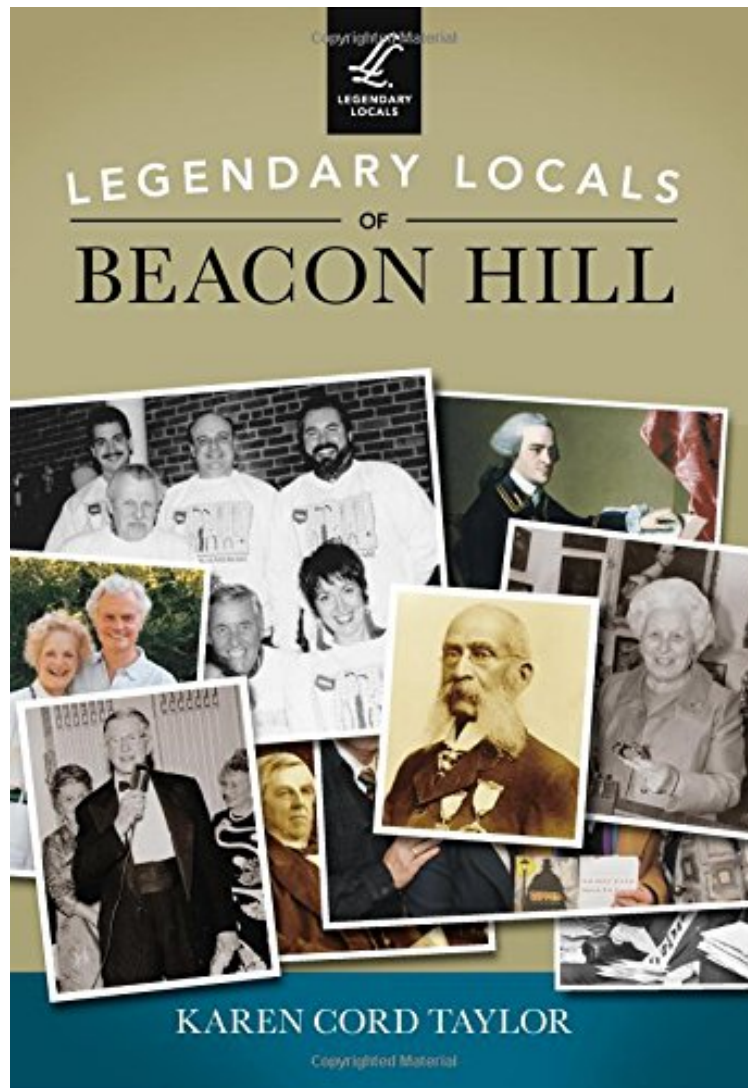


[Library ebook] *Legendary Locals of Beacon Hill*

Legendary Locals of Beacon Hill

Karen Cord Taylor

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Karen Cord Taylor : *Legendary Locals of Beacon Hill* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Legendary Locals of Beacon Hill*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy geraldine bittnergood sale1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Fun, But I Don't Envy The Book's Author.By James R. HollandHopefully, Karen Cord Taylor didn't ruffle the feathers of too many of her friends and neighbors by not including them in this fascinating book. Fortunately she said in the book that some of the residents she wished to include in her book requested that she leave them out. She also mentioned that she'd been unable to contact several possible people she wanted to include so she should be safe. There are no people included in the book that probably don't deserve to be included in the tome

with the possible exception of the Boston Strangler who was not a resident of Beacon Hill but was included only because two of his victims made the mistake of letting the workman into their Beacon Hill homes on Grove and Charles Street. Otherwise the choice of subjects would pretty much be agreed upon by other Beacon Hill residents. This is definitely a fun book. It really does capture the spirit of many of the inhabitants of the Beacon Hill from its founding until the present. Many not so well known folks are included and their contributions were an important part of the fabric of the neighborhood. A stranger walking down Charles Street would recognize many of the smiling faces included in the collection of portraits in this Arcadia pictorial history collection. The book is well written and enjoyable to read. One-side observation the author made is typical of her insights into the history of Beacon Hill. "By the late 1700s, independence was familiar enough to Boston's patriots and their descendants that they felt they could get back to the real business of America, which has always been buying land, building on it, and dreaming of riches. Meanwhile, other Bostonians were starting institutions--churches, libraries and hospitals--worthy of a new nation and strong enough to serve the city for more than 200 years." It's amazing how many former and present residents of Beacon Hill still fit that description. And the author could easily have included ten times as many former and present Beacon Hill residents in an expanded version of this lavishly illustrated and informative book. This particular volume is also slightly larger than the smaller sized format that has been a trademark of the publisher. This 9.2 x 6.5 x 0.3 inch book size makes it easier to read and examine the individual photos. This is an easy-to-read page-turner that can easily be carefully read in a single afternoon.

In the 1600s, William Blaxton set up his farmstead on Beacon Hill because it was far from the bustle of the city. John Hancock's uncle Thomas Hancock built his mansion on the hill in the 1700s so he could enjoy a rural lifestyle. In the early 1800s, future mayor of Boston Harrison Gray Otis moved to Beacon Hill because it was the new and fashionable neighborhood he was helping create. Louisa May Alcott, in the 19th century, and Robert Frost, in the 20th, lived on the hill because the literary set loved the neighborhood's picturesque streets and close quarters that made it easy to get together for conversation. The 9,000 residents who live in this small, urban neighborhood of Boston today appreciate its walkability, convenience, quirkiness, and neighborliness. The historic architecture, ever-burning gas lamps, rugged bricks, and one-of-a-kind shops prove that the best of the past can live comfortably with the novelty of the present.

About the Author Karen Cord Taylor founded the Beacon Hill Times and served as its editor and publisher for almost 15 years. She is the author of *Blue Laws*, *Brahmins* and *Breakdown Lanes: An Alphabetic Guide to Boston and Bostonians*.