Augusta Ada King-Noel, Countess of Lovelace (née Byron; 10 December 1815 – 27 November 1852) was an English mathematician and writer, chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage’s proposed mechanical computer, the Analytical Engine. She is regarded as the first person to recognize the full potential of a “computing machine” and the first computer programmer. Lady Ada Lovelace was the only legitimate child of the poet Lord Byron, and his wife Lady Wentworth. The computer language ADA, created on behalf of the United States Department of Defense, was named after Lovelace.

Kate Warne (1833 – January 28, 1868) was hired by the Pinkerton Detective Agency in 1856 as the first female detective in the United States. She was born in Erin, New York and was a widow by age 23. In 1860, Allan Pinkerton, put Warne in charge of his new Female Detective Bureau. During the American Civil War, Allan Pinkerton and Kate Warne were used as a covert war intelligence-gathering bureau and Mr. Pinkerton promoted her to Female Superintendent of Detectives.

Lord George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron, FRS (22 January 1788 – 19 April 1824) is regarded as one of the greatest British poets and remains widely read and influential. Among his best-known works is the lengthy narrative poem, Don Juan. Often described as the most flamboyant and notorious of the major Romantics, Byron was both celebrated and castigated in life for his aristocratic excesses: huge debts, numerous love affairs (with men as well as women, as well as rumors of a scandalous liaison with his half-sister), and self-imposed exile from the United Kingdom.
Nikola Tesla (10 July 1856 – 7 January 1943) was a Serbian-American inventor, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, physicist, and futurist who made dozens of breakthroughs in the production, transmission and application of electric power. He is best known for his contributions to the design of the modern alternating current (AC) electricity supply system. In 1893, he made pronouncements on the possibility of wireless communication with his high-voltage, high-frequency power experiments and earned himself the reputation of an archetypal “mad scientist.” Though he was famous and respected, he was never able to translate his copious inventions into long-term financial success - unlike his early employer and chief rival, Thomas Edison.

Leah Fox Fish (1814–1890) is one of the Fox sisters from New York. In 1848, her sisters Margaret and Kate used “rappings” to convince people that they were communicating with spirits. On November 14, 1849, the Fox sisters demonstrated their spiritualist rapping at the Corinthian Hall in Rochester. This was the first demonstration of spiritualist rapping before a paying public, and inaugurated a long history of public events featured by spiritualist mediums and leaders in the United States and in other countries. Leah managed her sisters’ careers and they all enjoyed success as mediums. In 1888, Margaret and Kate confessed that their rappings had been a hoax and publicly demonstrated their methods.

Charles Babbage (26 December 1791 – 18 October 1871) was an English polymath. A mathematician, philosopher, inventor and mechanical engineer, he is considered by some to be a “father of the computer.” In 1822, Babbage is credited with inventing the first mechanical computer, the Difference Engine, which was never completed. In 1837, he created and completed an Analytical Engine, with the assistance of Lady Ada Lovelace. In 1814, Babbage married Georgiana Whitmore and they had eight children, but only four survived childhood. Charles' wife Georgiana died in 1827, the same year as his father, their second son, and their newborn son Alexander.
Allan Pinkerton (August 25, 1819 - July 1, 1884) emigrated from Scotland to the United States in 1842. As early as 1844, Pinkerton used his Dundee home was a stop on the Underground Railroad. In 1850, he formed the North-Western Police Agency, which later became Pinkerton & Co., and finally Pinkerton National Detective Agency (still in existence today as Pinkerton Consulting and Investigations). Pinkerton’s business insignia was a wide-open eye with the caption “We never sleep.” The Pinkerton Detective Agency solved a series of train robberies during the 1850s, which introduced Pinkerton to George McClellan, Vice President of the Illinois Central Railroad, and Abraham Lincoln, the company’s lawyer. When the Civil War began, Pinkerton served as head of the Union Intelligence Service, heading off an assassination plot in Baltimore, Maryland while guarding Abraham Lincoln on his way to take office.

President Elect Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) was an American politician and lawyer who served as the 16th President of the United States from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. Lincoln led the United States through its Civil War—its bloodiest war and perhaps its greatest moral, constitutional, and political crisis. In doing so, he preserved the Union, paved the way to the abolition of slavery, strengthened the federal government, and modernized the economy.

John Wilkes Booth (May 10, 1838 – April 26, 1865) was an American actor and assassin, who, with a small group of secessionists, shot President Abraham Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1865. Booth was a member of the prominent 19th-century Booth theatrical family and, by the 1860s, was a well-known actor. Unlike the rest of his family, he was also a Confederate sympathizer, vehement in his denunciation of Lincoln, and strongly opposed to the abolition of slavery in the United States.
Mary Celeste (1868-1872) was a Brigantine ship with a history of bad luck. Over the first 10 years, the ship, then called the Amazon, was involved in several accidents. It was bought and sold several times due to continuing bad luck. Thinking to change its luck, the ship was renamed Mary Celeste by Captain Benjamin Briggs who sailed with his family and crew totaling ten people. Mary Celeste was found abandoned on Dec 4, 1872, all items seemed to be dropped in a hurry and a lifeboat was also missing. Thus was born one of the most durable mysteries in nautical history: What happened to the ten people who had sailed aboard the Mary Celeste? Through the decades, a lack of hard facts spurred speculation as to what might have taken place. Theories have ranged from mutiny to pirates to sea monsters to killer waterspouts.

The NoöSphere is the sphere of human thought. The term was developed jointly by three philosophers in the early 20th century: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Édouard Le Roy, and Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky. According to Vernadsky, the NoöSphere is the third in a succession of phases of development of the Earth, after the geosphere (inanimate matter) and the biosphere (biological life). Just as the emergence of life fundamentally transformed the geosphere, the emergence of human cognition fundamentally transforms the biosphere. The NoöSphere emerges at the point where humankind, through the mastery of nuclear processes, begins to create resources through the transmutation of elements. The theory is currently being researched as part of the Princeton Global Consciousness Project.

Synesthesia (joined perception) is a condition in which one sense is simultaneously perceived as if by one or more additional senses such as sight. Another form of synesthesia joins objects such as letters, shapes, numbers, or people’s names with a sensory perception such as smell, color, or flavor. Synesthesia can involve any of the senses. The most common form, colored letters and numbers, occurs when someone always sees a certain color in response to a certain letter of the alphabet or number. For example, a synesthete (a person with synesthesia) might see the word “plane” as mint green or the number “4” as dark brown. There are also synesthetes who hear sounds in response to smell, who smell in response to touch, or who feel something in response to sight. Synesthetic perceptions are specific to each person. Different people with synesthesia almost always disagree on their perceptions.
The Baltimore Plot
In 1861, the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to investigate secessionist activity and threats of damage to the railroad in Maryland. Allan Pinkerton placed agents at various points in Maryland to investigate the threats. As the investigation proceeded, Pinkerton discovered a plot by southern secessionists called the Knights of the Golden Circle to assassinate president-elect, Abraham Lincoln. Pinkerton with Kate Warne and four other agents went to Baltimore, Maryland, on February 3, 1861, and discovered details of how the assassination was going to occur. The president-elect, Abraham Lincoln, was traveling to the Capital via a train tour. His published program showed that Lincoln’s last leg of the journey would bring him through Baltimore where all southbound trains required a transfer. The distance between these two stations were about a mile by carriage ride. The secessionist plot to kill Lincoln was to occur during this transfer. Allan Pinkerton and Kate Warne took their evidence to Abraham Lincoln who agreed that the assassination plot was plausible enough to take action. However, Lincoln refused to cancel any of his scheduled plans. It was not until 5:45 that night that there was any deviation from his schedule. Lincoln was excused from a dinner party to change into a traveling suit, a soft felt cap and carried a shawl upon one arm to play the role of an invalid. Pinkerton and Warne disguised Lincoln and escorted him through Baltimore without recognition or incident. Warne was key in the foiled Baltimore assassination plot – not only did she help uncover its details, but she also carried out most of the arrangements to smuggle Lincoln into Washington, D.C.