

2. Cambridgeport Women's History Walk - 2 Miles



- 1.) Start at City Hall, walking east on Mass Ave. towards Central Square.
- 2.) At Prospect St. (Leader Bank), turn right and cross Mass Ave. towards Magazine/River/Western Ave. for 1 block. (Women's Historical Site A; Edith Taylor, 5 Western Ave., old Cambridge Police Department)
- 3.) Turn left onto Green St.
- 4.) Continue walking down Green St., crossing Magazine St., and take the next right onto Pearl St. (Women's Historical Site B; Lilli Ann Rosenberg, Mosaic on front of Cambridge Public Library Central Sq.)
- 5.) Continue for two blocks and turn left onto Auburn St.

(Women's Historical Site C; Caroline Frances Orne, 107 Auburn St.)

- 6.) Take first right into Brookline St.
- 7.) Continue for one block; take first right onto Watson St.
- 8.) Continue for one block; take first left onto Pearl St.
- 9.) Walk down Pearl St. and turn right onto Corporal McTernan St.
- 10.) Enter Dana Sq. Park and walk around. There are benches and picnic tables.

(Women's Historical Site D; Dana Park Art Installation in Dana Park Dana Park Quotes)

- 11.) Exit park at Corporal McTernan St. and turn right.
- 12.) At intersection, take first left onto Magazine St. and then immediate right onto Chalk St.
- 13.) Take first right onto Pleasant St.
- 14.) Take second right onto Upton St.

(Women's Historical Site E, Former site of Graham and Parks School, now the Family Resource Center, 15 Upton St)

- 15.) Turn left onto Magazine St. and continue until you reach Mass Ave.
- 16.) Turn left onto Mass Ave. and return to City Hall.

Memory Lane Walks created by the



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More information, including references, along with many other women's histories, can be found on the **Cambridge Women's Heritage Project Website** (http://www.cambridgema.gov/cwhp/)

A.) Edith Taylor – Cambridge Police Department First Female Police Officer

Edith J. Taylor spent 33 years as a Cambridge Police Officer. Hired as an investigator in July of 1919, she became a full-time policewoman in March of 1921.

She is remembered as a woman who enjoyed helping Cambridge youth stay on the right path. She was a key player in helping to establish a Big Brother/Big Sister program in the city. She felt that it would be better to have an older "sibling" looking after a young person rather than a police officer. Officer Taylor felt that because of the freedom of the times and the speed of modern living, the children of the era were a bit harder to control than those of 30 years ago (to put this in perspective, 30 years ago to her was before 1900). She believed that parents of teen-age children should know where they are at night, whom they are with and that they should set curfews.

Ms. Taylor was involved in other duties as well. A story she liked to tell was about how she used to patrol Harvard Square establishments asking women to put out their cigarettes.

She was eventually succeeded in the department by Mrs. Louise Nelson Darling as the second female police officer.

B.) Lilli Ann Rosenberg - Artist

On the outside wall of the Central Square Branch of Cambridge Public Library is a mosaic by Lilli Ann Rosenberg. Trained in architecture, sculpture and ceramics, the artist tried to integrate art with the community as well as with the architecture. She also has major pieces in the Park Street Station, Villa Victoria in Boston's South End, the Henry Street Settlement House in New York, Judge Baker Clinic at Children's Hospital in Boston, Faulkner Hospital in Boston, and the Alfred I. DuPont Institute in Wilmington, Delaware.

C.) Caroline Frances Orne (b. September 5, 1818, d. February 7, 1905) - Poet, author, first Cambridge librarian

Caroline Frances Orne was the daughter of John Gerry Orne and his wife, Ann (Stone). She was brought up in Cambridge and educated in the Cambridge public schools and at a private school in Boston, Bailey's High School for Young Ladies. She was a childhood friend of the poet James Russell Lowell, which may have inspired her to write poetry herself. In her twenties she began to publish children's stories and poetry, some of which had a national circulation. *Lucy's Party and Other Tales* (1842) was intended for children; *Sweet Auburn and Mount Auburn with Other Poems* (1844) described the grounds of Mount Auburn both before and after it became a cemetery. Her book of poetry, *Morning Songs of American Freedom* (1876), included patriotic poems, a number of which celebrated the courage of sea captains, from whom her father was descended. Longfellow thought well enough of her work to include one of her poems in his anthology, *Poems of Places* (1879).

In 1858, the city of Cambridge purchased the Athenaeum (founded by Edmund Dana as a private library) and renamed it the Dana Library—Caroline Orne became its first librarian. She built up the holdings from 1,400 books to 7,000, and expanded its hours of operation. The library soon required more space, and in 1866, it was relocated to the old Masonic hall at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Temple Street. Orne remained as librarian until 1874, when she retired. She was succeeded by another woman librarian, Almira L. Hayward, who remained for the next twenty-two years. In 1879, the library was renamed as the Cambridge Public Library.

Towards the end of her life, Orne became interested in her family history. She joined the Hannah Winthrop Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and published a study of her mother's family, the Stone family, from the early 1630s, titled *A Pioneer in New England* (1887, reprinted 1930). When the organization published *An Historic Guide to Cambridge* in 1907, it included an account of her publications. Orne lived in her family home at 107 Auburn Street until her death in 1905. She is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery with the rest of her family.

D.) Dana Park Art Installation Dana Park Quotes

In 2007 **John Powell** created **Dana Park Quotes**, a work of public art that draws on the prose and poetry of various writers who had association with the neighborhood over the last two centuries. Powell has mounted eight aluminum discs on the light poles marking the perimeter of the central lawn and the pathway encircling it. Each disc measures eighteen inches in diameter and is laser-cut with letters forming quotations from selected writers and poets, some of whom are women, who lived in or visited Cambridgeport during its 300-year history. Mounted high on the lamp posts, the discs rotate slightly with wind movement and catch sky, sunlight, foliage, and lamplight as the conditions of the day or night change. The play of light activates the form and the text. Writers and poets include Margaret Fuller, Denise Bergman and Caroline Orne (See Site C above.)

E.) Graham and Parks School (former building)

Graham and Parks School is named in honor of City Councillor and State Representative Saundra Graham and Civil Rights Activist Rosa Parks. Parks was a black seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama who was arrested December 1, 1955 for refusing to move to the back of the bus. Her arrest led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Sandra Graham is a vocal supporter of minority and women's rights in Cambridge. In 1968, Saundra became a member of the Board of Directors of the Cambridge Community Center. In 1970, she served as president of the Riverside Planning Team and in 1971, as one of the founders and the president of Riverside Cambridgeport Community Development Corporation. She led this organization to become a highly successful community development corporation that continues to provide low and moderate income housing for Cambridge residents and acts to upgrade existing housing. She also led the struggle for rent control in the early 1970s.

Graham became widely known for her leadership of neighborhood residents in a protest, during the 1970 Harvard University commencement, against the university's real estate expansion that resulted in the eviction of long-time residents from their homes. The group succeeded in forcing Harvard to construct both elderly and family housing complexes over the next ten years. She has continued to the present to challenge the creation of Harvard buildings in areas of the Riverside neighborhood of Cambridge.

In 1971, she was elected to the Cambridge City Council, the first woman of color to be elected. From 1972 to the 1980s, she served as Chairwoman of its Housing and Land Use Committee. From 1976 to 1977, Graham served as Vice-Mayor of Cambridge. As City Councilor and later State Representative, she played a key role in obtaining federal housing dollars for Cambridge that resulted in rehabilitation and modernization of public housing complexes. Through her work, one building in the historic East Cambridge courthouse complex was saved from demolition and opened as a center for Multicultural Arts. In 1977 and 1978, she served as Chairwoman of the Multicultural Arts Center Committee in Cambridge.

In 1976, Saundra Graham was elected as State Representative, a seat which she held for the subsequent twelve years. She was the first black woman representative from Cambridge to the State House and served as Chairwoman of the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus and as a member of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators. She continued to work for fair housing as a member of the Joint House-Senate Committee on Housing and Urban Development. In her work in the legislature, Saundra was dedicated to obtaining economic justice for the poor, the elderly, the unemployed, minorities and women. She also served as Secretary to the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

The colorful tile mosaic on either side of the entrance was created by Judith Inglese, a muralist of national renown. She designed the school's mosaic low enough so children can appreciate its tactile quality. The theme, harmony in diversity, depicts an urban landscape full of children playing, flying kites, and a school resembling Graham and Parks.