

March is Women's History Month!

Here are a few women who made a mark on Falmouth's history:

Awashonks (fl. mid-late 1600s) was a leader of the Native Sakonnets. She made agreements with English settlers in the 1670s to keep her people safe during King Philip's War. Awashonks lived most of the time in Rhode Island, but sometimes she spent the summer on Great Hill, which is now Falmouth Heights.

Dinah (c1770) was an enslaved woman who was brought to Falmouth and made a break for freedom. While her "master" talked business with a squire on Palmer Avenue, Dinah hurried to the kitchen. The women of the house helped her to hide in a barrel. Finally her enslaver gave up looking for her and sailed away.

Annes (Harrington) Ray (c1776 – 1866), was a free black woman. She lived near Eastman's Hardware with her seven children and her husband, Joseph. He was of African and Native American descent. Annes signed an anti-slavery petition in 1840 along with 70 other Falmouth women.

Whaling Wives (1850-1890) Eleven Falmouth women went on long voyages with their husbands, who were captains of whaleships. Some women brought their children along, and some had new babies born in places like Honolulu and Fiji. The whaling wives included Eunice (Davis) Lawrence, Maria (Tobey) Hamblin, Thankful (Fish) Baker, and Carrie (Doty) Turner.

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929), the author of "America the Beautiful," was born in Falmouth. She moved away at age 12 but always kept a connection to the town. Katharine became a Wellesley College professor of English and a respected poet. She enjoyed a life partnership with another female professor, Katharine Coman, which was unusual for the time. The "shining sea" in her poem is the sea off Falmouth's shores.

Julia Wood (1849-1932) was related to Falmouth's seafaring Swift family. She raised money to help people who were hurt during World War I. Julia also wanted to make sure that local history was remembered. She was part of a group that started the Falmouth Historical Society. Her house is now used as a museum.

Mary Dodd Craig (1874-1959) graduated from Wellesley College. She was taught there by Katharine Lee Bates. In Falmouth, Mary helped her husband to run a hotel and spoke up for women's right to vote. In 1914, she became the first woman elected in Falmouth by winning a seat on the School Committee.

Karen Rinaldo (1952-present) is an artist who has been painting Falmouth's history since 1976. One of her posters shows Falmouth's 300th birthday party in 1986. Her painting of the first Thanksgiving is hanging in Plymouth's Pilgrim Hall. Karen donates her artwork each year to support Falmouth's Fourth of July fireworks.

Sarah Peters (1973-present) is a Falmouth sculptor who made 11 bronze plaques set into the sidewalk at the public library. The plaques show activities that made the town prosper, such as whaling, salt-making, and ice-harvesting. Sarah also created the alphabet chair outside Eight Cousins bookstore.

Falmouth Women's History Matching Game

Can you match these Women's History words to their descriptions?

Awashonks	She loved history, and her house is now a museum.
Whaling Wives	Women who fought for suffrage in the early 1900s.
Suffrage	We celebrate this every March.
Katharine Lee Bates	Her painting of the first Thanksgiving is in Pilgrim Hall.
Women's History Month	She was the leader of the Sakonnet tribe in the 1600s. She lived in Falmouth during the summer months.
Annes Ray	Women who sailed the world with their sea captain husbands.
Suffragettes	She signed an anti-slavery petition in 1840.
Julia Wood	Her sculptures remind us of old time activities like salt-making.
Mary Dodd Craig	She escaped to freedom by outwitting her enslaver.
Dinah	This woman was born in Falmouth. She was a professor at Wellesley College, and wrote "America the Beautiful."
Karen Rinaldo	The right in vote in elections.
Sarah Peters	She was elected to the school committee in 1914.

Influential Women in Falmouth History

K	Y	A	Y	S	S	Q	U	I	L	T	H	D	Q
A	M	R	I	A	K	L	L	O	A	Y	I	E	A
R	A	O	M	R	N	R	T	C	D	S	S	R	R
E	R	T	N	I	O	R	T	S	R	A	T	M	T
N	Y	P	O	K	H	L	A	U	A	R	O	A	I
R	D	L	I	Y	S	J	M	F	N	A	R	R	S
I	O	U	T	H	A	U	G	F	N	H	Y	C	T
N	D	C	I	T	W	L	G	R	E	P	M	H	L
A	D	S	L	U	A	I	D	A	S	E	A	D	W
L	C	M	O	O	N	A	I	G	R	T	K	R	O
D	R	D	B	M	E	W	N	E	A	E	E	G	M
O	A	A	A	L	E	O	A	R	Y	R	R	I	E
N	I	T	R	A	U	O	H	A	M	S	S	I	N
I	G	C	A	F	Q	D	E	R	M	I	Y	I	K

KAREN RINALDO
WOMEN
QUEEN AWASHONKS
SARAH PETERS
MARY DODD CRAIG
MARCH
QUILT
SCULPTOR
HISTORY MAKERS
SUFFRAGE
ANNES RAY
JULIA WOOD
FALMOUTH
DINAH
ABOLITION
ARTIST

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/5399098/>

Honoring an Important Woman

During the month of March, and all year long, we celebrate women, their accomplishments, and their power. There are a lot of influential women in Falmouth's history, and there are probably a lot of influential women in your own life! How can you show those women you appreciate them? Write a letter or draw a picture for an important woman in your life. She could be your mom, grandmother, teacher, or a friend.