

***"Women are the real architects of society."***

Harriet Beecher Stowe, American writer & human rights activist

***"It is freedom to progress that makes us all to want to live and to go on."***

Eleanor Roosevelt

***"...there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women."***

Kofi Annan, former General Secretary of the United Nations Organization

### **Malden women**

Among those Maldonians, who made significant input into the city, state and even national history, there were outstanding Malden women whose role was diminished due to the existing stereotypes and prejudice.

They lived in different epochs, had various backgrounds and social statuses, but, at the same time, shared a lot in common, including the desire to defend universal human rights. They fought for women's rights with courage, compassion, and foresight.

Here are a few short essays about some of them, who became the heroines of the Malden women's anthology (from 17th to 20th century), being prepared for publication by Malden historian Inna Babitskaya.



**Eunice Hale Waite Cobb (1803-1880)** was a talented public speaker, poet and prominent civil rights activist. She actively supported the Sunday-schools, was a champion for women's rights, and a prominent member of the temperance association organized by women. As an ardent advocate of women's education, Eunice Cobb became a co-founder and President of the Ladies' Physiological Institute of Boston (1848), the first-in-the-country educational club where women could be educated about the peculiarities of women's health.



**Elgina Florence Whittredge Barker (1840-1897)** became known in history as the first President of the National Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, Civil War veterans' organization. She was a patroness of the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, one of the directors of the Union ex-Prisoners of War National Memorial Association, treasurer and president of the Woman's Club House Corporation of Boston, a co-founder and trustee of the Malden Hospital, and co-founder and director of the Ladies' Aid Association of Malden Hospital.



**Harriet Jane Hanson Robinson (1825-1911)** was a former Lowell mill girl, prominent suffragist, writer and poet. She wrote numerous stories, essays and articles, created two plays and published a few books about the Lowell mill girls, as well as a collection of her late husband's works. Harriet Robinson was among the founders of the different women suffrage organizations and conventions, and gave lectures about women's suffrage around the country. Also, she organized various women's clubs, including Malden's "Old & New" in 1878.



**Mary Caroline Parker Converse (1872-1961)** was a captain of the Red Cross women drivers during WWI. In the 1920s, she helped with prison reform. She became the first USA woman to be captain of merchant ships in the late 1930s, and a marine instructor during the WWII. She also was a talented singer, composer, poet, and writer, as well as a noted philanthropist.



**Emma Latimer Fall Schofield (1895-1980)** was a renowned lawyer, women's rights activist, educator and writer. Emma Schofield was a pioneer in the law field - the first woman appointed as: a Commissioner on the Industrial Accident Board in Massachusetts, an assistant attorney general and an associate justice in New England. She was a co-founder and president of various women organizations, including the Zonta club of Malden.



**Louise Mae Stokes Fraser (1913-1978)** was an American track and field athlete. She began to participate in sports while attending Malden public schools. In the 1930s she won a few state and national sports competitions, set a number of New England, country, and world records. Louise Stokes and Tydie Pickett were the first two African-American women to qualify for an Olympic team in 1932 and 1936. However, they were replaced by the white sportswomen. In 1941, she founded the Colored Women's Bowling League, and for the next three decades won many awards. In her honor were dedicated the field house at Roosevelt Park in Malden and a statute in the Malden High School courtyard. Recently a running and biking loop was named for her and other Malden natives.



**Ellen Virginia Williams (1914-1984)**, a noted American ballet teacher and choreographer, was a founder of the New England Civic Ballet (1958) and co-founder of the Boston Ballet (1963). She organized ballet schools/studios in Malden, Melrose, and Boston. She successfully collaborated with many outstanding choreographers, dancers, theater artists, conductors and composers, creating the unique style of Boston Ballet.