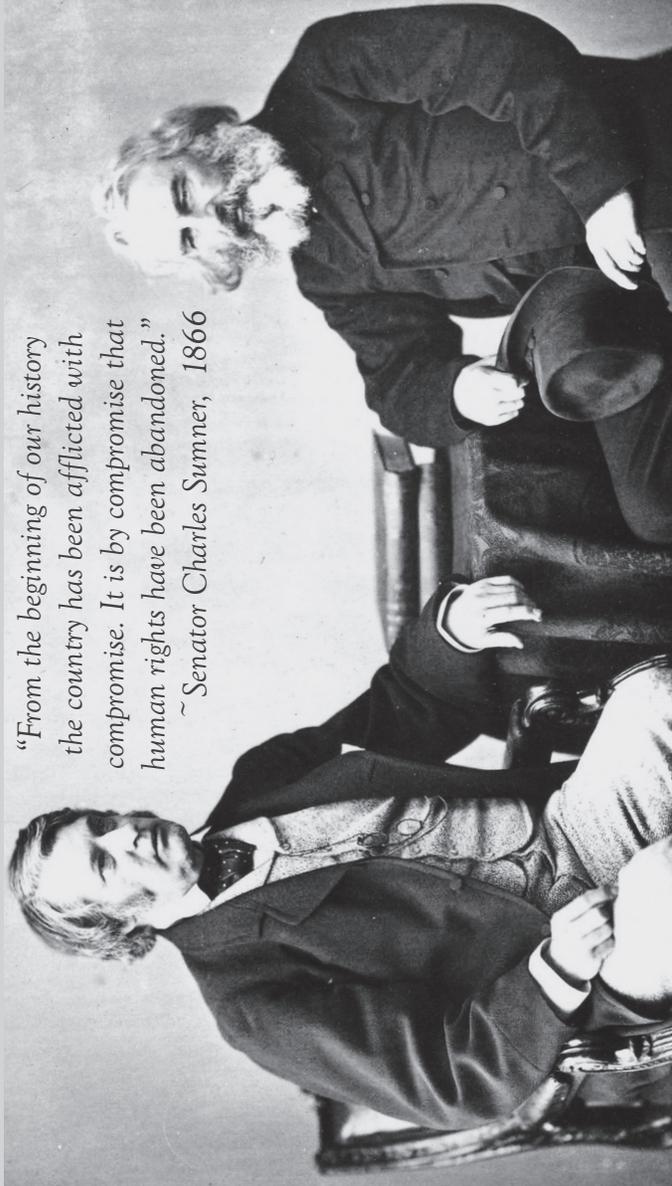


1811
CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF
CHARLES SUMNER



*“From the beginning of our history
the country has been afflicted with
compromise. It is by compromise that
human rights have been abandoned.”*

~ Senator Charles Sumner, 1866



Longfellow National Historic Site
105 Brattle Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
www.nps.gov/long

Scheduled events take place at:

First Parish Church
3 Church Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Longfellow National Historic Site
105 Brattle Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215

**Museum of African American History's
Abiel Smith School**
46 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02114

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Sponsored by the **Charles Sumner Bicentennial Committee:**

Boston African American National Historic Site, Cambridge Forum, Friends of the Longfellow House,
Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery, Harvard University, Longfellow National Historic Site,
Massachusetts Historical Society, and Museum of African American History (Boston and Nantucket)

Charles Sumner (1811-1874)



Charles Sumner was born in 1811 on Beacon Hill, Boston, in a neighborhood that included a large segment of Boston's free black community. He later became a close friend of **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**. United by a common interest in classical art and European culture, their friendship grew over the years. Both expressed anti-slavery sentiments as young men in the 1840s: Longfellow published a collection of anti-slavery poems in 1842, and Sumner began speaking publicly for the abolishment of slavery. In 1851, Sumner was elected as a United States Senator. The night of his election — as the streets rang with shouts of “Sumner!” — the newly-elected senator came to the home of his friend Longfellow “to escape from the triumph and be quiet from all the noise in the streets.”

Sumner used his national platform to advocate for an end to slavery, even as new slave-holding states were admitted to the Union. His major speech, “The Crimes against Kansas” in 1856, inspired a political enemy to beat him with a cane until he was nearly dead. Sumner spent three years recovering, but returned to his seat in the Senate as soon as he could — a seat which he held until his death in 1874. Many of his personal belongings were willed to Longfellow and his family. Longfellow himself wrote a poem in honor of his friend and served as his pall bearer when he was buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery. His funeral procession, which started at the State House in Boston, attracted thousands.

THE MEANING AND LEGACY OF CHARLES SUMNER

Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Abiel Smith School

Harvard Professor **John Stauffer** discusses his upcoming biography of this influential statesman, from his humble roots on Beacon Hill to his pioneering civil rights work. Museum admission fees apply (\$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 13 to 17 or 62 and over; free for museum members). Please call 617-742-5415 for more information.

“TO PLACE THE FEDERAL GOVT ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM”

Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Massachusetts Historical Society
Beverly Wilson Palmer, editor of the *Charles Sumner Papers*, highlights

Sumner's achievements. Free, with 5:30 reception. Please call 617-646-0560 to RSVP.

LONGFELLOW & SUMNER: THE POET & THE POLITICIAN

Friday, February 25, 2011 at 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.

Longfellow National Historic Site
These special tours focus on Sumner's relationship with the Longfellow family and their Brattle Street home. Free. Space limited and will be filled on a first-come basis.

CURATOR TALK – 6 p.m.,
Longfellow Carriage House

A look at Charles Sumner in the Longfellow House as well as art and artifacts related to him. Free, but space is limited. RSVPs required for this presentation; call 617-876-4491.

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SENATOR CHARLES SUMNER, A 200TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 10 a.m.
Story Chapel, Mount Auburn Cemetery
*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's annual birthday celebration honors his friend Charles Sumner. The event will feature a talk by Professor **John Stauffer** about the poet's relationship with Senator Charles Sumner. Also included is a presentation by students from Cambridge's Haggerty School. Reception and wreath-laying at family plot to follow. Please call 617-547-7105 for more information.*

BEACON HILL'S

BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL®

Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Longfellow Carriage House

*This illustrated talk connects the Black Heritage Trail® to Cambridge. Presented by **Ryan McNabb**, acting supervisory park ranger at the Boston African American National Historic Site. RSVPs required; please call 617-876-4491.*

LETTERBOX:

CELEBRATING CHARLES SUMNER

Beginning April 2011, ongoing
Mount Auburn Cemetery

Friends of Mount Auburn unveils a special letterbox in honor of Charles Sumner. Letterboxing is a self-guided family activity that combines hiking, treasure hunting, and navigation by following hidden clues. Stop at the Entrance Gate or at the Visitors Center to begin your exploration.

THE MANY SIDES OF SUMNER

Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 1 p.m.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
While visiting the graves of Sumner and

his many friends and associates buried at Mount Auburn, we will discuss Sumner's roles as a lawyer, a statesman, a civil rights advocate, an abolitionist, a patron of the arts, and a friend. \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Please call 617-547-7105 for more information.

CHARLES SUMNER:

FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE

Saturday, May 14, 2011

This series of tours follows the life of Charles Sumner from his birth on Beacon Hill through his death in 1874. Free. Space is limited. Please RSVP to each portion of the day separately:

- 10 a.m. – Abiel Smith School, Beacon Hill; call 617-742-5415 to RSVP.
- 1 p.m. – Longfellow National Historic Site; call 617-876-4491 to RSVP.
- 2:30 p.m. – Mount Auburn Cemetery; call 617-547-7105 to RSVP.

CHARLES SUMNER & CIVIL RIGHTS

Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 6 p.m.

First Parish Church

PART OF THE

CAMBRIDGE FORUM 2011 SERIES

*Sumner is one of the most visible figures in Harvard Square. Join us for the rededication of his statue at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Church Street. Immediately following there will be a discussion on Sumner's relevance today with **Beverly Morgan-Welch**, Executive Director of the Museum of African American History in Boston and Nantucket, and **Daniel Coquillette**, Charles Warren Visiting Professor of American Legal History at Harvard Law School. Please call 617-495-2727 for more information.*