

A Celebration of the Life
of
SARAH MARGARET FULLER OSSOLI



Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee
Friends of Mount Auburn

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2010

Cover: Daguerreotype of Margaret Fuller, by John Plumbe, circa 1847. Courtesy of Houghton Library, Harvard University.

***Celebration of the Life of
Margaret Fuller (1810 – 1850)***

BIGELOW CHAPEL, MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2010

1: 00 PM

WELCOME

Bree Harvey

V.P. of External Affairs, Mount Auburn

OPENING WORDS

Rev. Rosemarie Smurzynski

PREMONITIONS

Margaret Fuller

Jessa Piaia

REMEMBRANCES ★

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Wendell Refior

Henry David Thoreau

Richard Smith

Rev. James Freeman Clarke

Rob Vellella

Elizabeth Peabody

Rev. Dorothy Emerson

Julia Ward Howe

Deb Goss

REFLECTIONS ★

PRAYER

CLOSING WORDS

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE FULLER LOT

Following the Memorial Service we will walk to the Fuller Family Lot, a ten minute walk. For those needing assistance a van will be available.

★ *The dramatic part of the Memorial Service draws from, almost exclusively, the original words of these notable persons taken from their journals, letters, speeches and sermons. Compiled by Rob Vellella.*

MARGARET FULLER OSSOLI

Born in Cambridgeport in 1810, Margaret Fuller became one of the most prominent women associated with the Transcendentalism movement, serving as the first editor of its flagship journal *The Dial*. She later moved to New York where she became the first woman to serve as a full-time literary critic. Toward the end of her life, she had been overseas in Italy, serving as a war correspondent. There she met Giovanni Ossoli. The couple had a son, Angelino, before their planned return to the United States. After the family's tragic drowning, a marker was placed at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Though only Angelino lies buried there, the bodies of his parents were never recovered.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE

Born in Cambridge in 1810, Clarke graduated from Harvard in 1829 and the Divinity School in 1833. He spent some of his early career in Kentucky where he became involved in the movement to abolish slavery. He was also an editor and published Margaret Fuller's first literary review. After Fuller's death, he co-authored *The Memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli*.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

One of the major figures of the Transcendentalists, Emerson noted that Margaret Fuller made him laugh more than he liked. He often opened his Concord home to Fuller and granted her the editorship of the journal *The Dial* at its inception. After her death, he sent Henry David Thoreau to find her belongings and oversaw the compilation of *The Memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli* with James Freeman Clarke.

If you have knowledge, let others

ELIZABETH PALMER PEABODY

One of the few women to serve a major role among the Transcendentalists, Peabody recommended Margaret Fuller to Bronson Alcott to take her place as a teacher at the Temple School. Peabody opened her Boston bookshop for Fuller's "Conversations" – a replacement for formal schooling for women. One of the early participants in the Conversations was Caroline Healey Dall who is now buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Margaret Fuller was in New York when Thoreau began his experiment in living "deliberately" at Walden Pond in Concord. After her death, Emerson sent Thoreau to Fire Island to learn more about the wreck and to search for any of Fuller's personal belongs. It was hoped that her manuscripts would be found, particularly her descriptions of the Roman revolution.

JULIA WARD HOWE

Though only nine years her junior, Julia Ward Howe did not express her appreciation for Fuller until decades after her death. After her book on Fuller, published in 1883, Howe was the main figure in the effort to install a memorial tablet for Fuller at Fire Island, the site of her death. Howe is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

light their candles at it.

–Margaret Fuller



From Bigelow Chapel **1** we will walk to the Fuller family lot, Lot #2250 on Pyrola Path **2** for a wreath-laying ceremony. Here in 1854, the Fuller family erected a memorial in honor of Margaret Fuller, Giovanni and Angelino Ossoli.

Though we will not visit their graves today, also buried at Mount Auburn and of significance are:

- 3** Caroline Wells Healey Dall (1822 – 1912), Lot #1804 Gentian Path
- 4** Julia Ward Howe (1819 – 1910), Lot # 4987 Spruce Avenue



*Undated photograph of the Ossoli Memorial on Pyrola Path.
Courtesy of Historical Collections, Mount Auburn Cemetery.*

MARGARET FULLER BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee is a grassroots group of Unitarian Universalist ministers and lay people, scholars, and representatives from historical sites, commissions, and organizations.

The Margaret Fuller Bicentennial is an opportunity to celebrate and learn about an extraordinary woman and continue her global vision of equality and human rights. The Bicentennial hopes to raise awareness of Margaret Fuller, so that her story may inspire people of all ages to follow her lead and think independently, express their thoughts clearly, defend their convictions with courage, learn through dialogue and the free exchange of opinions, believe in the equality of all people, and be open to change. Then her legacy will be assured.

info@margaretfuller.org | www.margaretfuller.org

FRIENDS OF MOUNT AUBURN

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.

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, non-sectarian cemetery offering a wide variety of interment and memorialization options.

617 – 547-7105 | friends@mountauburn.org | www.mountauburn.org

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The Fund for Unitarian Universalism