
Angianlee**



1950s

Angianlee, a Navy veteran, is believed to be the first African American to undergo gender-affirmation surgery. Records are sparse, as was the case for most BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people of that period.

1952



**Christine
Jorgensen**

“Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty” read the headline after Jorgensen returned to the US following gender-affirming surgery. Her story was sensationalized in the press, and she used the attention to advocate for acceptance for those living outside of heteronormative expectations.

**Marsha P.
Johnson &
Sylvia Rivera**



1970

Johnson and Rivera, participants in the Stonewall Uprising, were outspoken advocates for the transgender community. Their Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.) fought for pro-trans legislation in NYC, but also offered food, shelter, and safety to homeless transgender women.

1969



**Stonewall
Uprising**

On June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village to arrest customers and staff. Raids of gay bars, where patrons were threatened, beaten, subjected to anatomical inspections, and paraded to the police vans were common. That night, the patrons fought back, sparking six days of protests. Stonewall wasn't the first such event, but it caught the public's attention. June is commemorated as Pride month in honor of the event.

**Transgender
Day of
Visibility**



2009

Founded by Crandall-Crocker, the executive director of Transgender Michigan, Trans Day of Visibility is celebrated March 31 every year. Crandall-Crocker says she “wanted a day to rally as one community around the world.” TDoV is celebrated to raise awareness, and to prioritize joy in the trans and gender non-conforming community.

1999



**Transgender
Pride Flag**

Designed by activist Monica Helms, the flag contains two pink and two blue stripes (colors long associated with gender expectations) and one white stripe to represent those beyond the gender binary.

2015



Laverne Cox

Cox is a trans actress who has appeared in *Orange Is the New Black*, *Law and Order* and *Promising Young Woman*. She became the first transgender person to win an Emmy for producing *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*.

2020



Sarah McBride

McBride is the first openly transgender woman elected to a state senate. She represents Delaware's 1st District.

2023



Judge Seth Marnin

Judge Marnin was the first openly transgender man appointed as a judge. An alumnus of UConn, Marnin serves in the New York City Court of Claims.

2020



Brooklyn Liberation March

In June 2020, 15,000 protestors took to the street to protest the violence against black trans women/folks. The rally and silent march were inspired by a similar one in 1917, where the NAACP assembled nearly 10,000 people to silently demand an end to violence against black people.

2022



L Morgan Lee

L Morgan Lee was the first openly transgender person to be nominated for a Tony for her role in *A Strange Loop*, which earned 11 total nominations.

Sources:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/albert-cashier.htm>
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/how-historians-are-documenting-lives-of-transgender-people>
<https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/lucy-hicks-anderson>
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/great-blues-singer-gladye-bentley-broke-rules-180971708/>
<https://wams.nyhistory.org/growth-and-turmoil/cold-war-beginnings/christine-jorgensen/#suggested>
<https://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/tgl-bios/carlett-brown>
<https://www.them.us/story/dora-richter-first-trans-woman-to-receive-gender-affirming-surgery>
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lili-Elbe>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/20/books/jan-morris-dead.html>
<https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/sylvia-rivera>
<https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/marsha-p-johnson>
<https://www.npr.org/2024/03/30/1241589753/transgender-day-of-visibility-rachel-crandall-crocker>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/15/nyregion/brooklyn-black-trans-parade.html>
<https://www.etonline.com/l-morgan-lee-becomes-first-transgender-performer-nominated-for-a-tony-award-183751>
<https://cdn.britannica.com/08/212908-050-C9E13ED9/German-physician-Magnus-Hirschfeld-1928.jpg>
<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/desire-love-and-identity/chevalier-deon>
<https://www.nps.gov/people/dr-margaret-mom-chung.htm>
<https://www.nyclgbtsites.org/site/trans-medical-care-at-the-office-of-dr-harry-benjamin/>
<https://legis.delaware.gov/AssemblyMember/151/SMcBride>
<https://today.uconn.edu/2023/07/uconn-law-alum-blazes-trail-as-transgender-judge/>