

WOMAN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

*a Self-Guided Walk in Mount Auburn Cemetery to Commemorate
the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment*

FRIENDS OF
MOUNT AUBURN



August 2020

A TIMELINE OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN MASSACHUSETTS

- 1850** Worcester Massachusetts was the site of the first National Woman's Rights Convention. Harriot Hunt, Lot #2630 Poplar Avenue, was an organizer and a speaker. 1850 was also the year Margaret Fuller, early American female intellectual, died tragically. Lot #2250 Pyrola Path
- 1866** First meeting of the American Equal Rights Association. It met in Boston. Caroline Healey Dall, Lot #1804 Gentian Path, convened the meeting which would allow women to serve on school boards.
- 1868** New England Women's Club founded. Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney, Lot #953 Fir Avenue, a signatory.
- 1869** National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) in New York and American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) Boston formed. In 1890 each dissolved to become the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).
- 1870** Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association (MWSA) formed. Julia Ward Howe, Lot #4987 Spruce Avenue, a founder and editor of its periodical, The Woman's Journal. Howe was also a founder of The New England Women's Club
- 1893** The Woman's Era Club for black women in Boston founded by Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Lot #4960 Indian Ridge Path.
- 1895** The Club published The Woman's Era, first national newspaper for and by and about black women
- 1911** The National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (NAOWS) formed. In the 1870's Francis Parkman, Harvard History Professor Lot #793 Indian Ridge Path, wrote against its passage.
- 1914** Boston Suffrage Parade; sculptor Anne Whitney, Lot #709 Thistle Path, marched with other women artists. She was 93.
- 1915** Boston Suffrage Parade.
- 1916** Woman's Suffrage Movements across America unite to work for passage of the 19th Amendment.
- JUNE 4, 1919** US Senate passes the Nineteenth Amendment; **May 21** the House of Representatives
- AUGUST 18, 1920** It is Ratified. Massachusetts 8th state to ratify. Women have gained, nationally, the right to vote!

Cover photo: Julia Ward Howe's grave adorned with "I voted" stickers during the 2016 presidential election.

INTRODUCTION

And so, they won! On August 26, 1920 the 19th amendment was signed and became the law of the land. Generations of American women battled to get the law passed. Their efforts unrelenting; their lives often at risk. The women used their skills to organize and carry out their plans, and then to document what they did via periodicals, books, and memoirs. They financially supported the cause. Some of these women are on the list of Mount Auburn Cemetery Notables. Five are buried here; two are remembered with cenotaphs.

In the timeline, these seven notables are linked to some significant moments on the road to the passage of the 19th amendment. Below, short narratives of these lives are supplemented by a book selection for those who want to read further.



The Sky is now her Limit
Cartoon by Elmer Andrews Bushnell 1920

I. ANNE WHITNEY 1821-1915
LOT #709 THISTLE PATH

At age 93 Anne Whitney, a working artist a sculptor, marched with fellow artists in the 1914 Boston Suffrage Parade. Eight months later she died. Born in Watertown Mass to a Unitarian family, Anne Whitney dedicated her life to the values she learned in her childhood home. An abolitionist in the Civil War, later she became a suffragist. She tried poetry and later emerged as a notable sculptor when few women entered the field. Whitney's bronze statue, Roma, 1869 Italy, combined her creativity and principles: her statue grasped the life of oppressed people of Italy. Her award-winning statue of Charles Sumner, who was an outstanding statesman and a friend, is today in Harvard Square across from the Unitarian Church. At her death Whitney left \$1000 to Alice Stone Blackwell, the daughter of Lucy Stone a cousin and suffragist, to use in the movement to secure woman's right to vote.

*Anne Whitney, 1821-1915 *A Research Guide*, Watertown Free Public Library, Watertown, Mass.

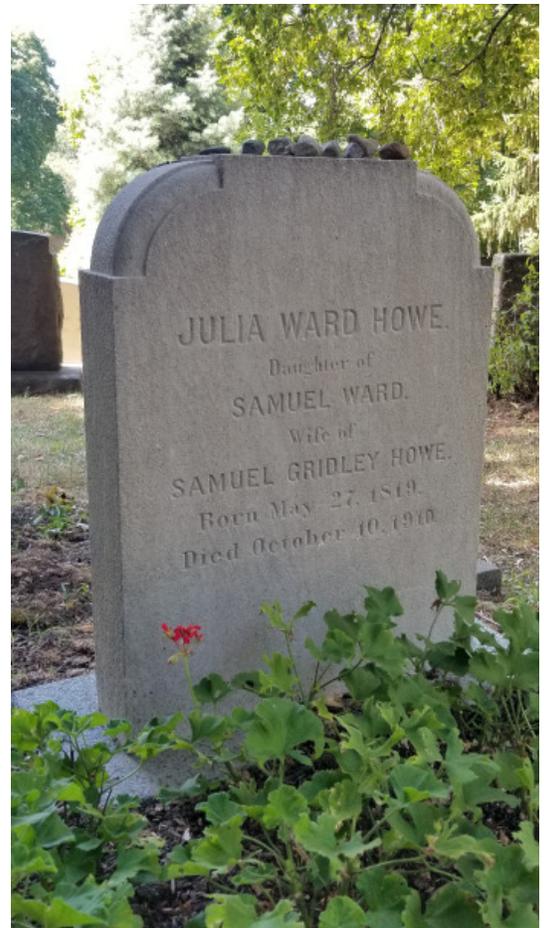


2. JULIA WARD HOWE 1819-1910
LOT #4987 SPRUCE AVENUE

Born into privilege in New York City Julia Ward Howe spent her life working for social justice. In the Rights for Woman movement she used her abilities to ensure those rights would become law. Julia Ward Howe's many skills included organizing, writing and joining with other activist women in personal and political relationships to effect change. The New England Woman's Club she founded with others was vital to the launching two years later of the Massachusetts Suffrage Association. She edited the periodical, *The Woman's Journal*, literary arm of the New England Women's Club for twenty years. To support the Journal women in the Club held mammoth bazaars: all proceeds went to the expenses of producing the Journal.

Julia Ward Howe wrote the fighting words of the Battle Hymn of the Republic in 1861 to inspire the Union effort in the Civil War. In the closing ceremony of the 1915 Suffrage Parade in Boston, the hymn was sung; Fifty-Four years after she wrote it, five years after her death.

**Reminiscences 1819-1899*, by Julia Ward Howe, 1899



3. MARGARET FULLER OSSOLI 1810-1850 CENOTAPH IN LOT #2250 PYROLA PATH

Margaret Fuller, born into the 19th Century, remains still today a voice for woman's place in the world. In 1845 she wrote in *Woman in the 19th Century*, "We would have every path laid open to woman as freely as to man. If you ask me what offices they may fill, I reply any--Let them be sea-captains, if you will." Brilliant and dedicated her intellect dazzled. She was a first to forcefully name woman's needs and to demand her empowerment. Her series, *Conversations* (1839-1844), was more than lectures about the world of ideas. The series was about female empowerment.

**Woman in 19th Century* by Margaret Fuller, 1845

**Margaret Fuller a new American Life*, by Megan Marshall, 2013, Pulitzer Prize Biography

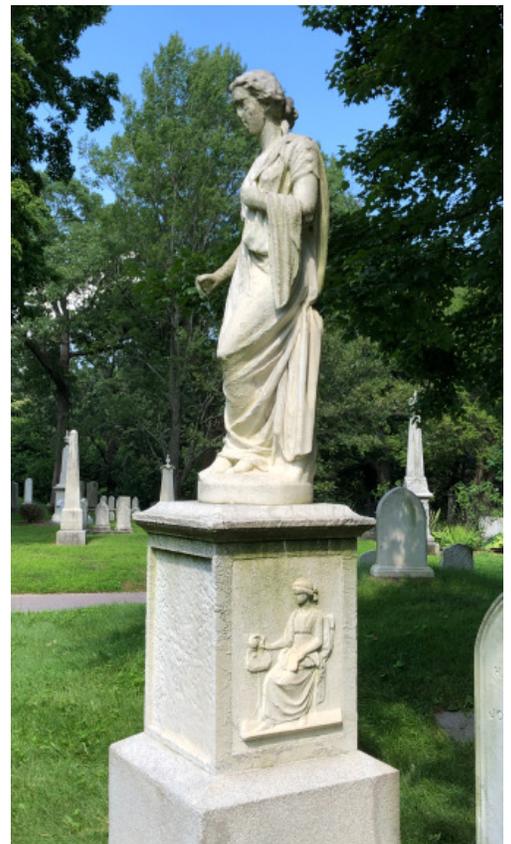


4. HARRIOT KEZIA HUNT 1805-1875 LOT #2630 POPLAR AVENUE

Harriot Hunt was an activist. She advocated for anti-slavery, temperance, woman's rights, woman's right to vote, to hold office and to attend medical school. Not only did she speak for these rights, but day by day she lived them out. She was pioneering female physician, practicing medicine for 40 years (1835-1875). She twice sought admission to Harvard to study medicine and twice was rejected. Paying tribute to Harriot Hunt's contributions to medicine in 1853 the Female Medical College of Philadelphia awarded her an honorary medical degree. She was a pioneer woman's rights organizer and speaker and continued throughout her life to speak at women's conventions. She raised awareness of woman's situation when she said: "It is time that women of Republican America know how the laws that govern them are like the slave laws of the South."

On her lot at Mount Auburn she placed a statue of Hygeia, Greek Goddess of Health, made by African American sculptor, Edmonia Lewis.

**Harriot Kezia Hunt: 19th Century Physician and Woman's Rights Advocate* by Myra C. Glenn, 2018



5. JOSEPHINE ST. PIERRE RUFFIN 1842-1924
LOT #4960 INDIAN RIDGE PATH

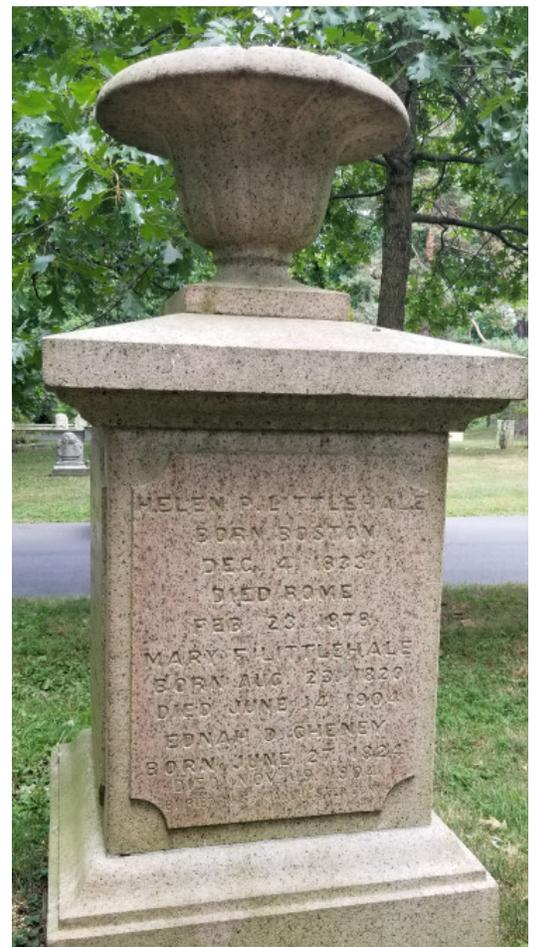
It was tough to be a black woman in Boston in the late 1800's. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin born into a prominent mixed-race family, a leading journalist, a friend of the famed Julia Ward Howe and a member of the white women's club Howe founded was determined to secure rights not only for herself, but for all black women. She would not rest in her privilege but fought for these rights. She founded the first Black Women's Club, The Women's Era Club. She launched the first black woman's periodical, the literary arm of The Women's Era Club. In 1896 she organized and was the first president of National Association of Colored Women. And yet her club, The Women's Era Club, was denied a seat at the Convention of General Federation of Woman's Clubs in Milwaukee in 1900 because of their race. In 1910 she continued her work for black dignity by becoming a founding member of the Boston Chapter of the NAACP. With all her effort black women had to wait until 1965 and the Voting Rights Act for the right to full enfranchisement.

*Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, publisher, *Woman's Era* (1894-1897), a magazine by, for and about African American women

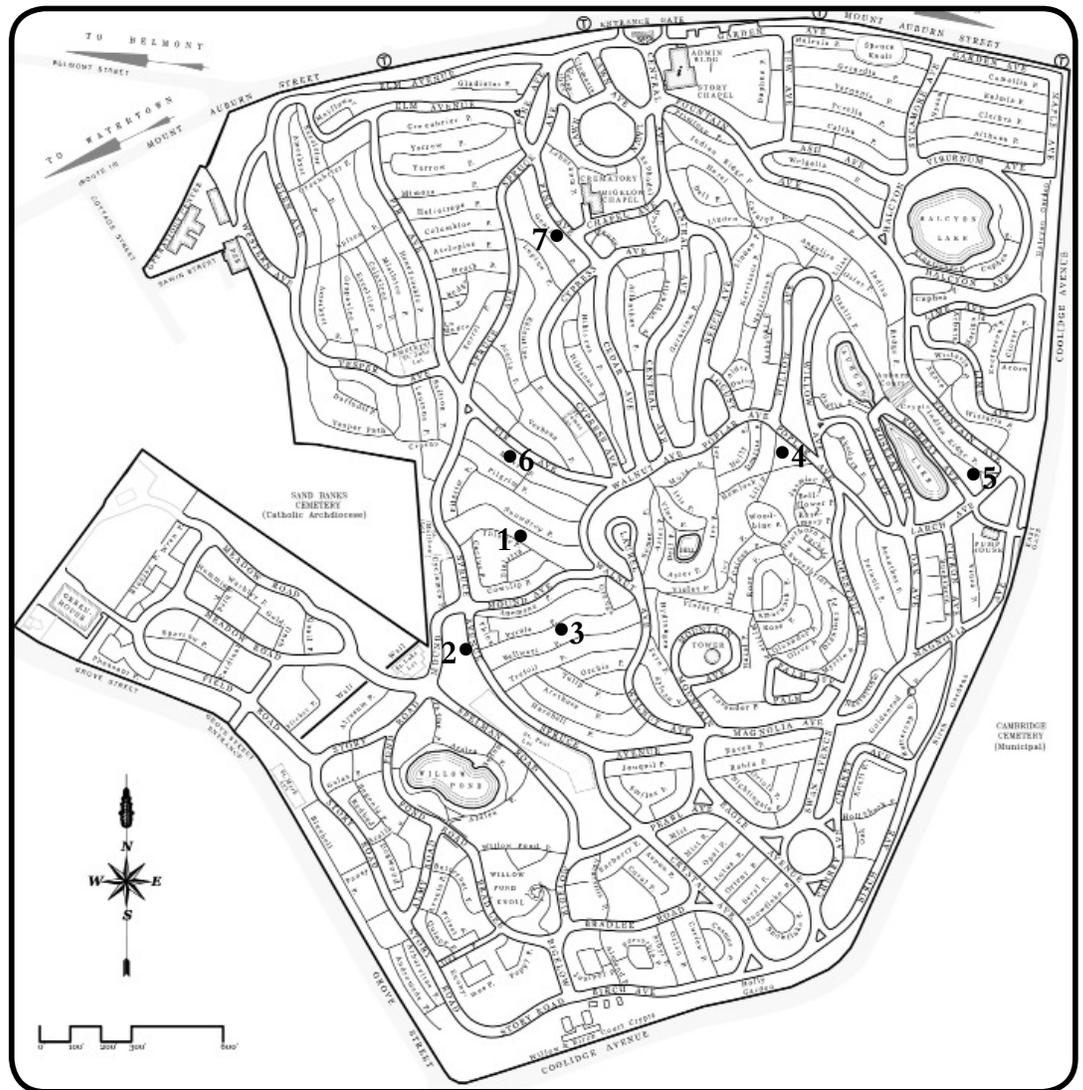
6. EDNAH DOW LITTLEHALE CHENEY 1824-1904
CENOTAPH LOT #953 FIR AVENUE

Her friends read like a list of who's who in Boston 19th century: Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Jacobs, Harriot Hunt among them. As a young girl she attended Margaret Fuller's *Conversations*. Ednah credited Margaret Fuller with shaping her life. She said, "I am surprised how large a part of what I am when I am most myself, I have derived from her." Like Julia Ward Howe, Ednah was a founder of the New England Woman's Club and a strong financial support. At Ednah's death, the New England Woman's Club held a Memorial Meeting to honor her life. She was remembered for her abiding interest in woman, in getting them suffrage and an education, in educating them about their rights and getting them elected to school boards. She was faithful, effective, caring and dedicated to helping both black and white people live better lives

**Reminiscences* by Ednah Dow Cheney, 1902



To access Mount Auburn's mobile app and get directions to each grave, please visit: <https://mountauburn.org/mobile-app/>



**7. CAROLINE WELLS HEALEY DALL 1822-1912
LOT #1804 GENTIAN PATH**

Caroline Healey Dall was a complicated woman. She was opinionated and uncompromising, had personality clashes with women suffrage leaders, yet was dismayed when the New England Women's Club barred her from membership. She fully believed in woman's rights, wrote vociferously about their right to education and vocation, yet she was not fully convinced that woman needed suffrage to achieve these rights. She never abandoned her conservative opinion about woman's role in society, nor man's rights, yet she continued to lecture on woman's right to these rights.

**Daughter of Boston, The Extraordinary Diary of 19th Century Woman, edited by Helen R. Deese 2005*



We invite you to participate in the programs of the Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery. Membership information is available at the Visitors Center, the Gatehouse information rack and the Office.

Since its founding in 1831, Mount Auburn Cemetery has retained its original purpose of being a natural setting for the commemoration of the dead and for the comfort and inspiration of the bereaved and the general public. Its grounds offer a place for reflection and for observation of nature — trees, shrubs, flowering plants, ponds, gentle hills, and birds both resident and migrant. Visitors come to study our national heritage by visiting the graves of noted Americans and enjoying the great variety of monuments and memorials. Mount Auburn Cemetery began the “rural” cemetery movement out of which grew America’s public parks. Its beauty and historic associations make it an internationally renowned landscape. Designated a National Historic Landmark, Mount Auburn remains an active, nonsectarian cemetery offering a wide variety of interment and memorialization options.

Walk written by volunteer docent, Rev. Rosemarie C. Smurzynski

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The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery is a nonprofit charitable trust promoting the appreciation and preservation of the cultural, historic and natural resources of America’s first landscaped cemetery, founded in 1831.

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