

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (1852-1930), an internationally known short story writer, novelist, poet, and playwright, had her literary beginnings in Brattleboro, Vermont, during the 1870s and early 1880s; and

WHEREAS, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman maintained close ties with Brattleboro throughout her life and sent greetings to its residents in 1925, stating, “More to me than the memory of the town’s natural beauty is that of the splendid humanity of Brattleboro people — their unconscious superiority, their generosity with the very best of themselves. I may state that I received the general impression, which remains, of the best people on earth”; and

WHEREAS, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman was among America’s most popular woman writers during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and earned her living through the power of her pen, demonstrating astute business acumen, unparalleled among nineteenth century women writers in America; and

WHEREAS, in 1925 she was the first recipient of the William Dean Howells Gold Medal for Fiction awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 1926 was admitted to membership in the National Institute of Arts and Letters; and

WHEREAS, in 1938 she was immortalized when the American Academy of Arts and Letters installed bronze doors bearing the inscription, “Dedicated to the Memory of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and the Women Writers of America”; and

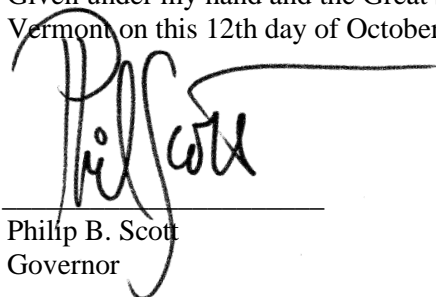
WHEREAS, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman’s connections to Brattleboro and to the Green Mountain State will be celebrated as part of the 2019 Brattleboro Literary Festival.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 17, 2019 as

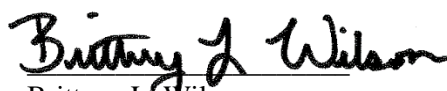
MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN DAY

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 12th day of October, A.D. 2019.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs