

Mission Statement:

To create on-going programs to celebrate the women of Cambridge, past and present, from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and experiences and recognize their contributions to the life and culture of the City of Cambridge, Mass.

To establish a group of diverse membership to support the Project and oversee the creation of the Cambridge Women's Heritage Database; and promote the Project through receptions, illustrated talks, walking tours, and an internet site.



Maria Louise Baldwin: first African-American woman to be appointed as a principal in Massachusetts in 1889.

The Cambridge Women's Heritage Project grew out of a grassroots effort to establish a memorial to writer May Sarton, which was accomplished with the dedication of a tree and plaque in her honor at the Cambridge Public Library's main branch in 1996. The committee continued to work toward a more formal program of commemorating the contributions of Cambridge women, and several members founded the Cambridge Women's Heritage Project Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee continues today to collect nominations and celebrate the women of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Jointly sponsored by the Cambridge Women's Commission and the Cambridge Historical Commission.

Mailing Address:

City of Cambridge
Cambridge Historical Commission
803 Massachusetts Ave. 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139

Cambridge Women's Heritage Project



Antoinette Williams: factory worker, PTA president, community volunteer.

Recognizing and celebrating the contributions of women from the early days of Cambridge, MA to the present.

About the Project

The primary goal of the Cambridge Women's Heritage project is to record the lives of women of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and honor them by recognizing their many accomplishments.

There are currently over 400 women and women's organizations that have been nominated for the database. Over 150 have been edited and have been made available on our website.

The entries in the database are organized alphabetically. There is also a topical index, where one can find women by occupation or area of interest (doctors, social workers, writers, etc.).

Cambridge Women You Should Know

Squaw Sachem of Misticke, (b. ca. 1585, d. 1650) - Squaw Sachem of Misticke was a Native American chief of the Massachusetts tribes who was induced to sign over to the English a large tract of land "within the bounds of Watertowne (sic), Cambridge, and Boston" for a nominal exchange of goods: 21 coats, 19 fathom of wampum, and 3 bushels of corn.

Mabel Gardiner (Hubbard) Bell (b. 1857, d. January 3, 1923.) - As a child, Mabel became deaf due to illness. After marrying Alexander Graham Bell in 1877, she went on to found the Montessori Education Association and became its first president.

De Ama Battle (lives in Cambridge) – De Ama helped found one of the first Pan African dance troops. She has taught African-rooted dance forms at Tufts University, Wellesley College and the Boston Conservatory and has run a performance group for teens.



Cambridge YWCA Girls Basketball Team, 1916. Photo courtesy of the Cambridge Historical Commission.

The database is a work in progress.

We welcome:

- ✓ Your nominations
- ✓ Your edits
- ✓ Your time & talents

To be part of the project and find out more about notable Cambridge women, visit our website:

www.cambridgema.gov/cwhp