



MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

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NEWS:

**For Immediate Release**

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**YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION SET FOR  
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY,  
AMERICA'S FIRST LANDSCAPED CEMETERY**

*National Historic Landmark Draws  
Hundreds Of Thousands Of Visitors Annually*

*Cambridge, MA, September 22, 2005*— Mount Auburn Cemetery in Watertown and Cambridge, MA will celebrate its 175th Anniversary with a year-long celebration beginning in September of 2006. 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 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 also provides comfort and solace to countless thousands.

Sponsored by the Friends of Mount Auburn, the yearlong 175th anniversary celebration will feature public programs that highlight the Cemetery's cultural, historic, and natural resources. A lecture series at the Boston Public Library will feature nationally known speakers on topics ranging from horticulture, landscape architecture and birding to the role of biography and non-profit institutions in our life. Art shows featuring works by artists buried in or inspired by Mount Auburn are planned as are music performances commemorating the founders of local musical organizations and composers buried in the Cemetery. The seminal book on the creation of Mount Auburn and the rise of the rural cemetery movement, *Silent City on a Hill*, by Blanche Linden is being revised and redesigned for publication during the year.

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[www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org)

In honor of the 175th anniversary Mount Auburn will also construct a significant new landscape for interments and commemoration and will undertake a major restoration of its historic Bigelow Chapel with its significant collection of early 19th century Scottish stained glass. A comprehensive exhibit explaining the landscape of the Cemetery, funded in large part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be unveiled in Story Chapel and the completion of a multi-year project to digitize the Cemetery's lots and many of its records will allow greater public access to its archives

Over 200,000 annual visitors come to enjoy the 175 acres of meticulously maintained grounds at Mount Auburn, which offer a tranquil oasis in a dense urban environment for personal reflection and observation of nature and art. Its horticultural landscape include trees, shrubs, flowers, ponds, gentle hills and dells, resident and migrant birds, as well as 19th, 20th and 21st century architecture and monuments. The renowned arboretum collection numbers over 5,300 trees, representing more than 600 varieties; many are specimens of rare size and maturity.

Over 94,000 people are buried at Mount Auburn, 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 and 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 and Edwin Land.

Mount Auburn Cemetery is located on the Watertown-Cambridge border on 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 Gatehouse or 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. Mount Auburn remains an active cemetery with hundreds of burials and cremations taking place annually. The Friends offers a wide variety of public tours and lectures throughout the year. More information is available by visiting [www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org) or calling 617-547-7105.

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