

● 英汉对照人物传记 ●

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Early one morning, Edwin Earhart and his daughter Amelia Mary walked down a dirt street in Atchison, Kansas. Dressed in dark blue, knee-length bloomers, Amelia carried a bamboo pole, from which dangled three, freshly-caught fish.

Any “proper” ladies of Atchison watching the seven-year-old might have been shocked. After all, in 1905, little girls were expected to wear long skirts with ribbons and laces, to play quietly with dolls, and to learn how to cook and sew. They certainly did *not* wear bloomers and go fishing.

清晨，堪萨斯州埃切森的一条泥路上走来了埃德温·埃尔哈特和他的女儿阿米莉亚·玛莉。阿米莉亚穿着深蓝色齐膝灯笼裤，手里提着一根竹竿儿，三条刚刚钓上来的鱼在竹竿上晃来晃去。

任何循规蹈矩的埃切森女士看到七岁的阿米莉亚都会大吃一惊。这毕竟是在 1905 年，那时的小女孩们应该穿着镶缎带和花边的长裙，静静地玩着布娃娃，然后学学如何做饭和缝纫。她们绝对不能穿灯笼裤，更不应该去钓鱼。

Mr. Earhart, however, allowed Amelia and her younger sister, Muriel, to do many things usually reserved for boys. He let them play baseball, explore caves, fish, walk on stilts, and collect insects, worms, and toads.

Amelia's mother, Amy Earhart, liked adventures, too. She had been the first woman to climb to the top of Pike's Peak in Colorado. She was the daughter of Alfred Otis, an influential Kansas judge who had helped to establish the town of Atchison. Judge Otis had expected his daughter to be a belle of Atchison society, so he

然而，埃尔哈特先生却允许阿米莉亚和她的小妹妹穆利尔做许多通常只有男孩子才可以做的事情。他让她们打棒球、去山洞探险、钓鱼、踩高跷、捕捉昆虫、爬虫还有蛤蟆。

阿米莉亚的母亲艾米·埃尔哈特也喜欢冒险。她曾经是登上科罗拉多派克峰峰顶的第一个女人。艾米是堪萨斯州一位颇有影响的法官埃尔弗雷德·奥蒂斯的女儿，奥蒂斯法官是埃切森市的奠基人之一。他期望女儿能成为埃切森上流社会的佳丽，因此当艾米嫁给

was disappointed when she married Edwin Earhart, the son of a minister.

Amelia was born in her grandpa Otis's large White house on Quality Hill, where many prominent and wealthy people lived. She spent much of her childhood there because her father, a lawyer for the railroads, was frequently away on business, and her mother often traveled with him. The house sat on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, surrounded by gardens. It was a perfect place for curious little girls.

Although her sense of adventure and her daring often got her into

一个牧师的儿子埃德温·埃尔哈特时，他感到万分的失望。

阿米莉亚出生在外祖父奥蒂斯在考雷特山上的白色豪宅里，那里住着许多名声显赫、财大气粗的人。阿米莉亚的父亲是铁路上的一名律师，经常出差在外，母亲也常常与他同行，所以她童年的大部分时间是在那儿度过的。外祖父的房子坐落在河岸的峭壁上，俯瞰着密苏里河，四周花园环抱。这对一个好奇的小女孩儿来说简直就是个天堂。

虽然她的冒险精神和勇敢无畏经常给自己惹来麻烦，但年幼

trouble, young Amelia never let that stop her from doing what she wanted. “I am sure I was a horrid little girl,” she wrote years later.

When she was nine, Amelia asked her father for a boy’s sled for Christmas. Not for Amelia were the lightweight, boxy sleds that girls rode only on gentle slopes. Instead, she got the sled she had requested. She then sped down steep hills, steering around trees as well as any boy.

For adventure one spring, Amelia decided to build a roller coaster. She coaxed her sister and a few friends into helping her build a rickety

的阿米莉亚从没因此而停止做自己想做的事情。几年以后她这样写道，“我敢肯定我是个令人讨厌的小女孩儿。”

9岁那年，阿米莉亚向爸爸要了一个男孩子玩的雪橇作为圣诞礼物。阿米莉亚不肯要女孩子们那种在缓坡上玩的轻型盒子状的雪橇。她终于如愿以偿，然后像其他男孩子一样从陡峭的山坡上急驰而下，在树林中左右穿梭。

一年春天，为了冒险，阿米莉亚决定做一个滑行隧道。她哄着妹妹和几个小朋友帮她从距地

Amelia Earhart: Aviation Pioneer

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ramp from an eight – foot – high woodshed to the ground . Then Amelia, the test pilot, got in the “car” – a square board with two parallel planks on the underside – and headed for her first crash landing . Undaunted, she made adjustments and kept trying until she completed a successful ride . “It’s just like flying!” she said .

Other inventors of the early 1900s had better luck with their flying inventions, however . In 1903, Orville Wright had flown the first gasoline – powered airplane for 12 seconds and a distance of 120 feet (36 meters) . Two years later, the

8 英尺（2.4 米）高的木棚上搭建了一个摇摇晃晃的滑道。接着，阿米莉亚作为试飞员登上了“车厢”——一块底下带有两条平行木条的方木板——开始了她第一次碰撞的“着陆”。她毫不畏惧地不断调整和“试飞”，直到做了一次成功的滑行为止。“就像飞一样！”她说。

然而，20 世纪初的其他发明家在飞行器的发明上则运气得多。1903 年，奥维尔·莱特把第一架汽油动力飞机送上天，在空中 12 秒钟内飞行了 120 英尺（36 米）。两年后，莱特兄弟造出了能够在空

[illegible]

Wright brothers had built a plane that could turn in circles and do figure – eights in the sky. One of their longer flights lasted 38 minutes and covered 24 miles (38 kilometers). By 1908, airplanes could climb and turn, but they were still difficult to control.

Ten – year – old Amelia saw a flying machine for the first time in 1908 at the Iowa State Fair. The biplane had double wings and was built of wood, wire, and oiled canvas. It basically resembled a large box kite. The pilot of this early airplane sat near the front of the contraption, resting his feet on the nearest brace.

中转圈并能飞“8”字形的飞机。他们一次较长的飞行持续了足足38分钟，飞行了24英里（38千米）。到1908年，飞机已经能够攀升和转弯，但仍然比较难控制。

1908年，十岁的阿米莉亚在爱阿华州航空博览会上第一次看到了飞行器。那是架有两层翅膀的双翼飞机，由木板、铁丝和油帆布制成的。它看上去像一只巨大的箱式风筝。这架早期飞机的飞行员就坐在这新发明的玩意儿的前部，两只脚放在最近的支架上，脸





Goggles masked his face to protect his eyes from the wind, and the engine sputtered behind him. Amelia was not very impressed when the plane bumped along the ground, then floundered into the air. She may have been thinking that she could build something better.

Although Amelia was the tow-headed tomboy of Quality Hill, she loved to spend time reading. In fact, she finished most of the books in her grandfather's large library. The many hours she spent reading instead of getting into trouble provided some much-needed quiet time for the