

# *Stories of Great Inventors* *Copy*

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*Fullton, Whitney, Morse, Cooper & Edison*

*Hattie E. Macomber*

*Bygone Era*  
 *Press*

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# *Bygone Era* *Press*

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## *About the author*

Hattie E. Macomber was born on November 8, 1867, in the United States. Little detailed information about her early life is widely documented, but she emerged as a noted author of children's literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Macomber's writing often featured themes of adventure, morality, and childhood exploration, resonating with both children and educators of her time. Throughout her career, she published several novels and short stories, contributing to the development of children's literature. In addition to her writing, she was involved in various literary circles and contributed to the development of children's literature during her time. Although she may not be as widely known today, her contributions helped pave the way for future writers in this genre. Her legacy continues to influence children's writers today.

She passed away on May 2, 1951, leaving behind a legacy as a significant figure in early American children's literature, though her work is now less known.

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## *Also by*

Hattie E. Macomber authored several books, primarily for children. Some of her notable works include:

"The Girl and the Golden Quill" (1900)

"The Little Brown Hen" (1903)

"The Little Lamé Prince" (written in collaboration with others)

"The Red Fairy Book" (1912, as part of the larger series)

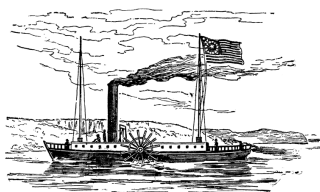
"The Story of a New England Town" (1915)

"The Plucky Little Bunny" (1930)





# *Introduction*



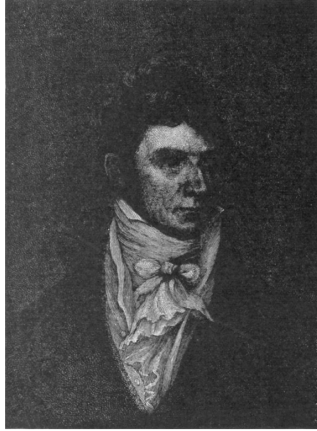
**T**hese short stories are a captivating collection that delves into the intriguing world of five inventors that left a lasting impression on society. All these inventors pushed boundaries of human intelligence in their respective occupations that transformed everyday life in areas of transportation, industry, education, technology and communication. These stories allow us to understand that their inventions changed the world in the 1800s, that change impacted how the advancement in technologies has changed our world today.

Aimed primarily at young readers, the book aims to inspire curiosity and appreciation for innovation and creativity. Through engaging narratives, Macomber highlights the trials, triumphs, and groundbreaking inventions of figures such as Edison, Fulton, Whitney, Morse and Cooper. Each story is crafted to not only entertain but also educate, instilling a sense of wonder about the

power of human ingenuity and the impact these inventors have had on the world.

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# Robert Fulton



**T**his story is about a giant.

Do you believe in them?

He peeps out of your coffee cup in the morning.

He cheers you upon a cold day in winter.

But the boys and girls were not so well acquainted with him a hundred years ago.

About that long ago, far to the north and east, a queer boy lived.

He sat in his grandmother's kitchen many an hour, watching the tea-kettle.

He seemed to be idle.

But he was really very busy.

He was talking very earnestly to the giant.

The giant was a prisoner.

No one knew how to free him.

Many had often tried to do this and failed.

He was almost always invisible.

But when he did appear, it was in the form of a very old man.

This old man had long, white hair, and a beard which seemed to enwrap him like a cloak—a cloak as white as snow.

So, his name is The White Giant.

The boy's name was James Watt.

He lived in far-away Scotland.

He sat long, listening to the White Giant as he told him many wonderful things.

The way in which the giant first showed himself to James was very strange.

James noticed that the lid of the tea-kettle was acting very strangely.

It rose and fell, fluttered and danced.

Now, James had lived all his life among people who believed in witches and fairies.

So, he was watching for them.

And he thought there was somebody in the kettle trying to get out.

So, he said, "Who are you and what do you want?"

"Space, freedom, and something to do," cried the giant.

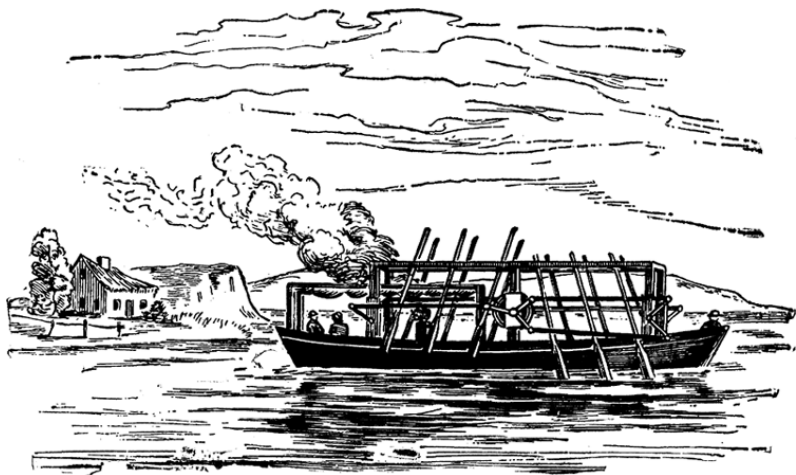
"If you will only let me out, I'll work hard for you.

I'll draw your carriages and ships.

I'll lift all your weights.

I'll turn all the wheels of your factories.

I'll be your servant always, in a thousand other ways."



*JOHN FITCH'S STEAMBOAT, 1788. By permission of Providence & Stonington Steamship Co.*

If you have now guessed the common name of this giant, we will call him Steam.

At the time James Watt lived, there were no steam boats, steam mills, nor railways.

And this boy, though his grandmother scolded, thought much about the giant in the tea-kettle.

And he became the inventor of the first steam engine that was of any use to the world.

So, little by little, people came to know that steam is a great, good giant.

They tried in many different ways to make him useful.



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