

# Generations of STEM:

# Katharine Blodgett

## Low-Reflecting Glass Inventor

Katharine was born in Schenectady, New York, where her father was a patent attorney for General Electric. She was educated in France and New York City, having moved after her father was shot in a home burglary. She attended Bryn Mawr College on a scholarship and returned to visit the GE plant where she

was encouraged to pursue her master's degree. Katharine became the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Physics from Cambridge University and was hired as the first woman scientist for General Electric in Schenectady.

At GE, she worked with a former colleague of her father's on thin film monomolecular coatings. Later, she realized by applying the film to glass, it became more transmissive, and thus "invisible glass." This coating is now called Langmuir-Blodgett film, for she and her GE associate and used in cameras, projectors and other non-reflective glass applications. The first film to use it in production was *Gone with the Wind*. Katharine also worked on a color gauge to measure coatings on glass.



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