

Codebreakers During the Prohibition

During my research of the Prohibition, I discovered fascinating information about some amazing people. One such person is Elizebeth Smith Friedman.



She was known as ‘America’s first female cryptanalyst.’ Without the aid of computers, Elizebeth armed herself with a pad and pencil and took down rumrunners and drug rings. Using mathematics, she had broken over 12,000 codes intercepted by the Coast Guard, single-handedly exposing many notable cases.

I always find women like Elizebeth Smith Friedman inspiring. During the twenties, women had gained the right to vote but they still weren’t accepted as equals in the work force. Ms. Friedman not only

proved a woman could pull her weight in a male-dominated profession, but she excelled, stamping history with her name as one of the most legendary codebreakers of all time.

For more information, visit <https://www.nsa.gov/About-Us/Current-Leadership/Article-View/Article/1623028/elizabeth-s-friedman/>