Journey in Time

Laura couldn’t get her mind off her latest invention and frantically worried how could she make it work the way she imagined. Sometimes she felt that being an inventor was too frustrating and, at those times, Laura often thought of giving up. She decided to open the book about the lives of famous inventors she’d brought to pass the time, but the steady rocking motion of the train was hypnotic and she soon nodded off.

After some time, the slowing of the train caused Laura to awaken. The train door opened, and in walked a tired-looking woman dressed, oddly enough, in the fashion of colonial times. Even more remarkably, the woman settled down just opposite Laura. “Good morning to you,” the woman said to her cheerily.

“My name is Sybilla Masters,” the woman continued, “and I am so pleased to meet you. Just now, I am returning to my home in Philadelphia, and from there I shall travel to England. You see, I have invented something, and the patent application for it is right here.” She tapped a pouch that hung over her shoulder. “My husband, Thomas, and I will take my invention to England where we hope to succeed in securing the patent. There were times that I thought this day would never come. Oh, if only you knew the frustrations of inventing something!”

“But just what exactly did you invent?” Laura blurted out.

“It is an efficient system for grinding corn that employs hammers instead of the cumbersome grinding wheels used in the Colonies,” said Sybilla Masters. As Laura watched the woman disembark from the train, she did not realize that she had just met the first recognized woman inventor in America.

Laura suddenly sat upright and rubbed her eyes. She knew it had been a dream, but she promised herself that she would return to her own invention with renewed determination.