

Please note: Map is not to scale

Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the South Coast Walking Tour

- 1 New Bedford Whaling Museum**
18 Johnny Cake Hill
Emily Howland Bourne Lydia Grinnell Brown
Edith Guerrier Marian Shaw Smith
Mary T. Vermette Florence Waite
- 2 The Bedford Merchant**
28 William St.
Eliza Bierstadt
- 3 New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park**
33 William St.
Annie Ricketson
- 4 Location near Rosetta Douglass Birthplace**
157 Elm St., about 7 blocks west of Elm Street Parking Garage, 51 Elm St.
Rosetta Douglass (site of plaque)
- 5 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Plaza**
Corner of William St. and Acushnet Ave., and nearby mural at 41 William St.
Martha Bush Gray
- 6 New Bedford City Hall**
133 William St.
Rosalind Poll Brooker Jennie Horne
Rosemary Tierney
- 7 New Bedford Free Public Library**
613 Pleasant St.
Sylvia Ann Howland (marble tablet for her philanthropy)
- 8 New Bedford Public Schools**
455 County St.
(site of New Bedford High School 1909-1972)
Laurinda C. Andrade Elizabeth Carter Brooks
Rosamond Guinn Carol Haney
Marial Harper Mary Elizabeth Hartley
Mary Hudson Onley
- 9 Stephen Taber House**
446 County St.
Elizabeth Taber
- 10 First Unitarian Church**
71 Eighth St.
Maja Capek
- 11 Lang, Xifaras & Bullard**
115 Orchard St.
MarDee Xifaras
- 12 Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum**
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Amelia Jones
- 13 Grinnell Mansion**
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Cornelia Grinnell Harriet Jacobs
- 14 John Briggs House at New Bedford Pest Control**
113 Allen St.
Martha Bailey Briggs
- 15 Historic Home of Mary Rotch**
47 South Sixth St., (rear, green vinyl-sided house behind Our Lady of Assumption Church)
Mary Rotch
- 16 Hetty Green Birthplace**
43 Seventh St.
Hetty Green
- 17 Location of Phebe Hart Mendall Home**
37 Seventh Street
Phebe Mendall
(Her house was next to the house pictured.)
- 18 Nathan and Polly Johnson House**
21 Seventh St.
Juan Bennett Drummond
Polly Johnson
- 19 Abolition Row Park**
Corner of Seventh and Spring Streets
Amelia Piper Emma Louise Piper
- 20 Friends Meeting House**
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- 22 Historic Location of Helen Ellis' Bookstore "The Whaler Book Shop"**
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- 24 Cape Verdean American Veterans Association Memorial Hall**
561 Purchase St.
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185 Acushnet Ave.
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185 South Second Street
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15 Johnny Cake Hill
Sarah Rotch Arnold
- 28 New Bedford Ship Supply Co., Inc.**
108 Front St
Harriet Didriksen



Emily Howland Bourne
New Bedford Whaling Museum
Emily Howland Bourne (1835-1922) showed the same careful planning in her inspired philanthropy that her father Jonathan showed as one of New Bedford's most successful whaling merchants. She administered her wealth with a conscience that both honored her family and enriched its communities. Emily gifted the Jonathan Bourne Whaling Museum and its half-scale model of the whaling bark *Lagoda* to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in her father's memory, preserving the history of the waning whaling industry for future generations.

Lydia Grinnell Brown
New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford's Lydia Grinnell Brown (1895-1945) became the first African American graduate of Simmons College in Boston. Her dedication to academic excellence and commitment to the study of languages led to her becoming a translator of French, German and Spanish for the Pan-African Congress in Paris, London and Brussels. The Brown Family Papers at the New Bedford Whaling Museum include Lydia's notebooks.

Edith Guerrier
New Bedford Whaling Museum
The first woman supervisor of branch libraries of the Boston Public Library, Edith Guerrier (1870-1958) included social reform in library programs. Edith organized library clubs for immigrant girls to encourage reading, storytelling, and exchanging ideas and co-founded Paul Revere Pottery to provide girls employment with decent wages in a healthy environment. The Edith Guerrier Papers at the New Bedford Whaling Museum include Edith's autobiography, where she remembers her childhood in New Bedford.

Marian Shaw Smith
New Bedford Whaling Museum
Marian Shaw Smith (1866-1913) sailed the world's oceans as a whaling captain's wife, log keeper, photographer, navigator, correspondent, and business partner. Over the course of 18 years and 10 voyages, she wrote detailed letters to family and friends and took some of the earliest photographs of whale hunting and processing. One of Marian's photographs is on display at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Mary T. Vermette
Casa dos Botes Discovery Center
Her close friends lovingly called her MTV, so appropriate for a woman who channeled everything Portuguese in a way that no other SouthCoast woman has done. Deeply rooted in her Azorean heritage, Dr. Mary T. Vermette (1934-2003) worked with the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society and the New Bedford Whaling Museum to promote Azorean culture and the shared whaling heritage between New Bedford and the Azores. Mary was instrumental in raising funds from the Portuguese government to create the Azorean Whaleman Gallery, which opened at the Whaling Museum in 2010.

Florence Waite
New Bedford Whaling Museum
Humble philanthropist Florence Waite (1861-1946) left the bulk of her large estate to be distributed among more than 20 New Bedford organizations, many of which she had helped for decades. She anonymously gifted the copper sign above the New Bedford Whaling Museum's original entrance on North Water Street, which bears the name of the governing body of the Museum, the Old Dartmouth Historical Society.



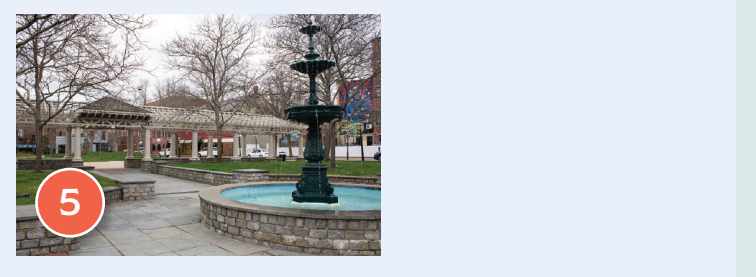
Eliza Bierstadt
New Bedford Merchant
Active in the local 19th-century art community of William Street, New Bedford's "Gallery Row," Eliza Bierstadt (1833-1896) was likely America's first female art dealer. Eliza's work started in New Bedford at the Ellis Art Gallery (now The Bedford Merchant) and later expanded with her move to Niagara Falls, New York, where she added Hudson River artists' works to her stock. Correspondence to Eliza from several artists and friends reveal her savvy business skills, her knowledge of art supplies, and a busy social life.



Annie Holmes Ricketson
New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
Annie Holmes Ricketson (1841-?) accompanied her husband on whaling voyages and filled journals with details about life as the lone woman aboard ship. Annie lost her newborn daughter in Faial, Azores, as well as her husband on a return trip home. Annie and other whaling wives endured rough seas, terrible tragedies, painful homesickness, and limited companionship of other women. She is represented here at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, which tells the story of the American whaling industry.



Rosetta Douglass
Location near Rosetta Douglass Birthplace
Abolitionist and social reformer Rosetta Douglass (1839-1906) continued a family legacy of activism that began in New Bedford with her parents, Frederick and Anna Murray Douglass. Rosetta delivered her most notable speech, a paper entitled "Anna Murray Douglass - My Mother as I Recall Her," as an acknowledgement of the essential part that Anna played in Frederick's rise to becoming a renowned author and orator. Rosetta was born at 157 Elm Street, about seven blocks west of here.



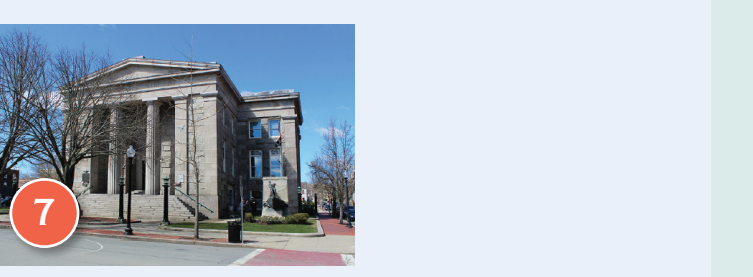
Martha Bush Gray
54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Plaza
Known as the "Mother of the 54th," Martha Bush Gray was an African American Civil War nurse who served the troops of the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Regiments in the South. Married to First Sergeant William H. W. Gray of the 54th Regiment, Martha was concerned for her husband's health and wanted to be useful to the young New Bedford men during the war. "I am anxious to do all that I can for them, and my country also," she wrote to her congressman, and became one of the few African American women allowed to serve the troops in the field.



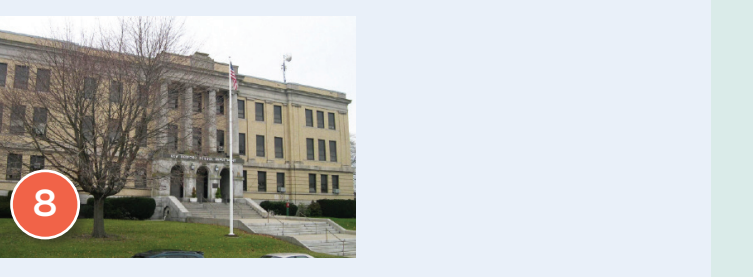
Rosalind Poll Brooker
City Hall
Rosalind Poll Brooker (1928-2016) was a trailblazer for women in the fields of law and politics. In spite of polio and post-polio syndrome, Rosalind became a tenacious lawyer and dedicated public servant. After her 1969 election to New Bedford's City Council, Rosalind stated, "I'm not going down in history, I'm going up." Rosalind rose up throughout her life and brought other women up with her. In 2005, a new public meeting room in New Bedford City Hall was named in her honor.

Jennie Horne
City Hall
The War on Poverty initiatives of the 1960s had a dedicated foot soldier in Jennie Horne (1920-1998). During her influential career in social services, she worked for ONBOARD (Organized New Bedford Opportunity And Resource Development), West Central Community Center, and the Model Cities program. As a member of the Mayor's Citizen Advisory Committee during several mayoral administrations, Jennie helped to channel federal Community Block Grants into the community.

Rosemary Tierney
City Hall
Rosemary S. Tierney (1932-2020), was another trailblazer for women in politics. Her first election was for the New Bedford School Committee in 1971. She was elected to the Massachusetts Governor's Council in 1984. Her trademark grassroots campaigning style, drove her to victory in the 1991 mayoral race. She was the first woman elected mayor of the City of New Bedford and served for three terms. One of the things she was most proud of was restoring New Bedford's financial stability through tough budgetary controls.



Sylvia Ann Howland
New Bedford Free Public Library
Once described as the wealthiest woman in New Bedford, philanthropist Sylvia Ann Howland (1806-1865) provided a legacy that benefited not only family members, caretakers, and charitable organizations, but also the residents of New Bedford through trusts to support education and business. Upon her death in 1865, approximately half of her estate was distributed to her niece Hetty Robinson Green. A marble tablet in New Bedford Free Public Library commemorates Sylvia's gift of \$200,000 to the city of New Bedford.



Laurinda C. Andrade
New Bedford Public Schools
From immigrant textile mill worker to Ivy League student to pioneering New Bedford educator, Laurinda C. Andrade (1899-1980) overcame barriers of tradition, poverty, language, and discrimination to establish the first high school Portuguese language department in the United States at New Bedford High School. For 25 years she taught English, French, and Portuguese to New Bedford High students.

Elizabeth Carter Brooks
New Bedford Public Schools
The first female African American public school teacher in New Bedford, Elizabeth Carter Brooks (1867-1951) was an educator, social activist and architect. Elizabeth taught at the Taylor School for over 25 years, founded and designed the New Bedford Home for the Aged, and helped to preserve the Sergeant William H. Carney House. In 1957, New Bedford Public Schools named the Elizabeth Carter Brooks School in her honor.

Carol Haney
New Bedford Public Schools
The performing roots for Tony Award-winning actress, dancer and choreographer Carol Haney (1924-1964) started in New Bedford. While a student at New Bedford High School, she often performed in student productions and opened her own dance studio, Miss Haney's School of Dance. She went on to choreograph and perform in Hollywood and New York. In 1955, Carol won a Tony Award for her performance in "The Pajama Game" and later earned three Tony nominations.

Marial Harper
New Bedford Public Schools
New Bedford educator Marial Harper (1934-2016) positively impacted numerous lives at New Bedford High School, from where she graduated in 1952, and was the first woman and minority to be appointed a Housemaster there. Of Mashpee Wampanoag and Cape Verdean descent, she became active with the Mashpee Wampanoag as a member of its Council of Elders in her retirement.

Mary Elizabeth Hartley
New Bedford Public Schools
A U.S. military veteran with overseas tours during three wars, Lieutenant Colonel Mary Elizabeth Hartley (1920-1999) served in the Army Nurse Corps for 25 years, from 1942 to 1967. A graduate of both New Bedford High School and St. Luke's Training School for Nurses, Lt. Col. Hartley contributed to the evolution in trauma and casualty care that was spearheaded by the U.S. Army.

AMPLIFYING HISTORY

by lifting women's voices and inspiring generations to come

Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the SouthCoast explores the historical impact of women from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds who shaped their SouthCoast communities, the nation, and the world. **Lighting the Way** is unearthing remarkable stories of women's callings that required grit, tenacity, and enduring commitment to their families, careers and communities.

This **Lighting the Way** Walking Trail Map guides you to locations associated with 45 of these inspiring women. Learn the stories of educators, philanthropists, abolitionists, crusaders for social justice, investors, sister sailors, and millworkers as you walk through downtown New Bedford.

Visit www.HistoricWomenSouthCoast.org to read full profiles of more than 100 historic SouthCoast women featured in **Lighting the Way**. There you will also learn about upcoming programs, activities, and initiatives connected to **Lighting the Way** including:

- Free Guided Tours – **Lighting the Way** offers guided walking tours in downtown New Bedford in the summertime.
- Online and In-Person Programs – Throughout the year **Lighting the Way** offers engaging programs inspired by historic women of the SouthCoast.
- Educator Resources – **Lighting the Way** provides free online resources as well as professional development workshops for educators.

Email LTWCoordinator@WhalingMuseum.org for questions about the **Lighting the Way** project.

2022

Explore Lighting the Way

Visit www.HistoricWomenSouthCoast.org to learn about more inspiring SouthCoast women and upcoming **Lighting the Way** activities.



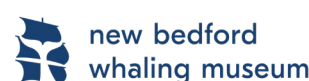
From the **Lighting the Way** website, link to the digital exhibit and tour *Organizing New Bedford: Women Who Mobilized Change*, a collaboration with RhodeTour.org, featuring a selection of historic SouthCoast women from **Lighting the Way**. The Rhode Tour app brings mapping technology, sound, images, videos and well-told stories together in an engaging online experience.



Acknowledgments

Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the SouthCoast is grateful for the generous support from:

CHT Foundation
New Bedford Cultural Council
Individual donors



18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740
www.whalingmuseum.org | 508-997-0046



Archangela Fortes

Cape Verdean Ultramarine Band Club

A tireless leader in New Bedford's Cape Verdean community, Archangela "Canja" Fortes (1919-2009) initiated numerous events that celebrated Cape Verdean women. As president

of the Cape Verdean Women's Social Club from 1957 to 1962, she launched its annual Tea, as well its annual Mother's Day Procession. The Cape Verdean Ultramarine Band Club was one of the meeting locations for the Cape Verdean Women's Social Club. Canja was also active in other local organizations and chaired the Cape Verdean Debutante Ball for nine years.



Marie Equi

Location near Marie Equi Birthplace

New Bedford prepared physician and political agitator Marie Equi (1872-1952) for a lifetime of social justice advocacy. Marie's Oregon medical practice and nationwide activism were influenced by her working class experiences while growing up in New Bedford, where she was born on South Second Street. Marie worked for women's suffrage, reproductive rights, and workers' rights. In 1918, Marie served 10 months in San Quentin for sedition. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt pardoned her in 1933.



Sarah Rotch Arnold

Mariners' Home

Nineteenth-century New Bedford's Sarah Rotch Arnold (1786-1860) was dedicated to her community, social reform, religious tolerance, and horticultural beauty. Sarah oversaw charitable work amongst families of seamen, supported abolitionist causes, and believed "the spirit of Truth is not limited to any sect" of religious denomination. In 1851, Sarah presented her late father's mansion to the New Bedford Port Society for a "Mariner's Home" to support seamen.



Harriet Didriksen

New Bedford Ship Supply Co., Inc.

Considered the matriarch of New Bedford's working waterfront, Harriet Didriksen (1943-2019) advocated for fishermen, their families and the fishing industry. A boat owner as well as owner/operator of New Bedford Ship Supply, Harriet was armed with a lifetime of fishing knowledge in her fight for reasonable regulation. Backed by research, Harriet worked with politicians in convincing regulators to open closed fishing areas.



Helen Elizabeth Ellis

Historic Location of Helen Ellis' Bookstore. "The Whaler Book Shop"

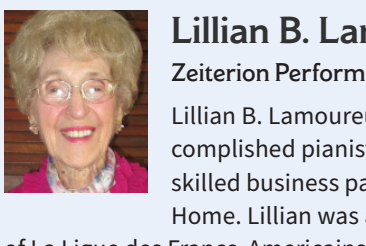
What do a tea room in Westport, a bookstore in New Bedford, special exhibits at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and a children's museum in Dartmouth all have in common? These are just some of the creative projects conceived by teacher, woodcarver and entrepreneur Helen Elizabeth Ellis (1889-1978). In 1928, Helen opened The Whaler Book Shop with Imogene Weeks in a rented house here. The bookstore sold books for children and adults and offered special programs.



Sarah R. Delano

Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

"If you bulldoze your heritage, you become just anywhere," have become the most repeated words of Sarah Ashley Delano (1904-1994). Throughout her presidency of the Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE), bulldozing was usually averted, and New Bedford kept its historic heart. Sarah steered WHALE through the process of saving the deteriorating State Theater from demolition and transforming it into the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center.



Lillian B. Lamoureux

Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

Lillian B. Lamoureux (1921-2017) was an accomplished pianist, devoted Francophile, and skilled business partner at Lamoureux Funeral Home. Lillian was an active board member of La Ligue des Franco-Américains. For 18 years, she served as president of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, which performs at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center.



Valentina Almeida

Cape Verdean American Veterans Association Memorial Hall

The child of Cape Verdean immigrants, Valentina Almeida (1913-2009) is best known for her advocacy work with immigrants within the local Cape Verdean community. She assisted immigrants by facilitating all aspects of their transition to a new country. In 1998, the Cape Verdean government named Valentina an auxiliary vice consulate. Uncomfortable in the spotlight, Valentina was twice honored at testimonial banquets held at the Cape Verdean American Veterans Association Memorial Hall.

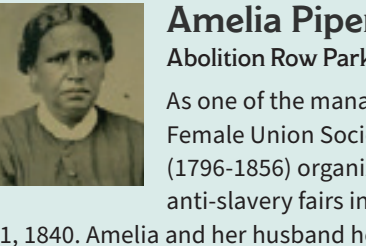


Mary J. "Polly" Johnson

Nathan and Polly Johnson House

Confectioner and abolitionist Polly Johnson (1784-1871) specialized in sweets and provided safe lodging to freedom seekers in New Bedford along the Underground Railroad.

The Nathan and Polly Johnson House, her home with her husband Nathan, became the first safe house of freedom seeker Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna. A business partner with her husband in confectionery and catering businesses, Polly worked hard so that freedom seekers could find "sweet freedom" in New Bedford.



Amelia Piper

Abolition Row Park

As one of the managers of the New Bedford Female Union Society, abolitionist Amelia Piper (1796-1856) organized one of the first anti-slavery fairs in New Bedford on January 1, 1840. Amelia and her husband helped many fugitives who came to New Bedford, including John Jacobs, brother of writer and abolitionist Harriet Jacobs. The Piper family lived at 58 Bedford Street, about six blocks south of here, near Lewis Temple. The mission of Abolition Row Park is to tell the story of abolitionists who once lived in the neighborhood.



Rachel Howland

Friends Meeting House

Peace, love, and understanding were hallmarks of Rachel Howland (1816-1902). Rachel negotiated peace in labor disputes, was a respected minister in the Society of Friends, and founded the Association for the Relief of Aged Women of New Bedford based on the principle, "Not Alms Alone, But a Friend."



Margaret Ryckebusch

Labor Mural, Sixth and Spring Streets

Educator and labor leader Margaret A. Duggan Ryckebusch (1940-1998) was a professor, department head, and union leader at Bristol Community College. Margaret was also a leader in the area's labor movement, serving on the New Bedford Central Labor Council and on the Advisory Committee of the Labor Education Center at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Margaret is memorialized for her union work as part of this labor mural alongside other community activists.



Mary Rotch

Historic Home of Mary Rotch

A leading intellectual and deep religious thinker, Mary Rotch (1777-1848) remained true to her belief in the Light Within. Mary became a leader of the New Lights, progressive Quakers who believed in the Light Within as a sufficient guide, more important than the Old Light rules of organized religion. Disowned by New Bedford Friends in 1824, "Aunt Mary" united with Universalists and held fast to her convictions, refusing to participate in certain rituals and referring to the Supreme Being as "that Influence" instead of God.



Hetty Green

Hetty Green Birthplace

Known as both "The Witch of Wall Street" and "The Queen of Wall Street," Henrietta "Hetty" Howland Robinson Green (1834-1916) was the richest woman in the world, her worth estimated at over \$100 million, the equivalent of about \$2.5 billion today, at her death in 1916. As a model of groundbreaking financial intelligence and independence, she was called "Mrs. Hetty Green" while her husband was known as the husband of Hetty Green. Hetty was born at this location.



Phebe Mendall

Location near Phebe Hart Mendall Home

Wedding cakes became the specialty of baker Phebe Hart Mendall (1801-1887) who was widowed at age 35 when her husband Elihu Mendall was lost at sea. With two children to care for, Phebe applied herself to become the finest cook she could be. She ran a successful catering/baking service from her home.



Juan Bennett Drummond

Nathan and Polly Johnson House

Juan Bennett Drummond (1864-1926) was the first African American woman licensed in the state of Massachusetts to practice medicine. She was a member of the New Bedford High School Class of 1883. Juan graduated from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1888 and practiced medicine for 34 years. She was one of several women who were instrumental in founding the New Bedford Home for the Aged. Her diploma is on display at the Nathan and Polly Johnson House.

"I am anxious to do all that I can for them, and my country also."

— Martha Bush Gray

"I'm a back-burner person. I like to do, but I don't like to talk about it."

— Valentina Almeida

"A girl should be brought up as to be able to make her own living, whether or not she's going to inherit a fortune."

— Hetty Green

"I'm not going down in history, I'm going up."

— Rosalind Poll Brooker



Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras

Lang Xifaras & Bullard

Hailed as "the first woman of SouthCoast politics," New Bedford lawyer MarDee Xifaras (1945-2019) was a trusted confidante of presidential candidates, governors, senators and congressmen. She was a driving force behind creation of the state's first public law school, the University of Massachusetts School of Law in Dartmouth. She was a delegate and superdelegate to Democratic National Conventions for 30 years.



Amelia Jones

Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum

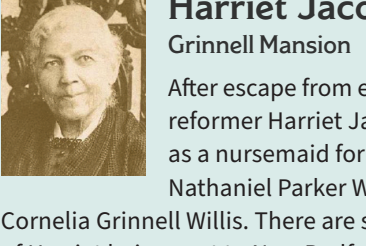
Philanthropist Amelia Hickling Jones (1849-1935) focused on giving that benefited children. Amelia donated \$1,000,000 and the family's Dartmouth farm to St. Luke's Hospital in 1923 for a children's hospital, Sol e Mar. Amelia lived at the Jones mansion (now The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum) for 85 years.



Cornelia Grinnell

Grinnell Mansion

Abolitionist, women's rights advocate and women's club founder, Cornelia Grinnell Willis (1825-1904), who grew up in the Grinnell Mansion, advocated for and secured Harriet Jacobs' freedom, making it possible for Harriet to write and publish what became an edifying "slave narrative." In 1852, Cornelia sent Harriet to the Grinnell Mansion to shelter Harriet from her "owner."



Harriet Jacobs

Grinnell Mansion

After escape from enslavement, abolitionist and reformer Harriet Jacobs (1813-1897) worked as a nursemaid for the family of abolitionist Nathaniel Parker Willis and his second wife

Cornelia Grinnell Willis. There are several recorded instances of Harriet being sent to New Bedford to stay with the Grinnell family on County Street to shelter her from the Norcom family, who sought to re-enslave her. Nathaniel and Cornelia bought Harriet's freedom in 1852, and the next year Harriet began work on *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, the most important slave narrative by an African American woman.



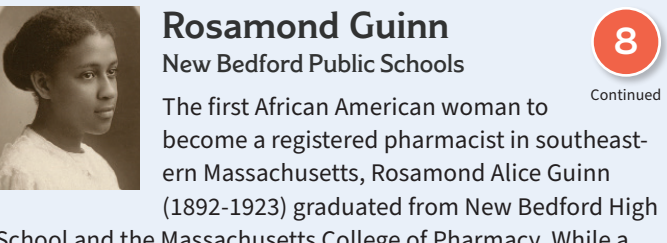
Martha Bailey Briggs

John Briggs House at New Bedford Pest Control

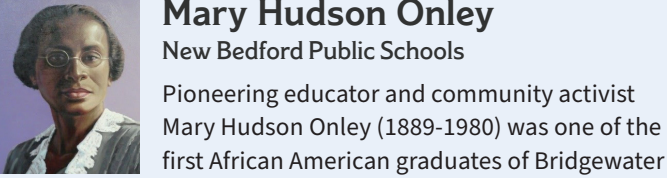
Martha Bailey Briggs (1838-1889) lived at this Allen St. home. Born to African American abolitionists, she realized at a young age that education was essential to ending slavery. Her life is a testament to the leadership that African American women provided in the field of education during the 19th century. Her extensive experience as both teacher and administrator was invaluable in the development of teacher training programs, predecessors to modern college and university education departments.

"The whaleboats are a bridge between here and the Azores; something physical of our past that we can see, that shows the presence of the Azorean people here."

— Mary T. Vermette



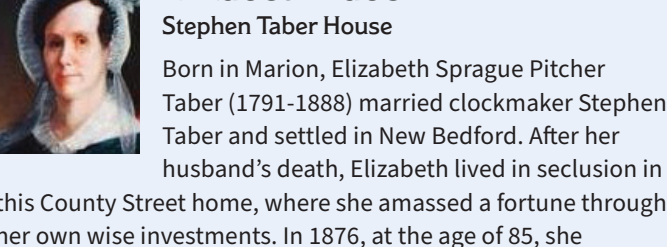
The first African American woman to become a registered pharmacist in southeastern Massachusetts, Rosamond Alice Guinn (1892-1923) graduated from New Bedford High School and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. While a pharmacy student, Rosamond was one of eight women who founded a club that became Lambda Kappa Sigma, the oldest professional fraternity for women in pharmacy. Rosamond returned to New Bedford and joined her father John, also a "druggist," in the pharmacy business Guinn and Co.



Mary Hudson Onley

New Bedford Public Schools

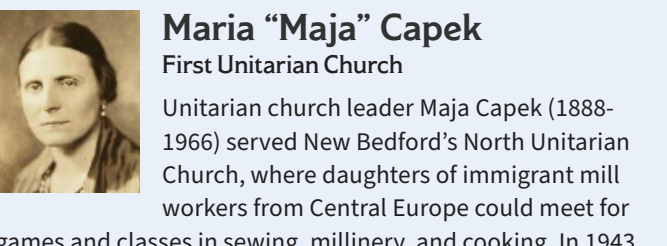
Pioneering educator and community activist Mary Hudson Onley (1889-1980) was one of the first African American graduates of Bridgewater State Normal School in 1912. A 1908 New Bedford High School graduate, Mary taught in New Bedford public elementary schools for 19 years. She was one of the founders of the Martha Briggs Literary Club and a member of the Martha Briggs Educational Club.



Elizabeth Taber

Stephen Taber House

Born in Marion, Elizabeth Sprague Pitcher Taber (1791-1888) married clockmaker Stephen Taber and settled in New Bedford. After her husband's death, Elizabeth lived in seclusion in this County Street home, where she amassed a fortune through her own wise investments. In 1876, at the age of 85, she founded Tabor Academy.



Maria "Maja" Capek

First Unitarian Church

Unitarian church leader Maja Capek (1888-1966) served New Bedford's North Unitarian Church, where daughters of immigrant mill workers from Central Europe could meet for games and classes in sewing, millinery, and cooking. In 1943, Maja served with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, helping to provide relief for Europeans ravaged by World War II. North Unitarian Church was its own congregation when Capek was minister but merged back into this First Unitarian in the 1970s.

"The whaleboats are a bridge between here and the Azores; something physical of our past that we can see, that shows the presence of the Azorean people here."

— Mary T. Vermette