

KAREN VORBECK WILLIAMS BIOGRAPHY

I began writing as a girl—short stories, poems, and little essays on my beliefs. As a wife and mother I was so busy I had to write poems—they were short.

In the 70s, when our family moved to seven acres of land in Southeastern Massachusetts, into a farmhouse built in 1710, I wanted to learn more about how the people who first settled the land actually lived. As we restored the old rooms and removed the paint from the wide pine board floors, I realized that our house had been built before my 11th great grandmother Mary Bliss Parsons (1625?-1712) had died. She had lived in Northampton, MA, probably in a house quite similar to ours. It was there that she had been accused of witchcraft. Northampton was about a two hour drive from us. Gradually I began to research her life and found her unique story. The result was the historical novel *My Enemy's Tears: The Witch of Northampton*.

My second book *The House on Seventh Street* was inspired by the Nancy Drew Mysteries I loved as a girl. The book is set in the town where I was born and is based on a number of memories from my youth as well as family stories and myths. I was writing fiction which gave me the liberty to exaggerate these stories and tell whopping lies if that would improve the plot or deepen the characters' motivations.

On the personal side, I am a widow and grandmother, an avid amateur photographer, and master gardener. At the moment I'm working on my third novel—again historical fiction set in 17th century New England—and a book of short stories.

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