



MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

580 Mount Auburn Street | Cambridge, MA 02138

NEWS:

For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact:

Bree Harvey

Director of Education & Visitors Services

Mount Auburn Cemetery

617-607-1945

bharvey@moundauburn.org

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY RECOGNIZED FOR CONNECTIONS TO UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Cemetery designated a site in National Park Service “National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom” Program

WATERTOWN / CAMBRIDGE, MA - OCTOBER 2006 - For its connections to the Underground Railroad, the 19th century network of people who aided the escape of fugitive slaves to the North and to Canada, the National Park Service has designated Mount Auburn Cemetery a site in its “National Underground Railroad: Network to Freedom” program. Mount Auburn is the final resting place for several abolitionists and figures directly and indirectly associated with the Underground Railroad including:

- Freedom seekers Harriet Jacobs and her brother John Jacobs. Each published a narrative about their escape from enslavement. Harriet Jacobs authored the widely-read slave narrative *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861).
- Peter Byus, a fugitive slave who escaped to freedom.
- Reverend Charles Turner Torrey, who aided the escape of fugitive slaves through Baltimore. Torrey died in prison after being convicted for his actions and was celebrated as a martyr for the abolitionist cause.
- Caterer Joshua Bowen Smith, who employed fugitive slaves and hid them from bounty hunters. Following the Civil War Smith raised funds for the creation of the memorial to the Massachusetts 54th Regiment in Boston’s Public Garden.
- Abolitionist George Luther Stearns, who hid fugitive slaves at his Medford farm and was part of the “Secret Six,” a group of men who actively supported the abolitionist activities of John Brown.

~more~

t: 617-547-7105 | f: 617-876-4405

www.moundauburn.org

- Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner, who was an outspoken defender of the abolitionist movement throughout his political career.
- Amos Adams Lawrence, a philanthropist and reformer who helped to support the anti-slavery movement by providing funds to settle Kansas as a free territory.
- Authors James Russell Lowell, Julia Ward Howe, and Henry W. Longfellow, who supported the anti-slavery movement through their writings.

The Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, MA also celebrates its induction into the “Network to Freedom” program this year. The Longfellow National Historic Site preserves the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of the world’s foremost 19th century poets. Lending both his public influence and his financial assistance to the causes of liberty and education for all, Longfellow was recognized locally and nationally in the antislavery movement. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is now buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

###

About Mount Auburn Cemetery

Founded in 1831 as America’s first landscaped cemetery, it is a place of exquisite horticultural beauty and cultural importance. A National Historic Landmark, Mount Auburn Cemetery is a treasure house of American history, horticulture and art. Its renowned landscape inspired the creation of the nation’s public parks. Still an active burial place, Mount Auburn Cemetery also provides comfort and solace to countless thousands.

Over 94,000 people are buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery, many significant to our nation’s history. This culturally diverse group includes African American writer Harriet Jacobs, women activists Dorothea Dix and Julia Ward Howe, Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy, art collector Isabella Stewart Gardner, poets Oliver Wendell Holmes and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, artist Winslow Homer and more contemporary notables such as Buckminster Fuller, B. F. Skinner, Edwin Land, and Curt Gowdy.

Mount Auburn Cemetery is located on the Watertown-Cambridge border at 580 Mt. Auburn Street, about six miles from downtown Boston and one mile west of Harvard Square. The grounds are open every day of the year from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours during the spring, summer and fall. Maps, audio tours and other publications are available at the main entrance Gatehouse or in the Office. The Office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

~more~

Mount Auburn Cemetery remains an active cemetery with hundreds of burials and cremations taking place annually. A wide variety of public tours and lectures take place throughout the year. More information is available by visiting www.mountauburn.org or calling 617-547-7105.

###

About the National Underground Railroad: Network to Freedom

The National Underground Railroad: Network to Freedom is a National Park Service program which coordinates preservation and education efforts nationwide, integrating local historical places, museums, and interpretive programs associated with the Underground Railroad. More information about the program is available online at www.nps.gov/ugrr.

###