

THE LADIES WALK

A Herstory Trail designed in honor of the Boston Women's Memorial

BOSTON WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

Celebrating the lives of ABIGAIL ADAMS, LUCY STONE and PHILLIS WHEATLEY

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Special thanks to

Susan Wilson and Liane Curtis, Matthew Greif, Michelle Jenney, Polly Kaufman, Barbara Locurto, John Manson, Sara Masucci, Dan Moon, Gretchen O'Neill, Barbara Rotundo, David Smoyer; Liz Goodwin, Pat Nickerson and Marie Turley, Boston Women's Commission; Sue Gogonian, Nancy Richard, Sarah Thompson, Sylvia Weedman, The Bostonian Society; Earl Taylor, Dorchester Historical Society; Ellen Rothman, Mass Foundation for the Humanities; Anne Cecere, Megan Milford, Massachusetts Historical Society; Emily Curran, Michelle LeBlanc, Kristin Sherman, Old South Meeting House; Dale Freeman, Elizabeth Mock, UMass Boston Archives; Kathy Amico, Stephen Hamilton, Union Printworks, and Mayor Thomas Menino.

Funding support from

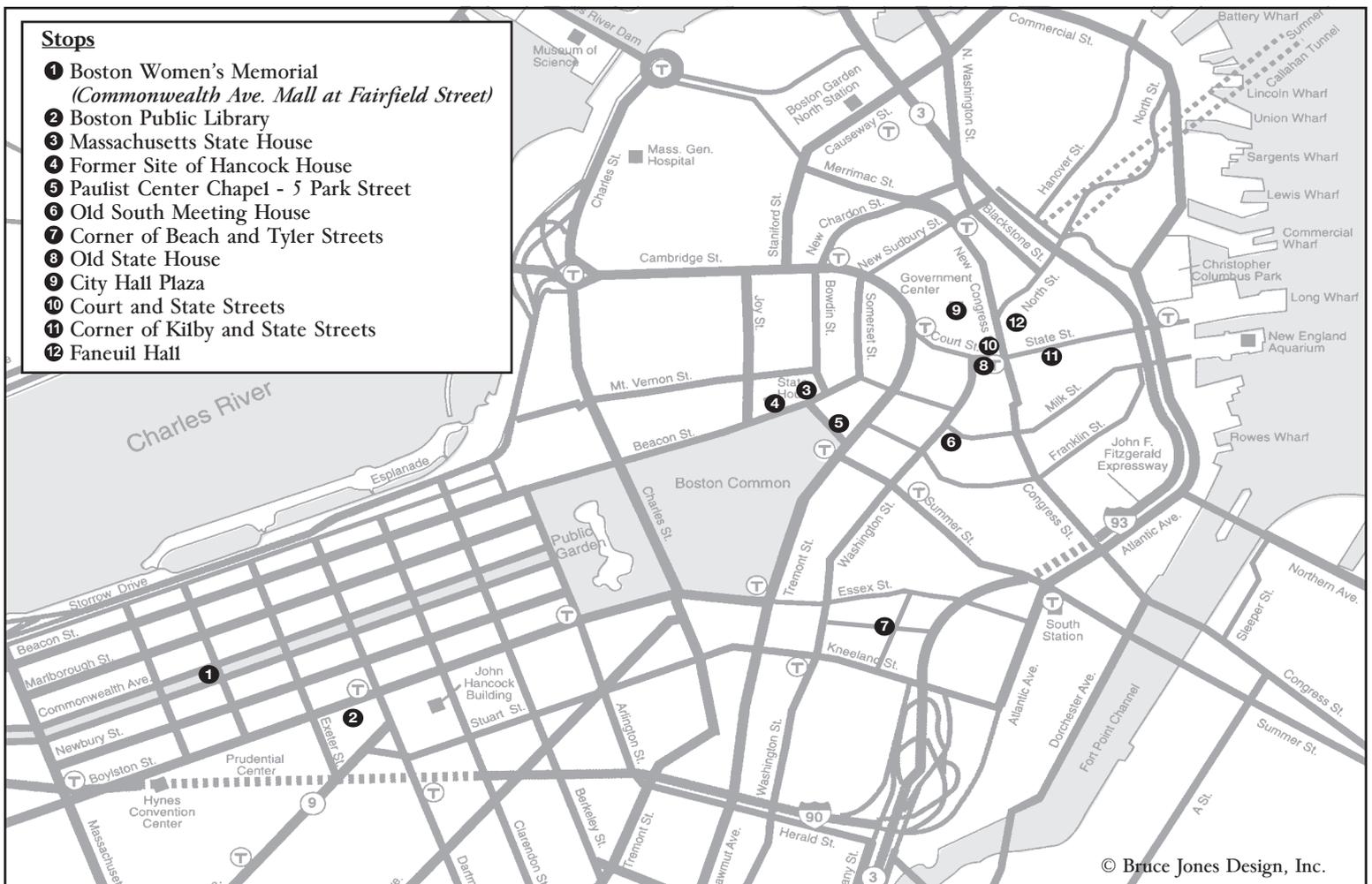
Grants Management Associates and Cabot Family Charitable Trust

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*Abigail Adams
Lucy Stone
and
Phillis Wheatley*



The Boston Women's Memorial honors three important contributors to Boston's rich history – Abigail Adams, Lucy Stone and Phillis Wheatley. Each of these women had progressive ideas that were ahead of her time, was committed to social change, and left a legacy through her writings that had a significant impact on history.

The sculptures were installed in 2003 on the historic Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Boston between Fairfield and Gloucester Streets. Artist Meredith Bergmann's vision for this memorial represents the forefront of new thinking about representation in public art.

Boston Women's Memorial, 2003, City of Boston Brochure



*Abigail Adams
Lucy Stone
and
Phillis Wheatley*

Who are these women? Where did they live and work in Boston? Where else are they represented in public art? Where can you learn more about them?

This booklet gives you a chance to start answering these questions. Although we have no record of them ever having met, Abigail Adams and Phillis Wheatley lived in Boston at the same time, only a few blocks from one another during the Revolutionary War period. Lucy Stone, on the other hand, was not born until 1818, the same year Abigail Adams died and 34 years after Phillis Wheatley died, and she lived almost to the end of the nineteenth century. By then Boston was a very different place geographically, with landfill having enlarged the original Boston pen-



Memorial artist Meredith Bergmann

insula and created the new Back Bay. Much social change had taken place, but much still had not changed: when Lucy Stone died, in 1893, women still could not vote.

So, take this booklet in hand and walk from the Women's Memorial across Boston, to see where these three women lived and worked, and where else they are honored in Boston. Step right out and enjoy yourself!

At the end of the booklet, you will find the words which are inscribed on the Memorial – words to take with you and read again and again.

Step 1
Boston Women's Memorial – Commonwealth Avenue at Fairfield Street



*Lucy Stone
and
Phillis Wheatley*

Walk across Fairfield Street and continue down the Mall to Exeter Street. Turn right. Go across Newbury Street to Boylston Street. Turn left and enter the Boston Public Library.

Here in the lobby on the right you see the mural "Nine Notable Women" by Ellen Lanyon. Both Lucy Stone and Phillis Wheatley are represented in this mural, which was commissioned by Workingmens Cooperative Bank in 1880. After its completion, the mural was moved several times and eventually was given to Simmons College, where it hung for over ten years. During renovations at the college, the mural ended up in storage.

When the mural was rediscovered in 1999, Simmons College agreed to loan it to the Boston Public Library. Among Ellen Lanyon's works are many public art projects, including her 1999 "Riverwalk Gateway Ceramic Mural Project" in Chicago.

Note the additional names of women written on the curtains in the mural and, on the wall to the left, the framed text of a booklet which accompanied it when it was first unveiled.



Nine Notable Women by Ellen Lanyon

Turn 180 degrees from the mural and walk through the Johnson Building and the courtyard to the Research Library. Walk upstairs, turn left as you enter the Bates Reading Room.

Busts of Lucy Stone and of her daughter Alice Stone Blackwell sit together on top of the mantel. The bust of Lucy Stone was sculpted by Anne Whitney in 1892 for the exhibition at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In 1904 it was presented to the Boston Public Library by Judith Winsor Smith, a local suffrage activist. Anne Whitney was one of America's most distinguished sculptors. She also did the statues of Sam Adams at Faneuil Hall and of Charles Sumner in Harvard Square.

The bust of Lucy Stone's only child Alice Stone Blackwell was sculpted by



*Lucy Stone
by Anne Whitney*

Frances Rich and presented to the library by the League of Women Voters of Boston. Alice Stone Blackwell was an active suffragist in her own right, carrying on her mother's work at the *Woman's Journal*, and embracing many other liberal causes throughout her life.

Step 2

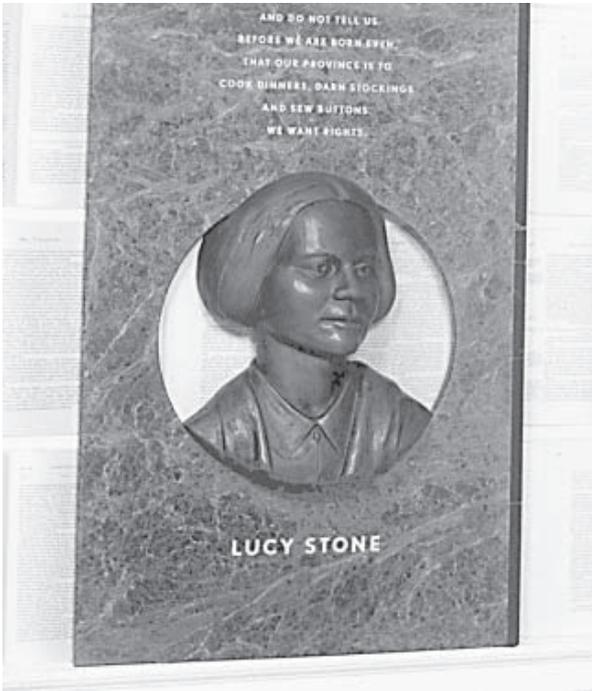
Boston Public Library

Now you have a choice: you can either walk approximately 1 1/4 miles to the State House or take the T. To take the T, get on at Copley, going inbound, and get off at Park Street. Walk upstairs and go up the hill to the State House.

To walk, continue down Boylston Street to the Public Garden. Cross the Garden diagonally (as best you can!) and walk up through the Boston Common along the Beacon Street side to the State House. You can enter the State House up the right hand steps.



Lucy Stone



Lucy Stone in Mural Hear Us

Inside the State House ask directions to Doric Hall. Just outside Doric Hall you will find the mural *Hear Us* by Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and Susan Sellers, 1999. Lucy Stone is one of six women represented in this mural. The mural, part of the State House Women's Leadership Project initiated to make State House art more inclusive, was commissioned by The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. Each of these women were chosen for having made a major contribution to the government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To learn more about the mural, take home the handsome pamphlet describing the project.

Now go upstairs to the Massachusetts Senate Chambers.

Lucy Stone addressed the Massachusetts legislature here in 1853, calling for equal rights for women. She was an exceptionally talented public speaker with unusual power over her audience. Lucy Stone had toured the country speaking for abolition and women's rights and was one of the first women in the United States to make a career of lecturing.



6



Abigail Adams and Lucy Stone

Exit the State House as you entered it and look to the left as you stand facing it.

Here is where John Hancock's house stood, with his pasture being the present site of the State House. On June 17, 1788 Abigail and John Adams came to Hancock's house after they arrived in Boston on the ship "Lucretia". John Adams had been abroad for most of ten years and Abigail Adams had joined him in Paris and London for the last four of those years. Boston was ready to welcome them. In his book *John Adams*, David McCullough describes the scene:

"People were cheering, church bells ringing, as the Adamses came ashore. Along the route to Beacon Hill, more throngs lined the streets. 'The bells in the several churches rang during the remainder of the day - every countenance wore expressions of joy,' reported the *Massachusetts Sentinel*."

McCullough writes that Abigail and John Adams brought with them "...a great accumulation of clothes, books, china and furniture ...a York rosebush...a four-post Dutch bed, a great Dutch chest with heavy brass pulls and claw feet, tables of different sizes, a set of six cushioned Louis XV chairs and a settee..."

Now walk down Park Street to the Paulist Center.



The Woman's Journal Office, c. 1880

Here, in a since-raised building, Lucy Stone set up the offices of the *Woman's Journal*; she even lived upstairs here for awhile. The *Woman's Journal*, called the "voice of the woman's movement," was published for so long and so regularly that it significantly influenced the history of women's rights. It was "devoted to the interests of Woman - to her educational, industrial, legal, and political equality, and especially to her right of Suffrage." Lucy Stone was one of its founders and helped write, edit, finance and publish it, right here close to the seat of power - the State House.



John Hancock House

Stops 4 & 5

John Hancock House Site and Paulist Center, 5 Park Street

At the bottom of Park Street, turn left on Tremont Street and proceed past the Granary Burying Ground. (John Wheatley, Phillis Wheatley's owner, is buried here.) Take your first right down School Street to Old South Meeting House, just on the right on Washington Street.

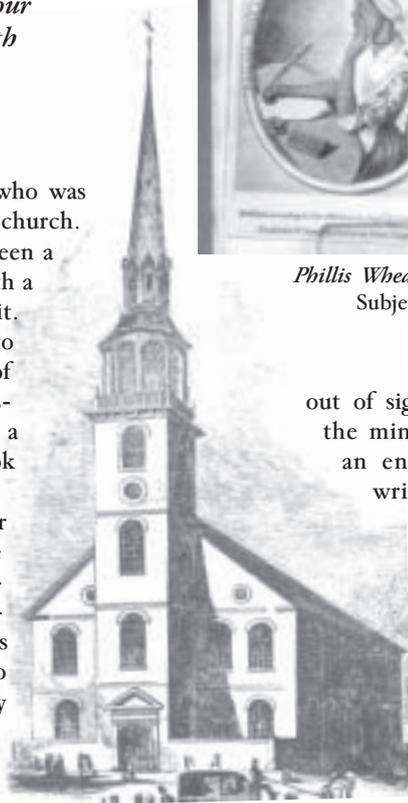
On August 18, 1771, Phillis Wheatley, who was very religious, became a member of this church. Old South Meeting House, which has been a museum since 1878, honors Phillis Wheatley with a wonderful exhibit.



Phillis Wheatley

Be sure to go in to see the inside of this lovely, historic church and a copy of her book of poems.

Remember that at the time churches in Boston were not integrated, so Phillis Wheatley had to sit in the gallery



Old South Meeting House



Phillis Wheatley's book Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral

out of sight of white congregants and the minister. Further, many doubted an enslaved African woman could write poetry, so the publisher required that she be interrogated by a committee of 18 distinguished male leaders, including John Hancock, who then officially confirmed that she was indeed the author of the poetry.



Phillis Wheatley

Stop 6

Old South Meeting House



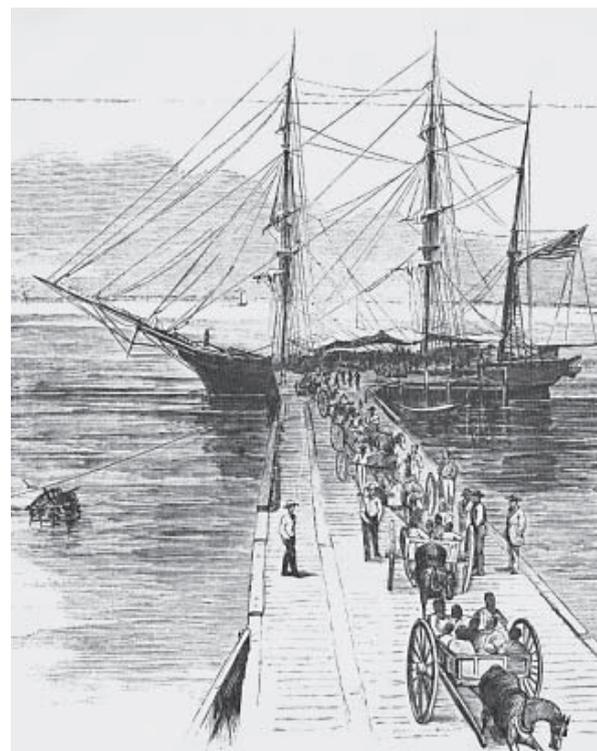
Phillis Wheatley

Now you have another decision to make: if you are feeling very energetic, turn left out the front door of Old South Meeting House, and walk down Washington Street to Beach Street. Turn left. Proceed to the corner of Tyler Street where you will see a marker honoring Phillis Wheatley. You will then have to retrace your steps to pick up the rest of this Trail. It is interesting to see the corner and imagine it as waterfront with a long wharf. Today after extensive landfill it is a bustling corner of Chinatown. BUT it is a good mile round trip!

This is where Phillis Wheatley landed in Boston on July 11, 1761, on the slave ship "Phillis". She was named after the ship by Susannah and John Wheatley when they purchased her here at Griffins Wharf. (See map on page 12.) Notice the marker placed here by the Bostonian Society. Imagine Phillis Wheatley, a small child, age 7 or 8, speaking no English, coming off the ship after a very long voyage during which she must have suffered terribly, then riding in a carriage back



Phillis Wheatley engraving from frontispiece of her book



Slave ship unloading Africans

to the Wheatley mansion (See Stop 11). Who could have dreamed that she would become the mother of African-American literature?

Stop 7

Beach and Tyler Streets

*Now proceed down Washington Street past School Street to Court Street.
Walk to the front of the Old State House.*

On July 18, 1776, Abigail Adams went to the Old State House, then called the New Town House, where the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in Massachusetts. This poster, created 167 years after the event, closely matches Abigail's description.

She wrote her husband John:
"Last Thursday ... I went with the Multitude into Kings Street to hear the proclamation for independence read and proclaimed...When Col. Crafts read from the Belcona of the State House the Proclamation, great attention was

given to every word. As soon as he ended, the cry from the Belcona was God Save our American States and then 3 cheers which rended the air, the Bells rang, the privateers fired, the forts and Batteries, the cannon were discharged, the platoons followed and every face appeard joyfull...After dinner the kings arms were taken down from the State House and every vestige of him from every place in which it appeard and burnt in King Street. Thus ends royall Authority in this State and all the people shall say Amen"

Letter, July 21, 1776



Abigail Adams



Stop 8

Old
State House

The Reading of The Declaration of Independence

New England Life Poster, 1943



- ❶ Phillis Wheatley landed here in 1761 on the slave ship "Phillis."
- ❷ Phillis Wheatley lived here at the corner of King Street and Mackerel Lane, and later on Queen Street.
- ❸ Abigail Adams lived here in Brattle Square and on King Street.



*Abigail Adams
and
Phillis Wheatley*



*Map of
Boston,
1774*



*Abigail Adams
and
Phillis Wheatley*

Cross State Street and walk back to where it becomes Court Street. Turn right between the buildings to City Hall Plaza.



*Abigail Adams
by Benjamin Blythe, 1766*

Although Abigail Adams lived most of her life in Weymouth, Braintree and Quincy, she also lived in Boston for a few years during the Revolutionary War period, and, of course, she visited Boston frequently. Abigail Adams and her family lived here in two loca-

tions between 1768-1774 when it was the fashionable section known as Brattle Square. They worshipped at the Brattle Square Church and two of their children, Susanna and Charles, were baptized at the church. When 10,000 British troops occupied Boston in 1774, the family fled to Quincy.



Brattle Street Church, Brattle Square

Walk back to Court Street where it becomes State Street.

In June and July 1776 Abigail Adams moved her household to Boston for two months to State Street (then called King Street) to the home of her uncle Isaac Smith so that they could all be inoculated against smallpox. John Adams' uncle Dr. Zabdiel Boylston had actually started the program 50 years earlier, getting the idea from an enslaved man, Onesimus, who told him about the practice in Africa. Many of the household members were very sick, but they all recovered.

Abigail Adams wrote her husband John:

"We had our Bedding etc. to bring. A Cow we have driven down from B[rain]tre[e] and some Hay I have had put into the Stable, wood etc. and we have really commenced housekeepers here... Our little ones stood the operation Manfully... Such a spirit of inoculation never before took place; the Town and every house in it, as full as they can hold ... I wish it was so you could have been with us, but I submit."

- Letter, July 13, 1776

Near the end of her life, from about 1778-1781, when she was a free woman, Phillis Wheatley lived on Court Street (then called Queen Street) with her husband, John Peters. Unfortunately, we don't know much about her life then, but we do know it was still a fashionable address.

Stops 9 & 10
City Hall Plaza and Court and State Streets

Walk down State Street, across Congress Street, to the corner of Kilby Street.

As you stand at this corner, look at this print of the buildings and streets. Phillis Wheatley lived right on this corner in the heart of the city in the Wheatley's mansion, at what was then King Street and Mackerel Lane, from 1761-1774. From the windows of the mansion she could have seen lots of comings and goings and lots of "revolutionary" action, including patriots protesting the Stamp Act, or the Redcoats marching up from the harbor. Many of her poems were inspired by nearby events such as the Boston Massacre.

In this house, Phillis Wheatley proved herself a genius, learning English in only 16 months with the Wheatley's daughter Mary as her tutor, and then going on to master Greek and Latin and write poetry. Phillis Wheatley's *Book of Poems* was published in England in 1773. In 1774, 300 copies arrived in Boston and sold quickly. That same year, at age 21, Phillis Wheatley became a free woman, and, when the Wheatleys left their mansion during the conflicts surrounding the occupation of Boston by British troops, she moved to Providence, R.I., to live with Mary

Wheatley. She also wrote a special letter to the Reverend Samson Occom, a Mohegan Indian Christian mis-



State Street 1801

sionary, about freedom. An excerpt from it is on the Women's Memorial. (See page 17)



Phillis Wheatley

Stop 11

Corner of State and Kilby Streets



Lucy Stone

Walk across State Street and go between the buildings to Faneuil Hall. Go right in the front door and up the stairs.

As you can see, Lucy Stone is the only woman represented in all of Faneuil Hall! She joined the men in 2001. Her bust was done by artist Lloyd Lillie. His other work includes a statue of Abigail Adams in Quincy and a sculpture of 19 assembled bronze figures at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, N.Y. He also did the statues of James Michael Curley and Red Auerbach here in Boston.



Lucy Stone by Lloyd Lillie

In 1873, on the 100th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, Lucy Stone organized a suffrage meeting she named the New England Women's Tea Party. The call said:

The women of New England who believe that "TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IS TYRANNY" and that our forefathers were justified in resisting despotic power by throwing the tea into Boston Harbor, hereby invite the men and women of New England to unite with them in celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of that event, in Faneuil Hall, on MONDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING, DEC 15, from 4 to 9 P.M.

The December 20 edition of the *Woman's Journal* reported that "Long before the hour appointed for the opening of the meeting, the crowd began to assemble, and at 4 o'clock the Hall was literally packed solid with a dense mass of humanity, composed of ladies and gentlemen representing all classes in life who were interested in the object of the meeting - the elevation of Woman to an equality with men in citizenship, no less than the celebration of the patriotic deed of our forefathers."

In her speech, Lucy Stone, introduced as "the founder of the feast", said "We are taxed, and we have no representation. We are governed without our consent. We are fined, imprisoned, and hung with no jury trial by our peers. We have no legal right to our children, nor power to sell our land, nor will our money."



Lucy Stone House, 45 Boutwell Street.

Stop 12

Faneuil Hall

ABIGAIL ADAMS 1744 - 1818

Born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, she was the wife of the second president of the United States and the mother of the sixth. Her letters establish her as a perceptive social and political commentator and a strong voice for women's advancement.

... and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.

Letter to John Adams, March 31, 1776

If we were to count our years by the revolutions we have witnessed, we might number them with the Antediluvians. So rapid have been the changes: that the mind, tho fleet in its progress, has been outstripped by them, and we are left like statues gazing at what we can neither fathom, or comprehend.

Letter to Mercy Otis Warren, March 9, 1807



Abigail Adams

Text on
Memorial
Pedestal

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Phillis Wheatley

PHILLIS WHEATLEY CA. 1753 - 1784

Born in West Africa and sold as a slave from the ship *Phillis* in colonial Boston, she was a literary prodigy whose 1773 volume *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* was the first book published by an African writer in America.

Imagination! who can sing thy force?
Or who describe the swiftness of thy course?
Soaring through air to find the bright abode,
Th' empyreal palace of the thund'ring God,
We on thy pinions can surpass the wind,
And leave the rolling universe behind:
From star to star the mental optics rove,
Measure the skies, and range the realms above.
There in one view we grasp the mighty whole,
Or with new worlds amaze th' unbounded soul.

On Imagination

I, young in life, by seeming cruel fate
Was snatch'd from *Afric's* fancy'd happy seat:
What pangs excruciating must molest,
What sorrows labour in my parent's breast?
Steel'd was that soul and by no misery mov'd
That from a father seiz'd his babe below'd:
Such, such my case. And can I then but pray
Others may never feel tyrannic sway?

To the Right Honourable William,
Earl of Dartmouth

... in every human Breast, God has implanted a
Principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is
impatient of Oppression, and pants for Deliverance
... the same Principle lives in us.

Letter to the Reverend Samson Occom,
February 11, 1774



Text on
Memorial
Pedestal

17

LUCY STONE 1818 - 1893

Born in Brookfield, she was one of the first Massachusetts women to graduate from college. She was an ardent abolitionist, a renowned orator, and the founder of the *Woman's Journal*, the foremost women's suffrage publication of its era.

Let woman's sphere be bounded only by her capacity.

Speech, Woman's Rights Convention, Worcester 1851

From the first years to which my memory stretches I have been a disappointed woman. ... In education, in marriage, in religion, in everything disappointment is the lot of women. It shall be the business of my life to deepen this disappointment in every woman's heart until she bows down to it no longer.

Speech, National Woman's Rights Convention, Cincinnati 1855

The legal right for woman to record her opinion wherever opinions count, is the tool for whose ownership we ask.

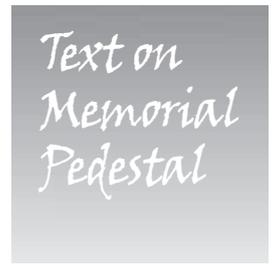
Woman's Journal, 1891



Lucy Stone

I believe the world grows better, because I believe that in the eternal order there is always a movement, swift or slow, toward what is right and true.

Last published statement, *The Independent*, 1893



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More about . . .

Abigail Adams

To learn more about Abigail Adams, go to the Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, by driving or taking the Red Line to the Quincy Center Station. At the National Park Service Visitor Center, you can take a free trolley ride to the home where Abigail and John Adams first lived after they were married (called the John Quincy Adams Birthplace) and the Old House, where they lived from 1788 on. You can also see a statue of Abigail Adams with her young son, John Quincy Adams and the crypt where she is buried in the United First Parish Church. More information at www.nps.gov/adam.

You can also visit Abigail Adams's birthplace. The Abigail Adams Historical Society maintains the house in nearby Weymouth. More information at www.abigailadams.org.

Lucy Stone

From 1870 until her death, Lucy Stone lived with her husband and daughter in a large home on top of Pope's Hill at 45 Boutwell Street in the Dorchester section of Boston (see page 15). The 17-room home also included barns, a carriage house and stables as well as extensive grounds for gardens and animals. Here she hosted many gatherings and often housed family and guests. Unfortunately, it was demolished in 1971, but on one of the remaining stone posts which marked the driveway, you will find a marker placed by the Bostonian Society. When she died, Lucy Stone was cremated and is credited as the

first person cremated in New England. Her ashes, at Forest Hills Cemetery in the Jamaica Plain section of Boston, are in Urn Number One in the columbarium under the Lucy Stone Chapel.

In 1993, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of her death, and in response to a petition from the students at the Lucy Stone School, a Boston Public School at 22 Regina Road in Dorchester, the Massachusetts Legislature declared March 8 "Lucy Stone Day." The school honored Lucy Stone with a week-long celebration as well as taking journalism as its theme.

Phillis Wheatley

On February 1, 1985, the University of Massachusetts, Boston named one of its buildings Wheatley Hall, and Governor Dukakis declared February 1 "Phillis Wheatley Day". You can see this painting of Phillis Wheatley in the Hall.

The Phillis Wheatley School, a Boston Public School, is at 20 Kearsage Avenue in Roxbury. Unfortunately, it closed in 2003 and is awaiting a new role.



Phillis Wheatley by M. Robbins



Abigail Adams
Lucy Stone
and
Phillis Wheatley

