

# PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM



75 Court Street Plymouth MA 02360 (508) 746-1620 [www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org)

## ***PATHFOUNDERS: WOMEN OF PLYMOUTH***



*On Display May 3, 2019-March 8, 2020*

*Opening Reception:*

*Thursday, May 2, 2019, 6-8 pm*

***Sponsored by  
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Pilgrim Hall Museum's 2019 exhibition resets the 400-year story of Plymouth with a focus on the lives and legacies of path-founding women. Makers, nurturers, leaders, and survivors, they made history, though their stories are often untold.

Who were the women who shaped Plymouth? The women of the *Mayflower*, immigrants to a new land, keepers of family and tradition, risk takers, and founders of a colony. The Wampanoag women who were cultivators, culture bearers, and clan leaders working to uphold a way of life threatened by incursion. The women of every era since in Plymouth's 400-year history who impacted family and community through their ideas, actions, and example.

*pathFOUNDERS* examines 17<sup>th</sup> century survivors, 18<sup>th</sup> century visionaries, activists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, through rarely seen historical artifacts and interactive multimedia displays. Highlights include the resilient group of five teenage English girls, three orphaned soon after



arrival, the handful of adult women who nurtured a struggling community and suffered the highest mortality of all the settlers, and Wampanoag leaders such as Weetamoo and Awashonks, as well as many Native women whose names were never recorded. One rare artifact to be displayed is the fragile 17<sup>th</sup> century corset of Mary Chilton Winslow, who grew up as an English exile in the Dutch city of Leiden, arrived in Plymouth Colony at age 13, and survived to become a mother of ten and wealthy resident of Boston.



The exhibition spans four hundred years. Visionary women of the 18<sup>th</sup> century range from Revolutionary patriot Mercy Otis Warren to Hester Winslow Watson, an African-American slave who found a path to freedom for her children. Abby Morton Diaz, abolitionist, working mom, and voice for women's rights is among a remarkable group of 19<sup>th</sup> century activists, including Dr. Nellie Pierce, who helped found Plymouth's first hospital. Plymouth's 20<sup>th</sup> century leaders include Senator Therese Murray, first woman President of the Massachusetts Senate, Orissa Gomes, instrumental in Plymouth's community of color, and Phyllis Hughes, editor of the *Old Colonial Memorial*.



Showcasing original artifacts from Pilgrim Hall Museum's collections not typically on view, interactive multi-media displays, and special objects on loan, the exhibit highlights the experiences and contributions of Plymouth's extraordinary women. Also on view will be *Women 100: A Digital Archive of Local Women's History, Activism, & Experience*, created by Pilgrim Hall to document a century of local women in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting American women the right to vote.

*Presented with the Generous Support of  
The Bruce & Patricia Bartlett Foundation.*

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