

# ADA LOVELACE

## THE *FIRST* COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Ada's Dad was the world-famous poet, Lord Byron and her mum was a mathematician, she worried that Ada might turn out to be like her temperamental Dad, so encouraged her with maths and science lessons from a really young age. As a result, Ada was a brilliant mathematician and developed a fascination with machines and trying to understand how they work.

Ada was intrigued by her friend Charles Babbage's plans for a very complicated device he called the Analytical Engine. It was never built but had all the essential elements of a modern computer. Charles called Ada the '*enchantress of numbers*'.

In 1842 she translated an Italian article about the Analytical Engine and was asked to expand upon it as she understood the machine so much better than anybody else.

Her notes were later used as a basis for Alan Turing when he developed the first computer in the 1940s.

Although the ideas for the Analytical Engine had been sketched out by others, it was Ada's drawings that were the most elaborate and complete, as well as the first to be published. That's why she is known for being the first ever computer programmer.



Ada Lovelace



Born in 1815



Married in 1835 at 19 years of age.



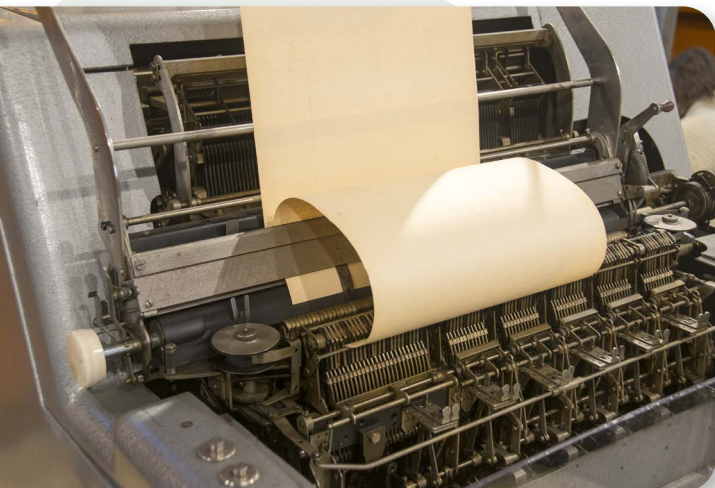
Three children;  
Byron, Anne and Ralph.



She never stopped learning and enjoying maths.



Sadly she died at the age of 36 from cancer.



## FACT

*Ada was born in 1815, just as the Industrial Revolution was taking place.*



## ADA LOVELACE BUILDING

The latest development at Exeter Science Park was named by local students at the Big Bang STEMM Careers Fair in 2019. The building provides offices and laboratory space for businesses working in STEMM and is sustainable and highly energy efficient.

### FACT

*Women in the 1800s were not given the same opportunities that they are today. The fact that Ada was so interested in, and knew so much about, technology was very unusual. She is a role model for women seeking careers in similar subjects today.*



Dr Sally Basker, who is chief executive of Exeter Science Park, said:

*“Our mission is to help innovative STEMM companies to deliver extraordinary growth and the Ada Lovelace Building will be the prime location for knowledge-based companies.”*



Find out more about  
Ada Lovelace at:  
[www.findingada.com](http://www.findingada.com)



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