The 18th Dynasty pharaoh Hatshepsut ruled Egypt for two decades (from 1479 to 1458 BC), which makes her the first major female head of state - the first one we know about, anyway. While women could be leaders in ancient Egypt, a pharaoh was by definition male. So Hatshepsut had to invent a hybrid gender, presenting a challenge to the sculptors charged with translating her flesh into stone.

Known as the next worst emperor after Caligula, the Roman Emperor Elagabalus (222 BC) regularly cross-dressed. He organised a competition to find the man with the largest penis in Rome - he then married the winner.

1577 King Henry III of France frequently cross-dressed and while dressed as a woman was referred to as her majesty by his courtiers. Even his male clothes were considered outrageous despite the flamboyant standards of 16th-century France.
1654 Queen Christina of Sweden (often considered bisexual) abdicated the throne, dressed in men’s clothing and renamed herself Count Dohna.

1673 French explorers Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette come into contact with the Illini Indians in 1673, and are astonished to discover a subset of Illini men who dressed and acted out the social role of women. The Illini termed these men “Ikoneta” while the French referred to them as the “berdache.”

1676 MTF transsexual Abbe Francois Timoleon de Choisy attended Papal inaugural ball in female dress. His memoirs, published postmortem, offer the first written testimony of cross-dressing.
1700s "Molly houses" provided a space for the English gay community to meet, carouse and relate to one another. "Mollies" were men who often crossdressed and developed their own queer culture.

1728 Chevalier D'Eon, born Charles d'Eon, was a famous French spy/ambassador who was born male but lived a significant part of his/her life as a woman. Chevalier's birth sex was a hotly debated question.

In the 18th and 19th Centuries there are many recorded instances of women who lived their lives dressed as men. Often this was to allow them entry to jobs, situations and professions from which women were excluded.

1750 Female to male transvestites join Nelson's Navy as did hundreds of others and were only discovered when they were flogged. They were never punished when they were discovered and often went on stage and became celebrities wowing audiences backed by an all singing and all dancing group of crossed dressed transvestite tars. Mary Lacy known as William Chandler who served on the Sandwich as a carpenter is one of the most famous as 'she' wrote a biography others include William Brown who served on the Queen Charlotte until being outed by a newspaper in 1815, and Alice Snell AKA James Gray served as a navy marine until 1750.
1804 George Sand, born Amandine-Aurore-Lucile Dupin, became an accomplished French romantic writer as famous for her affairs as for her words. She was the first woman in modern European history to frequently wear men's clothes, shocking her contemporaries.

1839-1844 "Rebecca and her daughters," a group of male-to-female cross-dressers, battled throughout the Welsh countryside destroying road toll barriers, which were making the poor even poorer. These warriors also adopted the names and identities of women.

1850 Crow nation "woman chief" Barcheearmepe was spotted by appalled white travelers in Wyoming and Montana; she was renown for her war exploits and for having several wives.

1861 Franklin Thompson, born Sarah Emma Edmonds, fought for the Union Army in the Civil War. During the war, Franklin served as a spy, nurse, dispatch carrier and later was the only woman mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic.
A Trans Timeline

1885 Prince Eddy, the Duke of Clarence, heir to the throne of England (the king we never had) attends Transvestite clubs - some say he was Jack the Ripper - this was proven later to be impossible - a Princess Diana-like character, able and compassionate - he died of the flu before he could be crowned - a popular and good man.

1900-1905 Turn of the Century Film Makers Mitchell and Kenyon record a cross-dressing Carnival in Crewe.

1914 First World War (1914-1918) Transvestites were being regularly shot charged as spies or cowards.

1923 Valerie Barker was born in Jersey in 1895 but she was educated in England after her family moved to Surrey. She always wished to have been born a boy.

In 1923 Valerie left her common-law husband and family and with a full set of new suits and shirts, collars and ties moved into the Grand Hotel in Brighton as Sir Victor Barker Bart. DSO where he was joined the next day by his fiancee Elfrida Haward. They were "married" at St Peters Church in Brighton on the 14th of November 1932. Always living above his means Sir Victor was indicted for bankruptcy and discovered to be a woman when imprisoned, eventually being found guilty of "knowingly and willfully causing a false statement to be entered into a register of marriage.".
A Trans Timeline – 6

1932 “Man Into Woman”, the story of Lili Elbe’s life, MTF transition, and Sex Reassignment Surgery is published.

The Second World War (1939-1945) 
Eugenics. Nazis abuse, murder and sterilise transgender people. Aversion Therapy is first used to eliminate homosexuality and later is used on transgender people.

1951 May 15th, Robert Cowell became Roberta Cowell the United Kingdom’s first full surgically altered transsexual

1952 Christine Jorgensen becomes an American transsexual media sensation when the New York Daily News carried a front-page story under the headline "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty"
April Ashley had gender reassignment surgery in Casablanca in 1960.

After returning to England, she became a successful fashion model, appearing in such publications as Vogue (photographed by David Bailey and winning a small role in the film The Road to Hong Kong, which starred Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. Her credit, however, was dropped from the film after she became the first person in the UK to be outed as transsexual - by the Sunday People in 1961.

In the 1960s despite the hostility to cross dressing within mental health services, every week in the UK's booming holiday camps topsy turvy nights encouraged men and women to dress in each others clothes at least once during their stay.

Transgender and gender-noncomforming people are among those who resisted arrest in a routine bar raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village, thus helping to ignite the modern LGBT rights movement.
1970 February, 1970. Corbett v. Corbett (otherwise Ashley). The judgment by Justice Ormrod sets the precedent that will leave UK post-op transsexual people unable to marry until the 21st Century - In September 1963 the parties went through a ceremony of marriage. April Corbett's (née Ashley) marriage is annulled and declared to be legally still a man despite sex reassignment.

1974 Jan Morris, one of Britain's top journalists who covered wars and rebellions around the globe and even climbed Mount Everest, published Conundrum, a personal account of her transition. The book is now considered a classic.

1976 Tennis Ace Reneé Richards is ‘outed’ and barred from competition when she attempts to enter a women's tennis tournament. Her subsequent legal battle establishes that transsexuals are legally, accepted in their new identity after reassignment, in the US.

1979 A series of programs entitled 'A Change of Sex' are aired on the BBC - viewers could for the first time follow pre-op transsexual Julia Grant through her transition. It also highlighted the arrogance at that time of psychiatrists based at the Gender Identity Clinic, Charing Cross Hospital.
1979 When celebrated jazz musician Billy Tipton died in Spokane, Washington, it was revealed that he was a woman. Tipton, who played in big bands in the 40s and 50s, lived for 56 years as a man, marrying several times and raising children.

Nottingham's Chameleon group for Trans people started in 1983.

1991 Transvestite comedian Eddie Izzard receives a nomination for the prestigious Perrier Comedy Award at the Edinburgh Festival.
1991  Gender Trust is founded. FTM activist Jamison "James" Green took over Lou Sullivan's FTM newsletter and transformed it into FTM International, Inc., the world's largest information and networking group for female-to-male transgender people and transsexual men.


1993 Transgender youth Brandon Teena was raped and murdered in Humboldt, Nebraska. This hate crime brought widespread attention to transgender discrimination and violence and became the subject of the award-winning film, Boys Don't Cry.

1998 Dana International, singing a song called 'Diva', becomes the first transsexual woman to win the Eurovision Song Contest.
1999 The UK Sex Discrimination Act is amended to include protections on the basis of Gender Reassignment.

2003 The Draft [Gender Recognition] Bill is the Government’s response to decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the House of Lords holding that aspects of English legislation violate rights under ECHR Article 8 (respect for private life) and Article 12 (right to marry) so far as it refuses to give legal recognition to a transsexual person’s reassigned gender.

1998 Julie Hesmondhalgh joins the Coronation Street (Britain's longest running television soap) as transsexual character Hayley Patterson.

On Dec 7th 2003 British transvestite potter Grayson Perry, 43 scooped the controversial Turner prize, and collected £20,000 at a ceremony at Tate Britain in London, dressed as alter ego Claire.
2004 The United Kingdom Gender Recognition Act becomes law on the 10th February. Offering transgender people full legal recognition of change of gender

On Friday the 6th August 2004 Portuguese post-operative transsexual Nadia Almada aged 27 of Surrey won the United Kingdom reality Game show Big Brother 5 and took away prize money of £63,500 pounds and the hearts of the nation.

2005 Professor Stephen Whittle awarded OBE and Christine Burns awarded the MBE, both for services to gender issues.

2010 UK Cage Fighter and cross-dresser Alex Reid wins the United Kingdom reality Game show Celebrity Big Brother and marries and later divorces his girlfriend, celebrity glamour model, business woman and publicity-seeker Katie Price.