

Island Annex

Womens' tour

CM

JA

EB2

W

JPH

MP

B

GB

MS

St. Mary's

KW

SF

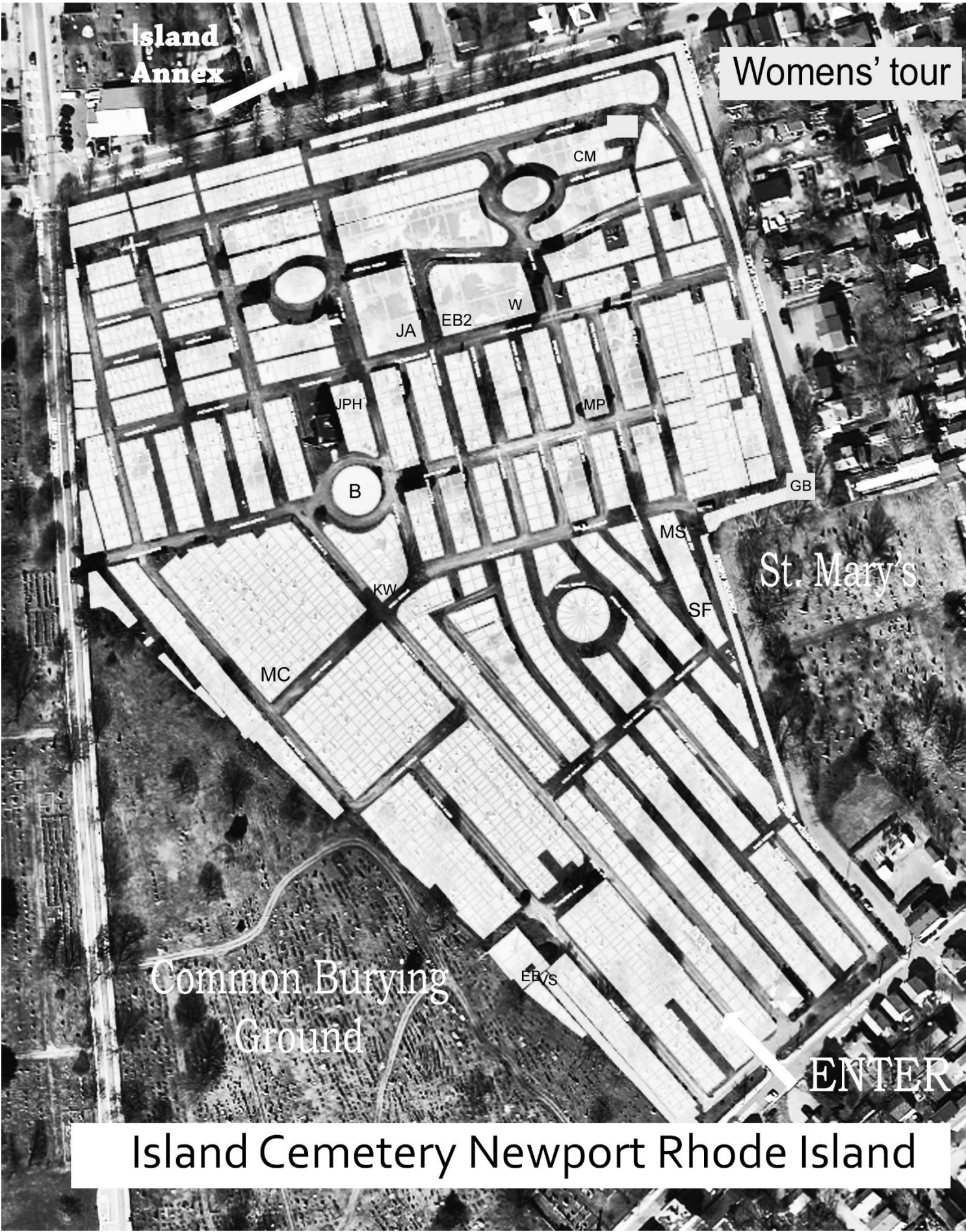
MC

Common Burying Ground

EB/S

ENTER

Island Cemetery Newport Rhode Island



The Women of Island Cemetery

One of the most frustrating situations people find when walking through an old cemetery is to see etched above a woman's name is "daughter of" or "wife of" or "mother of." Regardless of a woman's economic status, she was almost always defined by her relationship to a man.

Newspaper obituaries for women were rare until well into the 20th century. Even a wealthy and well-respected woman like Ethel Rhineland King, who should be recognized for her contributions to the arts and society in both New York and Newport, was a footnote in her own obituary. Her multi-paragraph obituary in the *New York Times* discussed her father, her husband and the minister who conducted the funeral service. It included the fact that the chapel in which her service was conducted had been built by the King family, but no mention was ever made about her good works.

The women included in this chapter/tour are included solely for their accomplishments independent of the men in their lives. Additional research will undoubtedly find many additional women buried here who are worthy of inclusion on a list of notable people.

Janet Auchincloss (1907-1989) at map location #JA

Janet Lee Bouvier Auchincloss Morris was born in New York City. Her father was a lawyer and real estate developer, and the family was Irish Catholic. She attended Barnard College but did not graduate. In 1928 she married John Bouvier III and subsequently gave birth to daughters Jacqueline and Caroline Lee. Janet Bouvier was an accomplished horse rider and won 3 national championships at the National Horse Show held in New York City. She divorced Bouvier in 1942 due to his heavy drinking and womanizing. Later that same year, she married Hugh Dudley Auchincloss Jr, and the couple remained married until his death in 1976. She served as a board member of the Newport Historical Society and the Redwood Library. When her daughter married Senator John Kennedy, the wedding took place in Newport with a reception at her home, Hammersmith Farm.

Edna Barger (1872-1957) at map location #EB2

Barger and her family were longtime summer visitors to Newport. Following the death of her father, Edna and her sister, Maud Barger Wallach (listed below) continued to live in the Isaac Bell House on Bellevue Avenue. The house was in the Barger family longer than any owner of the property (1891-1952)ⁱ. After the Barger's sold the property, it became a nursing home and was eventually acquired by the Preservation Society of Newport County. If you visit the property, you may notice on the Perry Street entrance the name "Edna Villa". The house was named for the mother of Edna and Maud, Mrs. Barger.



Eleanor Robson Belmont December 13, 1879-October 24, 1979
map location #B



Eleanor Robson was born in Lancashire, England, the third generation of a theatrical family. Her father died when she was young, and when her mother remarried, the family moved to the United States. She began her acting career at age 17 in San Francisco. Her career took her to New York and later London where she was applauded by J.M. Barrie and G.B. Shaw. George Bernard Shaw was very taken with her and wrote "Major Barbara" for her. He also wrote her numerous love letters.

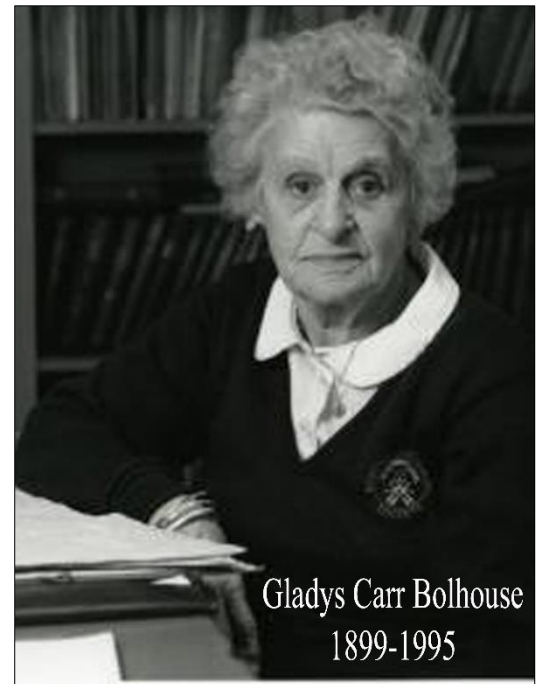


She was an acclaimed actress but gave up her career when 1910 to become the second wife of August Belmont Jr. She spent the rest of her life working for charitable and artistic causes. She founded the Metropolitan Opera Guild in 1935 to

raise money for the company and served as the first woman elected to the board of directors of the company in 1933. Eleanor Belmont was also a crusader for the Red Cross and made several trips to Europe during World War I. In 1917 she carried a letter to General Pershing from President Roosevelt. She died at age 99 in her sleep in her home in New York.ⁱⁱ

Gladys Carr Bolhouse (1899-1995) at map location #GB

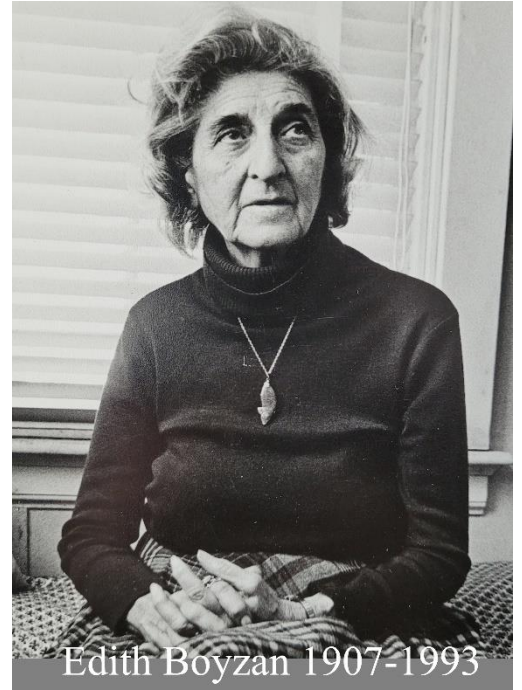
Gladys Carr was born in Rhode Island and married Peter Bolhouse July 13, 1928ⁱⁱⁱ. The 1930 census shows her living with her parents and newborn son Daniel, and the 1940 census shows the addition of daughters Jane and Mary. Peter Bolhouse, a WWI Navy veteran, died in 1955, and it was after this year that Gladys Bolhouse began working at the Newport Historical Society. In 1957 and 1958 she was reported to be the executive secretary of the organization, and in the 1970s she was described as the curator of manuscripts. In 1984 she was named the first official historian of the City of Newport. Gladys Bolhouse spoke at numerous group meetings and was frequently quoted on historical matters in the newspapers. She was an active member of St. Paul's Methodist Church and the Major William Taggart Chapter of the DAR.



Edith Bozyan (1907-1993) at map location # EB

Edith Bozyan was an important figure in the local art world. She was born in Newport and educated in Newport's public school system. At the age of ten, she received a scholarship to classes given by the Art Association in the Griswold House on Bellevue Avenue. She attended Smith College, graduating in 1929, and moved to New York to study at the Art Students League. There she rented studio space from classmate Jackson Pollack. One of her instructors at the Art Student League was Thomas Hart Benton, whom she remembered years later as a "male chauvinist pig." She went on to teach art in some of New York's public schools and exhibited her work at the Art Association in Newport from 1930 on. In 1950 she returned to Newport to help her father run his antique business at 138 Bellevue Avenue, now the site of Pasta Beach Restaurant.^{iv}

In August 1984 artist and patron, Edith Bozyan, got a group of fellow artists together to form a group to show contemporary art in her father's former antique shop and named it DeBlois Gallery. It was the first artists co-op on Aquidneck Island and has been continuously running since 1984 to showcase the work of local artists from Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.^v In 2014 DeBlois Gallery moved to Valley Road in Middletown, Rhode Island.



Marion Kalsholhen Carry Jan 30, 1905-Nov 1987
map location MC

Carry was born at 12 Friendship Street in Newport and would live there her entire life. In 1926 she graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and later began her career that ran for five decades of teaching art at the Newport Art Association. At first, she assisted Helena Sturtevant and was noted in the writings of Association founder Maud Howe Elliott. In 1938 Carry was awarded a scholarship by the Association that allowed her to study art in Europe.^{vi}

State cemetery records indicate Marion was cremated at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence. Cemetery records indicate that Marion's remains are buried here but she is not included on the family monument.

Susan Braley Franklin 1868-1955

map location SF

Susan B. Franklin was born in Newport in 1868 to a family that had a bakery in the city. She attended Bryn Mawr College, achieving her B.A. in 1889 and her PhD in 1896, and she paid for graduate school by teaching Latin at Vassar.

Franklin taught first at Miss Baldwin's School near Bryn Mawr College but then headed the classical department at the Workingman's School from 1904-1933. When her aging parents needed help, she returned to Newport and finished out her teaching career at Rogers High School.

Franklin was a member of the Society for Cultural Studies and was the first woman to have an article published in their scholastic journal. She was extremely interested in history and contributed a great deal of research to the Newport Historical Society.

Sadly, Miss Franklin was murdered in her home when she was 86 years old. In her will, she left all her money to establish scholarships for students at Brown and Bryn Mawr.^{vii}



Jane Emmet Griswold (1832-1909) map at map location # JG



MRS. JANE EMMET GRISWOLD.

Jane Emmet was born in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1832 and spent the first ten years of her life there. After her father's death, Jane and her mother relocated to New York City and lived with Jane's older brother, an eminent obstetrician/gynecologist.^{viii}

Jane married the wealthy John Noble Alsop Griswold in 1860, and they honeymooned throughout Europe for about two years. She kept a series of journals and showed a proclivity for writing.

In addition to giving birth to five children and running the household, she pursued her own interests. In 1870 the official publication of the National Woman Suffrage Association praised Jane Griswold for her kindness in inviting the children from the Orphans Home of Newport into her home. She also invited Julia Ward Howe to use her home for meetings of the Town and Country Club, an organization of both male and female intellectuals.

Sometime around 1890, Jane Griswold left her husband and home in Newport. In August of 1892, JNA Griswold added a codicil to his will which changed his bequest to his wife: "Whereas my wife Jane Emmet has seen fit without just cause from me to accept an annuity of \$6000 per annum (just over \$1 million today) and to live separate and apart from me...I direct that she receive what the law provides as her right of dower in my real estate."^{ix}

Jane Griswold purchased a flat in New York City and a home in the artists' colony, Onteora Park, in the Catskills. Candace Wheeler, the founder of the colony, wrote of Jane Griswold in her memoir, *Yesterdays in a*

Busy Life: “Among the very first who were so caught by the glamour of the mountains as to make their homes there were Mary Mapes Dodge...Susan Coolidge...and Mrs. J.N.A. Griswold, born Emmet, with even more than her share of the Emmet brilliancy sparkling in all she did.”^x

During her time in the Catskills, Jane Griswold wrote a novel called *The Lost Wedding Ring* featuring the character of Letitia Boy. It isn't much of a stretch to call the book an autobiography. Mrs. Boy was also separated from her husband but chose not to ask for a divorce because she did not want to bring the marriage any lower by opening herself and her family members to scandal. She went on to discuss how the modern woman could no longer promise to obey her husband and was quite capable of standing on her own two feet. Mrs. Griswold, like her character Mrs. Boy, blamed her husband for putting too much importance on money, and she believed he had caused the premature deaths of two of their sons by insisting they work harder than they were able to.

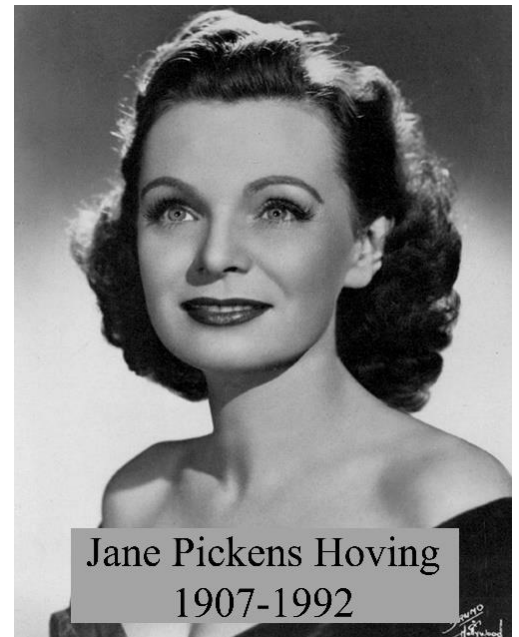
The Griswold's lived apart for the rest of their lives, and Jane Griswold spent the bulk of her time in New York. She was often cited in newspaper articles as an avid reader and attendee of literary soirees. She died at her home in January 1909, and after her funeral, her body was returned to Newport for burial in the family plot near the graves of the three sons who predeceased her. Her husband died eight months later and was buried next to her.

Jane Pickens Hoving (1910-1992) at map location #JPH

Jane Pickens began life in Georgia where she and her sisters formed a singing trio. They had a radio show in New York in the 1930's. Jane was part of the Ziegfeld Follies of 1936 and appeared in some films and on Broadway.

In 1971 she purchased a Colonial Revival mansion on Bellevue Avenue designed by Ogden Codman in 1910. A few years later, Jane Pickens and her sister gave a concert at the former Strand Theater on Washington Square, and the owner named the theater in her honor.

Jane Pickens died at her house in Newport in 1992. Her estate was inherited by her only daughter, Marcella Clark McCormack.^{xi}



Princess Alexandra Troubetzkoy Malcolm (1910-1994) at map location #CM

Alexandra Troubetzkoy was born in Russia in 1910 to an aristocratic family. Like many Russian aristocrats, the family fled Russia in 1919 after the October revolution. *Downton Abbey* fans will recall the old flame of the Dowager Countess Grantham who ended up in London after fleeing Russia. We also had in Newport another Russian princess, Tamara Whitehouse, the aunt of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

Alexandra Troubetzkoy was educated in England and France. She began to study art at age ten. Later she trained at the Students Art League in New York and at the National Academy of Design. She also attended the Ruskin School of Drawing and studied fine arts at Oxford University.

After the death of her first husband in Italy, she came to the United States and had her first exhibition in New York in 1955. There she met her second husband with whom she is buried here. Most of her art is in museums and in private collections.^{xii}

Marcella Clark McCormack (1930-2010) at map location #MM

She was the only child of Jane Pickens and known as a conservationist and arborist and set aside more than two acres of her estate, Merrillton on Bowery Street for the Aquidneck Land Trust which is called “Marcella’s Woods.” A few years after her death, the A.L.T received \$2.8 million from her to purchase land in the future for the trust.^{xiii}

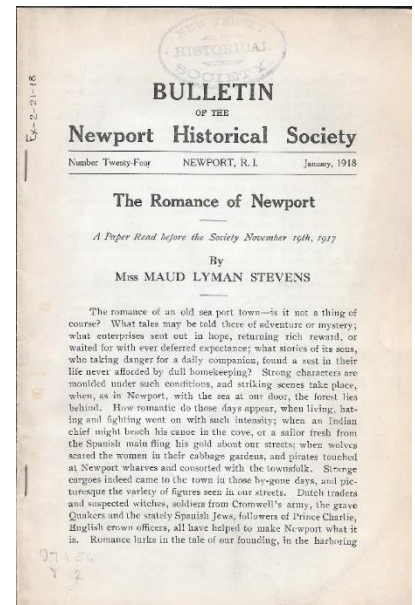
Mildred Olive Bigelow Tilton Pell 1886-1980 at map location #MP

Mildred Olive Bigelow was an artist and author known to many as Olive Bigelow Pell. She studied art at the Art Students League in New York, and in Paris and in Munich^{xiv}. Her work was widely exhibited in the United States and Europe. Her portrait work was sold to raise funds for the American Red Cross during WWI and during WWII, her work provided funds for the American and British Red Cross.^{xv} She wrote and illustrated “Belinda” a book about her time in Europe as the wife of a U.S. diplomat and illustrated two history books. In 1952 she published a condensed version of the King James Bible that took 12 years to create. Her version of the Bible is about 20% the length of the original since her goal was to make it more readable for the average person^{xvi}. In a 1930 when she became a grandmother, she took her own advice that every grandmother ought to have a career so at age 43, Mrs. Pell returned to painting^{xvii}. Her rationale for this advice was that grandmothers should not interfere with raising the grandchildren and not be pests or bosses in their homes.

Virginia Beans Sampson 1908-2001 at map location #V Virginia Beans Sampson was born in Massachusetts and married Norman Sampson before 1930. The 1930 United States census states that she was a bookkeeper at the Island cemetery. In 1997 John Sterling, who was documenting burials in Newport, visited Virginia, and she shared she had been with the cemetery for 70 years. Her affiliation with the site was the longest of any individual. In addition to her work at the cemetery, Sampson was active in the business community. In 1937 she was active in the Newport Business and Professional Women’s Club and served as its president. In 1938 she was elected vice-president of the Rhode Island Professional Women’s Club and would lead the organization in 1939. Sampson also served as president of the Hope Branch of the International Sunshine Foundation.

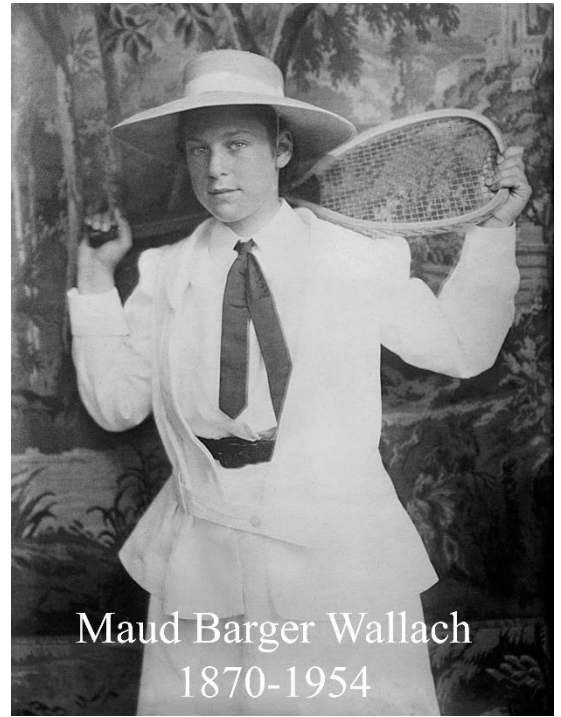
Maud Lyman Stevens May 16, 1869- November 11, 1949 at map location #MS

Maud Stevens was a respected author, historian, and authority on Newport and Rhode Island History. She served as a director of the Newport Historical Society and published the society bulletin. One of her most notable papers was the history of the Vernon House on Clarke Street. Additionally, Ms. Stevens was an avid gardener and member of the Newport and Jamestown Garden clubs. She was an active member of Channing Church, the Newport Art Association, the Rhode Island Society of Colonial Dames, the Current Topics Club, and vice-president of the Home for the Aged on Washington Street^{xviii}.



Maud Barger Wallach (1870-1954) at map location # EB

Maud Barger Wallach was inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame in 1958. She was a right-handed baseline player with an accurate forehand but weak backhand^{xxix}. In 1906 and 1909 she was the runner-up at the US National Championship tournament and captured the championship in 1908 from Evelyn Sears in 3 sets. Wallach was also an active fox hunter and ice skater^{xx}. Much to the dismay of other skaters, she rented the St. Nicholas Ice Rink in Washington, D.C. three times a week for private lessons with John Davidson, a champion fancy skater.^{xxi} Wallach was a governor at the Newport Casino^{xxii} and donated the championship trophy awarded at the Casino^{xxiii}. In a 1940 interview Maud gave to a reporter from the Brownsville Herald, the 70-year-old Wallach told the reporter she was dissatisfied with her game and going to change her forehand.^{xxiv} Maud Barger Wallach was chair of the committee that first ranked women tennis players in the United States.



Maud Barger Wallach
1870-1954

Edith Wetmore (1870-1966) at map location # W

Maud Wetmore (1873-1951) at map location # W

The Wetmore sisters were two of the most well-known women in Newport and New York. Since neither had to look for a husband or a job, both remained single, a phenomenon somewhat common to women of their class.



Maude Wetmore
1873-1951



Edith Wetmore 1870-1966

Edith Wetmore was born in 1870 in Switzerland while her parents were on their extended honeymoon. Maud Wetmore was born in Paris three years later. The sisters spent the bulk of their lives at the family home, Chateau-sur-Mer, or at their New York townhouse at 1 Beekman Place.

They commissioned and paid for the Seamen's Church Institute in Newport as a memorial to their parents as well as donating to numerous charities. Both women were original members of the Preservation Society of Newport County, and the first meeting of the group took place at Chateau-sur-Mer, with Maud Wetmore elected as the first president.

Apart from that, their individual interests and activities varied greatly. Edith Wetmore was an integral part of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York, and she and her sister donated many family heirlooms to the collections there. She also donated a collection of first editions and rare children's books to the Providence Library. She was a charter member and great financial supporter of the Newport Art Association when they formed in 1912 and loaned family paintings to the group for exhibitions. She was also the long-time president of the Old Statehouse Committee to maintain the integrity of what is now known as the Colony House.

While her sister was involved mostly in New York City, Newport and Rhode Island groups, Maud Wetmore was busy with more national affairs. She was involved in Republican Party politics, especially in New York, and also a leader in the Committee on Women's Defense Work during World War I. Oddly, neither she nor her sister ever supported women's suffrage.

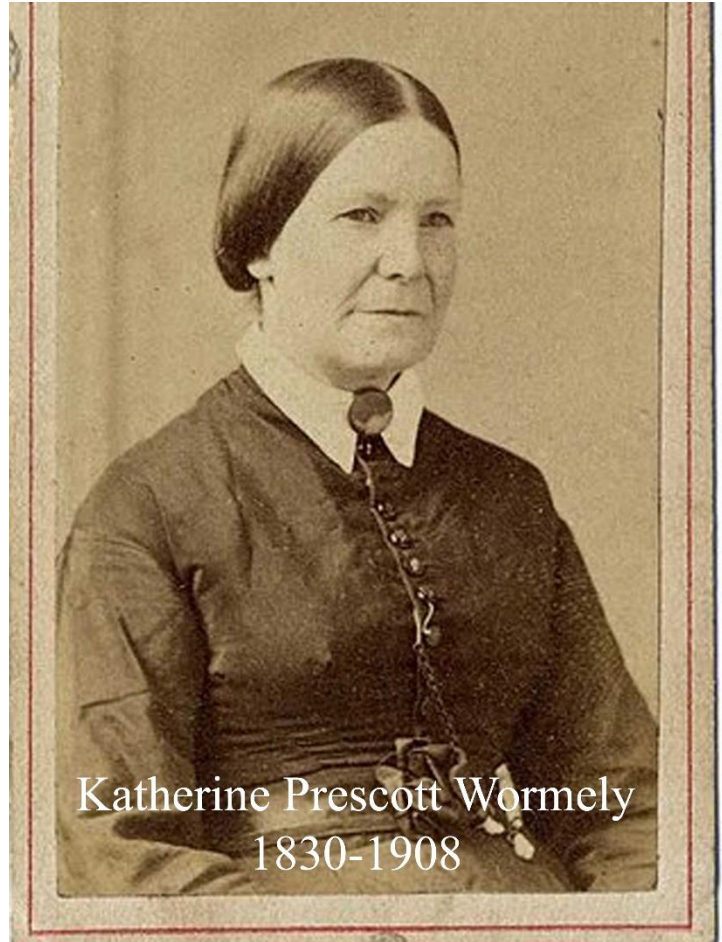
Maud Wetmore was an avid player of both golf and tennis, reaching the finals of the U.S. Women's Amateur Golf Tournament in 1898. She also loved to drive her own car.

Maud Wetmore died unexpectedly in 1951 at her Newport home while Edith lived until 1966 to the age of 95. Chateau-sur-Mer was willed to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, but the group declined. In 1969 the Preservation Society of Newport County purchased the home from Edith Wetmore's estate.^{xxv}



Katherine Prescott Wormeley 1830-1908 at map location # KW

Kathrine Prescott Wormeley was born in England to a British-American couple. She emigrated to America in 1848 and during the American Civil War nursed Union soldiers. Her work as a volunteer for the U.S. Sanitary Commission included serving as a matron on a hospital ship and as superintendent of Lowell General Hospital in Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island. She founded the Newport Charity Organization Society in 1874 and established an industrial school to educate working class girls in 1887.^{xxvi} She was also an excellent translator of French literature and is known in literary circles for translations of Moliere, Balzac, Dumas and other French authors. Her home on Red Cross Avenue was designed by McKim, Mead, and White.



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- ⁱ Isaac Bell, Jr House, National Historic Landmark Nomination, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/c42ec182-1cba-4454-883c-9f07ba7666bb>, 11.
- ⁱⁱ "Eleanor R. Belmont Dies at 100; Leader in Charities and the Arts," *The New York Times*, (25 October 1979), 1.
- ⁱⁱⁱ "Married in Kay Chapel," *Newport Mercury* (13 July 1928), 8.
- ^{iv} "Edith Bozyan," *MacDowell News* (Peterborough, NH). <https://www.macdowell.org/artists/edith-bozyan>.
- ^v "DeBlois Gallery Celebrates 30 Years," *The Bay Magazine* (29 May 2014).
- ^{vi} "Exhibit remembers a Newport original," *Newport Daily News* (14 June 2013), newportri.com; accessed online August 22, 2022.
- ^{vii} McCrillis, John O.C. "Thanks to Susan Braley Franklin, Scholar and Mentor," *Newport History*: Vol. 64: Iss. 221, Article 5 (1991). <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol64/iss221/5>
- Ward Briggs, "Franklin, Susan Braley," Database of Classical Scholars, Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences. <https://dbcs.rutgers.edu/all-scholars/9324-franklin-susan-braley>
- ^{viii} J. Doyle, "Jane Emmet," 29 February 2012, *emmetry*. <http://emmetrydevelopment.com/people/janeemmet>. Retrieved 25 May 2013.
- ^{ix} Last will and testament of John Noble Alsop Griswold on file at the Newport County Courthouse, Newport, Rhode Island.
- ^x Candace Wheeler, *Yesterdays in a Busy Life* (New York: Harper, 1918), 268.
- ^{xi} "Jane Pickens Hoving Dies at 83," *New York Times* (24 February 1992), B10.
- ^{xii} "A. Troubetzkoy, 84, Princess and Artist." *New York Times* (5 July 1994), D14.
- ^{xiii} "Land Trust Receives Large Gift." *Newport This Week* (31 January 2014), 2.
- ^{xiv} AskART Archives Biography. https://www.askart.com/artist/Olive_Pell/120956/Olive_Pell.aspx
- ^{xv} "Olive Pell, 94, A Painter: Works Helped Red Cross," *New York Times* (10 December 1980), D23.
- ^{xvi} *ibid*
- ^{xvii} "Mrs. Pell, Urging Careers for Grandmothers, Returns, as Olive Bigelow, to Painting at 43", *New York Times* (15 January 1930), 27.
- ^{xviii} "Maud L. Stevens Dies; Writer, Historian," *Newport Mercury and Weekly News* (18 November 1949), 3.
- ^{xix} "Maud Barger-Wallace", *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maud_Barger-Wallach
- ^{xx} "Mrs. Barger Wallach Dies, '08 National Tennis Champ," *Newport Daily News* (2 April 1954), 2.
- ^{xxi} "Hires Rink to Skate Alone," *The Washington Post* (21 December 1914), 6.
- ^{xxii} "Edna H. Barger, Summer Colonist," *Newport Daily News* (20 May 1957), 2.
- ^{xxiii} "Mrs. Barger Wallach Dies, '08 National Tennis Champ," (2 April 1954), 2.
- ^{xxiv} "Proving It's Never Too Late," *Brownsville Herald* (9 August 1940), 7.
- ^{xxv} "Maude Wetmore Dead in Newport," *New York Times* (4 November 1951), 85. "Edith Wetmore of Newport Dies," *New York Times* (11 March 1966), 25.
- ^{xxvi} "Katherine Wormeley", Library of Congress- <https://guides.loc.gov/civil-war-soldiers/katharine-wormeley>.