**Important People in Wind Power History**

 **Albert Betz**

* **Contribution**: Developed Betz's Law in 1919, establishing the theoretical efficiency limit of wind turbines.
* **Background**: German physicist known as a pioneer in aerodynamics, crucial to wind turbine science.

 **Frederick W. Lanchester**

* **Contribution**: Created Lanchester’s Laws, describing lift and drag on rotating blades, foundational in turbine blade design.
* **Background**: British engineer and aerodynamicist.

 **William Thomson (Lord Kelvin)**

* **Contribution**: His theories on energy transfer in fluid dynamics provided groundwork for understanding wind energy mechanics.
* **Background**: British physicist and engineer.

 **Henrik Stiesdal**

* **Contribution**: Innovator in modern wind turbine design and former CTO of Siemens Wind Power.
* **Background**: Danish inventor with numerous patents in turbine technology.

 **Paul la Cour**

* **Contribution**: Developed the first wind turbine for generating electricity in the late 1800s.
* **Background**: Danish meteorologist and inventor, known as the "father of modern wind energy."

 **Georges Darrieus**

* **Contribution**: Invented the Darrieus vertical-axis wind turbine design in the 1930s.
* **Background**: French aeronautical engineer, whose design influences vertical-axis wind turbines.

 **James Blyth**

* **Contribution**: Built one of the first electricity-generating wind turbines in 1887.
* **Background**: Scottish professor and early renewable energy pioneer.

 **H. Mann**

* **Contribution**: Developed Mann’s Law of Wind Energy, crucial for estimating energy production.
* **Background**: Scientist and researcher in wind energy.

 **David S. Shepherd**

* **Contribution**: Authored foundational textbooks on wind energy and conducted influential research on turbine efficiency.
* **Background**: American physicist and academic.

 **Ugo Farinelli**

* **Contribution**: Established research methods for evaluating turbine performance and contributed to wind energy policy.
* **Background**: Italian physicist and energy policy expert.

 **Palmer Cosslett Putnam**

* **Contribution**: Built the Smith-Putnam wind turbine, the first large-scale wind turbine in the U.S., in the 1940s.
* **Background**: American engineer and early wind energy pioneer.

 **Peter Musgrove**

* **Contribution**: Helped design and commercialize wind turbines in the UK, collaborating with government and industry.
* **Background**: British engineer and wind power advocate.

 **Charles F. Brush**

* **Contribution**: Built the first automatically operated wind turbine for electricity production in 1888.
* **Background**: American inventor and early wind energy pioneer.

 **Richard J. Seymour**

* **Contribution**: Led research on offshore wind energy potential in the 1980s and 1990s.
* **Background**: American oceanographer and wind energy researcher.

 **Juha Honkasalo**

* **Contribution**: Instrumental in developing offshore wind technology in Europe.
* **Background**: Finnish engineer and leader in offshore wind energy.

 **John Olav Giæver Tande**

* **Contribution**: Developed methods for integrating wind energy into power grids.
* **Background**: Norwegian researcher focused on wind energy systems.

 **Jan Smits**

* **Contribution**: Influenced wind energy policy and research in the European Union.
* **Background**: Dutch policy expert and wind energy advocate.

 **Søren Krohn**

* **Contribution**: Published key wind energy research and worked on turbine cost analysis.
* **Background**: Danish researcher and industry expert.

 **Michael L. Rossen**

* **Contribution**: Pioneered the development of simulation software for turbine performance.
* **Background**: American engineer specializing in wind energy.

 **Hans Henrik Sørensen**

* **Contribution**: Key figure in offshore wind energy projects and floating wind turbines.
* **Background**: Danish engineer and expert in renewable energy technology.