

Natalie A. Naylor, *Women in Long Island's Past: A History of Eminent Ladies and Everyday Lives*

CONTENTS

Introduction	9
1. The First Long Islanders	13
2. Colonial Long Island	23
3. The Revolutionary Schism and the Occupation of Long Island	33
4. Expanding the Domestic Sphere in the Nineteenth Century	43
5. Long Island's First Ladies	53
6. Novelists, Poets, and Other Writers	62
7. Women and the Arts	71
8. Philanthropists and Humanitarians	83
9. Earning a Living: Entrepreneurs, Entertainers, and Scientists	95
10. Pioneering Pilots: Daring and Intrepid Airwomen	106
11. Achieving Votes for Women	115
12. Civic and Political Activists	125
13. Years of Change, 1930-1980	134
14. Historians and Preservationists	147
Epilogue	159
Notes	165
About the Author	191

*Women in Long Island's Past* has 192 pages and more than 60 illustrations; it is a \$19.99 paperback and is also available as an e-book. Chapters deal with specific time periods or thematic topics and focus on women in today's Nassau and Suffolk counties. Published in October 2012 by History Press (645 Meeting Street, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29403; 866-457-5971, 843-725-9614 or [www.HistoryPress.net](http://www.HistoryPress.net)). ISBN: 978.1.60949.499.5.

Author contact: [Natalie.A.Naylor@Hofstra.edu](mailto:Natalie.A.Naylor@Hofstra.edu)

This book recounts the ordinary lives of women from the native Algonquian Indians to the colonial and Revolutionary years through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Vignettes highlight more than 100 women.

Among the "eminent ladies" in Long Island's past that you'll meet are: Cornelia Clinch Stewart, the philanthropist who made Garden City a unique community; Margaret Olivia Sage, the "Lady Bountiful" of Sag Harbor and Lawrence; and Dorothy Melville, "Stony Brook's Fairy Godmother." Eminent novelists include Elizabeth Oakes Smith (Patchogue and Blue Point), Frances Hodgson Burnett (Plandome); and Marilyn French, author of *The Women's Room*. Acclaimed poet May Swenson lived her final two decades in Sea Cliff.

Sculptures by Sally Jane Farnham (Kings Point) and Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (Old Westbury) are found throughout the country. Lithographer Mary Nimmo Moran and illustrator May Wilson Preston lived and worked in East Hampton. Modernist painter Helen Torr resided in Huntington Town (Halesite and Centerport). Abstract expressionists Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, and Perle Fine lived and worked in Springs (East Hampton) for decades. Eminent scientists include Barbara McClintock (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory) and physicist Gertrude Sharff Goldhaber who worked at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Yaphank and lived in Bayport.

Pioneering pilots who flew from the Hempstead Plains include Harriet Quimby, Matilde Moisant, Elinor Smith (Freeport), Amelia Earhart, and Jackie Cochran. The Ninety-Nines, an organization of women pilots, was founded in 1929 at Curtiss Field in Valley Stream (now Green Acres Mall).

Long Island suffragists who played important roles in achieving the vote for women in the 1910s included Alva Vanderbilt Belmont (East Meadow and Sands Point), Harriot Stanton Blatch (Shoreham), Harriet Burton Laidlaw (Sands Point), and "General" Rosalie Gardner Jones (Cold Spring Harbor),

Among the other women whose contributions are recounted are: Alicia Patterson, founder of *Newsday*; Marjorie Merriweather Post head of General Foods (Brookville); and Helen Marsh, founder and developer of Bellerose. Household efficiency expert Christine McGaffey Frederick (Greenlawn) was responsible for standardizing the height of sinks and kitchen counters.

Overwhelmingly, in addition to other activities most women were mothers and homemakers. Some wives even sailed with their husbands on whaling vessels and merchant ships. A few were lighthouse keepers. Nuns in Catholic religious orders established and maintained orphanages, schools, colleges, and hospitals throughout the island. These pioneers paved the way for today's women and the legacy of our foremothers survives. Extensive notes enable you to further explore the lives of Long Island women.