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## Central New Yorkers dedicate historic marker for suffragist Amelia Jenks Bloomer

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By **Camille Bautista**, The Post-Standard contributing writer (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/cbautista/posts.html>)

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Judy OâShea, submitted photo

A historic marker was dedicated Sunday at the former home of Amelia Jenks Bloomer in Homer.

Best known for her advocacy for the abolition of slavery and popularization of baggy, ankle-length pants during the women's rights movement, suffragist Amelia Jenks Bloomer dedicated her life to reform.

On Sunday, Bloomer received a dedication of her own in her hometown, Homer, Cortland County.

A historic marker was unveiled identifying her childhood home at 43 N. Main St.

Bloomer was born Amelia Jenks on May 27, 1818 in Homer, where she attended the local school. At 22, she married Dexter Bloomer, a lawyer and part

owner of a Seneca Falls newspaper.

Her husband encouraged his wife to write articles on temperance and other social issues for the newspaper and for other periodicals.

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Judy O'Shea, submitted photo

Two actors joined a dedication Sunday of a historic marker at the childhood home of Amelia Jenks Bloomer in Homer. Pamela Poulin portrayed Bloomer; Martin Sweeney portrayed a man from the 1800s.

to publish her views on social issues and dress reform in her publication, "The Lily," and led suffrage campaigns in several states. She died in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1894.

Amelia Bloomer's advocacy inspired local history enthusiast Pamela Poulin to honor her work.

Poulin, along with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, organized the dedication and unveiling of Bloomer's historic marker. More than 100 people attended the Sunday afternoon event, with historians and Homer residents participating.

"It was wonderful, people were so enthusiastic. I didn't have enough hairs for all those who showed up," Poulin said. "We are privileged that Bloomer was born in the area and we hope Homer continues to bring leaders in the rights of others."

Homer's historian, Martin Sweeney, dressed in costume, led a historic walking tour of the area. People viewed exhibits and displays of Bloomer's artifacts and related topics.

An exhibit of Bloomer-inspired, hand-painted sheet music covers and a genuine silk bloomer outfit will be on display at Key Bank, 11 N. Main St., Home, every Friday through the end of September.

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