



First Woman Sea Captain

Myrrtle Molly (Kool) (Blaisdell) Carney was the first woman in North America to become a licensed ship captain. She earned her captain's papers in 1939 at age 23 after graduating from the Merchant Marine Institute, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and sailed the Atlantic Ocean between Alma, New Brunswick and Boston for five years.

She was a woman of courage, tenacity and endurance, and she was described as pretty and frivolous, adrift in a men's world. She could repair engines, run the winch, set the sails and handle the lines. She also sewed canvas and spliced ropes as needed.

Her friend **Mary Majka** said of her, "She was good enough that she won the respect of the old salts." She sailed her father's 70-foot boat, the *Jean K*, in the dangerous waters of the Bay of Fundy. The ship hauled heavy cargo from ships anchored off shore.

She gave up being a mariner when she married **Ray Blaisdell** of Bucksport, Maine in 1944. They were married until his death in 1962. She later married **John Carney**. She died February 25, 2009 at the age of 93. Her ancestral home in Alma will be moved to a knoll in nearby Fundy National Park overlooking the bay.

Myrtle "Molly" (Kool) (Blaisdell) Carney w/o Raymond Shirley Blaisdell *From: Fred Howard Blaisdell, Guilford Blaisdell, Philip Gross Blaisdell, James Blaisdell — (6.157) — and From: Fred Howard Blaisdell, Caroline Brown (Sunders) Blaisdell, Hudson Saunders, Sarah (Blaisdell) Saunders — (6.161).*

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