



Worcester Women's History Project

"WE REMEMBER OUR PAST TO BETTER SHAPE OUR FUTURE."

VOLUME 9, No. 2, FALL 2009

"Yours for Humanity—Abby" to be performed at the State House

Worcester Women's History Project extends its thanks to the Hon. Harriette L. Chandler for championing the performance of "Yours for Humanity—Abby" at the annual meeting of the Women's Legislative Caucus, State House, Boston, January 27, 2010. No doubt Abby would be thinking, if not saying, to the Legislators the quote from her 1851 speech at the Second National Woman's



Lynne McKenney Lydick & Carolyn Howe

Rights Convention held in Worcester, "Bloody feet, sisters, have worn smooth the path by which you have come up hither."

For almost six years I have been honored and humbled to bring to life one of Worcester's greatest women, Abby Kelley Foster. She is an inspiration to me and I hope to the people who see the performance. One person can make a difference in the lives of many with hard work, dedication, perseverance and empathy.

Lynne McKenney Lydick

- "Yours for Humanity—Abby" was written for the Worcester Women's History Project by Carolyn Howe & Karen Board Moran. Creative Consultants: Lynne McKenney Lydick & James D. Moran. Performed by Lynne McKenney Lydick.
- Premiered January 17, 2004
- "Yours for Humanity—Abby," a one-woman play based on Abby Kelley Foster's letters and speeches, portrays a week in Abby's life in 1854 as she lectures in Indiana against slavery. Abby frequently closes her letters with the words that form the title of the play. ...The play demonstrates how an ordinary person, like Abby, can affect extraordinary changes in society.



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A performance of
"Yours for Humanity—Abby"
may be booked by emailing
info@wwhp.org.



Abby Kelley Foster
Painting by
Charlotte Wharton

Abby Kelley Foster (1811-1887) spent her childhood in the countryside around Worcester, and later lived in Millbury. Born near Amherst, Massachusetts, she was a crusader for the abolition of slavery and for women's suffrage. Foster was one of the first women to deliver speeches before sexually mixed audiences. She married a radical abolitionist, Stephen S. Foster. After the birth of their daughter, they bought and settled on a farm in Worcester, from where they continued their activities on behalf of slaves and women.... Her home, still standing on Mower Street in Worcester, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973. **Charlotte Wharton** painted the portrait [left] of Abby Kelley Foster [commissioned by the Worcester Women's History Project] which hangs in Mechanics Hall. Born in Independence, Kansas, Ms. Wharton received her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Clark University and studied at the National Academy of Design in New York City. Her work is well known throughout New England. Her many awards include the Copley Society of Boston's Margaret Fitzhugh Browne Award for Excellence in Portraiture in 1994. She was named a Copley Master (1992) and was awarded the Grumbacher Gold Medal Award in 1991. Her works appear in several books on oil painting and pastels by Rockport Publishers. Ms. Wharton's studio is in Worcester. [from WWHP website]

**WORCESTER WOMEN'S
HISTORY PROJECT**

30 Elm Street • Worcester, MA 01609
Telephone: 508-767-1852
Website: wwhp.org • Email: info@wwhp.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

Dianne Bruce
Maureen Ryan Doyle
Regina Edmonds
Judy Finkel
Karen Folkes
Beth Harding
Charlene Martin
C.J. Posk
Barbara J. Sinnott
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Doreen Velnich
Susan R. Vogel
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Fran Langille, President
Heather-Lyn Haley, Vice President
Mary Plummer, Clerk
Barbara Kohin, Treasurer

WWHP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a vision "to celebrate and document women's contributions to the history, social fabric, and culture of Worcester and beyond." Its mission is to

- raise awareness of the rich history of women in the Worcester area
- create national recognition of Worcester's role in the history of the women's rights movement
- advance the ideals put forth in the 1850 convention that there should be "equality before the law, without distinction of sex or color," or ethnicity.

Visit www.wwhp.org

President's Corner

Another season begins! All the busyness of children returning to school, activities of fall swirling into the holiday season, and soon another year ends ... all too quickly ... and so much to do!

In the midst of the busyness of their lives certain women of WWHP individually and collectively have made time to assure that Worcester women of all ages are honored, celebrated, remembered! How do we say "thank you" to all who have believed in the mission of WWHP to launch it, celebrate Women 2000, mark WWHP@10 and keep on going ... and going ...and going... taking us towards 2010 and WWHP at 15!! Who knew?

I am humbled to serve as President through this 2009-2010. A season which precedes Abby Kelley Foster's 200th birthday, January 15, 2011!! So-o-o. what do you think? What's next? How would you build the WWHP framework for this season ahead? Would you like to be part of it? I hope you say "YES!"

Please write WWHP events on your calendar NOW!! Along with being part of Worcester's fabulous history both past and present, one of the best reasons for being a WWHP member is meeting Worcester's remarkable women! I wish I could remember the exact words of one of our SC members at a meeting last spring. As we were discussing why people should join WWHP she made a comment about having the opportunity to hang out with a bunch of really great, fascinating, incredible women ... (humble too!!) But, seriously, where else could you meet the first two women to be elected to the Worcester City Council? (That would be Barbara Kohin and Barbara Sinnott). They have great stories to tell. They inspire me, as do the younger women on our intergenerational Steering Committee who are committed to WWHP in the midst of demands of career and families. They certainly must feel WWHP is worth their time and effort. Every woman has her story and they are ALL wonderful and engaging. What's yours? Won't you come and share it with us? Tell us how you see WWHP growing into the future. See you in December!! Happy "Season"!

Fran

Fran Langille
President

NEWS! Worcester Community Action Council has received Federal ARRA funds to open a job and education center for education programs for youth ages 16-24 who have not been able to complete the traditional high school program of studies. Judy Finkel has been hired as the Project Director. Judy is a member of the WWHP Steering Committee and chair of the Events Committee. Congratulations, Judy!

Who was...? “**Abigail P.B. Gleason Rawson** (1811-1895) was born in Princeton, Massachusetts. Rawson was one of the founding members of the Ladies Washingtonian Temperance Society sewing circle and served as its first president in 1843. She frequently hosted the circle at her home on Grafton Street (near today’s Union Station) every other Friday afternoon and evening when the men would join the ladies for supper and visiting. Rawson signed in as a member of the first National Woman’s Rights Convention in 1850 and hosted the sewing circle at the end of that week. Surely, the conversation was lively! She married Deering Jones Rawson of Holden at age 19. They moved to Worcester in 1835 where he carried on a confectionary business on Pleasant and Southbridge Streets until his death in 1869. Abigail served as one of the managers of the Worcester Children’s Friend Society for 37 years. ...The Rawsons are buried in Worcester’s Hope Cemetery.”

Question: Who portrayed Abigail Rawson for WWHP? (Find the answer in this newsletter.)
 From “Worcester Women’s History Heritage Trail – Worcester in the Struggle for Equality in the Mid-Nineteenth Century” p.42



Fran Langille, WWHP President

Gravestone Girls Dig Up the Past for Annual Meeting by Kara Wilson

The WWHP Annual Meeting was held at the Worcester Public Library on September 16, 2009. It was a bittersweet evening. While the meeting involved welcoming many new Steering Committee members and officers, it also involved bidding farewell to many outgoing Steering Committee members as well, one of which was Linda Rosenlund. Karen Folkes, outgoing President, invited Linda Rosenlund to say a few words. Rosenlund has been involved in WWHP for many years in many roles, most recently as the founder of the Oral History Project. Folkes invited Maureen Ryan Doyle and Charlene Martin, co-chairs of the Oral History Project, to speak about the many exciting developments of the past year, including the Schlesinger Library’s agreement to house the oral histories the OHP has worked to collect over the past several years. Lynne McKenney Lydick gave a summary of where she performed “Yours for Humanity—Abby” over the past year and reflected on her experience of performing as Abby with a lovely poem that she wrote, the full text of which we have made available for all to read in this newsletter. Once the new Steering Committee members and officers were voted in, Folkes welcomed new President, Fran Langille, to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

The meeting ended with a wonderful presentation by Brenda Sullivan from Worcester’s own Gravestone Girls. Sullivan’s presentation included a PowerPoint presentation that was specifically focused on highlighting important Worcester women, including those represented in the portraits WWHP arranged to have displayed in Mechanics Hall. Sullivan showed images of the graves of these women and spoke about the cemeteries where their graves are located. Sullivan also spoke about the art of creating gravestones and how the designs have changed over time. More information about The Gravestone Girls can be found at: <http://www.gravestonegirls.com>.



Photo to the right is of The Gravestone Girls: Brenda Sullivan, Maggie White, and Melissa Anderson.

Happenings!

Markers, Monuments and Heritage Trail subcommittee is being reformed to look into what should be done for 2011. WWHP will be celebrating the anniversary of the 200th birthday of Abby Kelley Foster. Email info@wwhp.org of your interest.

“Yours for Humanity—Abby” upcoming performance schedule: December 18, 11:30am, at the Shrewsbury Senior Center, 98 Maple Ave., Shrewsbury, free and open to the public; and January 30, 2010, at the Public Library in Bangor, Maine. The performance noted on the front page of this newsletter at the State House is private.

And...**Lynne McKenney Lydick** has performed “Yours for Humanity—Abby” before over 10,000 people of all ages since its premiere January 17, 2004.

Check out the **Oral History Project** section of our website www.wwhp.org to see the signed interviews conducted by Judy Fask’s students at Holy Cross. Go to “Higher Education Collaborative” and you will see the link that brings you to the **Holy Cross American Sign Language and Deaf Studies** page where there are several videos of these signed interviews. Our thanks again to Judy Fask for including oral history in her courses.

The **18-member WWHP Steering Committee** is meeting quarterly with sub-committees meeting monthly. The sub-committees are Events, Abby, Newsletter, Oral History Project, Membership, Finance and the reformed Markers, Monuments and Heritage Trail. If you would like to help on one of the sub-committees, please contact the office.

Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe Is New Repository for WWOHP Histories

By Maureen Ryan Doyle, Co-chair of the

Oral History Project (with Charlene Martin)

The Worcester Women's Oral History Project (WWOHP) is privileged to announce that the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University is the new repository for its 150 oral histories of Worcester's women. The Schlesinger Library maintains collections relating to a wide range of American women's activities, providing rich material for researchers and historians from around the world. Charlene Martin and Maureen Ryan Doyle, Co-chairs of WWOHP, hand-delivered the documents to the Schlesinger Library in October. Upon receipt of these files, Kathryn Allamong Jacob, Curator of Manuscripts at the Library, offered these words.



"The Schlesinger Library is honored to be chosen as the repository for the documentation of the remarkable Worcester Women's Oral History Project. These interviews with 150+ Worcester women cover broad topics of work, education, health, politics and community involvement, and family, and help to tell a piece of the story of the history of women in America, which is the Library's mission. An Auschwitz survivor, a minister born in Nigeria, a business owner, a homemaker, a nun, a professor, an activist, these and all of the other voices included in the project tell warm and funny, frightening and bitter stories of the detail of individual women's lives. Together they help to tell the story of post-World War II America."

The work of WWOHP is ongoing as it continues to create an inventory of oral history projects; collaborate with institutions of higher education; hold community workshops to instruct others about oral history; and ensure the preservation of these histories at their permanent site at the Schlesinger Library.

Many transcripts are available for viewing on the WWHP website, and more are being added on a regular basis. Please visit this site, and read the stories of Worcester's women. Their voices give a richer and fuller understanding to the past, allowing readers to appreciate history from a deeply personal, and often profound, perspective.

[Photo above is of Charlene L. Martin, OHP Co-chair; Kathryn Allamong Jacob, Curator, Schlesinger Library; Maureen Ryan Doyle, OHP Co-chair on October 1, 2009.]



Oral History Program scheduled for December 10:

"Reagan, Bush, and Clinton: An Oral History Perspective"

Dr. Stephen Knott, Associate Professor of National Security Studies at the U.S. Naval War College and former Co-Chair of the Presidential Oral History Program at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, will be the main speaker at the Worcester Women's Oral History Program on December 10 at 4:00 p.m. in Hagan Center Hall at Assumption College. Dr. Knott will discuss the value of oral history as it relates to presidential history.

Dr. Knott's most recent book, *At Reagan's Side: Insiders' Recollections from Sacramento to the White House*, is the culmination of his work overseeing the Reagan Oral History Project. He has also been involved in the Edward M. Kennedy, George H.W. Bush, and William J. Clinton Oral History Projects. His career includes six years at the JFK Library, and teaching positions in Political Science at the University of New Hampshire, Boston College, Quinnipiac University, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Dr. Knott's other publications include *The Reagan Years*; *Alexander Hamilton and the Persistence of Myth*; and *Secret and Sanctioned: Covert Operations and the American Presidency*.

This event will also feature student presentations of oral histories collected this semester using the WWOHP template. The public is cordially invited to attend and there is no charge for admission. Signed copies of Dr. Knott's book will be available for purchase. For more information, please contact the Oral History Project Co-chairs, Charlene L. Martin, chmartin@townisp.com, or Maureen Ryan Doyle, mryandoyle@aol.com



ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM



PRESENTS

Reagan, Bush, and Clinton: An Oral History Perspective

by

Stephen Knott, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of National Security Studies,
U.S. Naval War College,
Former Co-Chair of the Presidential Oral History Program at the
Miller Center of Public Affairs,
University of Virginia

and

Student Presentations of Oral Histories

Conducted for the
Worcester Women's Oral History Project



Thursday, December 10, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Hagan Center Hall, Assumption College

Free and Open to the Public

Refreshments and Booksigning

Dr. Knott will discuss the value of oral history as it relates to presidential history. His most recent book, *At Reagan's Side: Insiders' Recollections from Sacramento to the White House*, is the culmination of his work overseeing the Reagan Oral History Project. He has also been involved in the Edward M. Kennedy, George H.W. Bush, and William J. Clinton Oral History Projects. His career includes six years at the JFK Library, and teaching Political Science at the University of New Hampshire, Boston College, Quinnipiac University, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Other books include: *The Reagan Years*; *Alexander Hamilton and the Persistence of Myth*; and *Secret and Sanctioned: Covert Operations and the American Presidency*. He earned his B.A. from Assumption College and his Ph.D. from Boston College.

For More Information Contact Oral History Project Co-Chairs:

Maureen Ryan Doyle mrvandoyle@aol.com

Charlene L. Martin chmartin@townisp.com

Worcester Women's History Project • 30 Elm Street • Worcester, MA 01609 • www.wwhp.org

“Women Through Their Letters and Poems”

The WWHP Events Committee is planning our next annual **WOMEN IN PRINT** program. Three Worcester-area authors will be featured. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 5:30pm**, in the Saxe Room at the Worcester Public Library. Free and open to the public. Snow date will be February 24.

“Beyond Witchcraft: Discovering Salem Through Women’s Stories”

By Karen Folkes

Through the efforts of the Events Committee of the Worcester Women’s History Project, we had another successful bus trip this year. On a beautiful June Saturday, we departed from the YWCA and headed for historic Salem, Massachusetts. To set the mood, we watched “The Crucible” on board, a fine way to prepare us for our day.

WWHP was fortunate enough to be able to engage Bonnie Hurd Smith, who met our bus and directed us to the Salem Visitors Center. Ms. Smith is an expert on Salem history and had also researched for us the link between Salem and Worcester. Her first order of business was to hand us copies of a letter written in 1790 from Judith Sargent Murray to her parents, describing her trip to and through Worcester. “It wears the face of industry, and is probably the Embryo of a great City—Its situation is truly pleasing, and its present appearance authorizes the most sanguine hopes.”

With her guidance, we visited the Salem Witch Museum, the House of the Seven Gables, and after a lunch at Brother’s Deli, we ended our day at The Peabody Essex Museum. Whether we were walking or riding in the bus, Ms. Smith continuously pointed out houses or areas of interest to women’s history. She was a wonderful docent for the day and all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed her expertise.

At The Peabody Essex Museum, we were split into two groups and traveled the beautiful facility with docents that had been arranged to receive us. We were given a very diverse tour specific to women’s history, through paintings, works of art, and collections, such as several decades’ worth of footwear. It made for an interesting and thought-provoking end of day. WWHP is most thankful to Bonnie Hurd Smith, The Peabody Essex, and all our Salem guides, for making this trip so informative, fun, and inspirational.

Thanks to our Events Committee for organizing this fantastic day! Members presently are Judy Finkel (Chair), Paulette Bluemel, Dianne Bruce, Kathleen Comer, Carolyn Dik, Vi Massad, Judy Nelson, Hannah Solska.

(Bullet Fact: Like the Women’s Heritage Trail and accompanying book WWHP developed and created, Salem also has a trail and a guidebook!)

Bonnie Hurd Smith is an author of multiple books and has done extensive research on women in the Salem area and beyond. Her work includes some women that have had extraordinary accomplishments, though you probably have never heard of them. We highlight just two:

Judith Sargent Murray 1751-1820

- First American woman to self-publish a book, “The Gleaner” (1798)
- First to claim female equality in the public prints
- Co-founder of a female academy
- Earliest known American Universalist author
- Essay “On the Equality of the Sexes” published in 1790



Sarah Parker Remond 1826-94

- African American and member of Salem Female Anti-Slavery Society
- Professional lecturer and fundraiser for the American Anti-Slavery Society
- 1859 Traveled to Great Britain to speak and attend schooling denied her in America
- Became a med student in Italy and practiced medicine in Florence for twenty years
- Source: www.salemwomenshistory.com



Judy Finkel, Bonnie Hurd Smith, CJ Posk

***“The Fairest of Them All...”* Dr. Sylvia Yount Teaches about Cecilia Beaux**

By Kara Wilson

On May 3, 2009, the Worcester Women’s History Project and Worcester Art Museum co-sponsored a lecture by Dr. Sylvia Yount, who is the Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The lecture, entitled “The Fairest of Them All: Cecilia Beaux and ‘Female’ Portraiture”, educated the audience about artist Cecilia Beaux, who painted Worcester’s newly acquired portrait of Helen Bigelow Merriman.

Yount began her lecture with crediting Jim Welu of the Worcester Art Museum with informing her of the Merriman portrait just before the opening of the Cecilia Beaux retrospective Yount organized at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. Yount mentioned that her intention of the talk was to discuss Beaux and her work in the context of several of her contemporaries: Thomas Aikens, John Singer Sargeant, Winslow Homer, and particularly Mary Cassatt. According to Yount, Beaux was viewed in the late-19th/early-20th century as the “best woman artist”, but she hasn’t been lauded in that way since her death in 1942. Beaux was a native of Philadelphia and studied under Thomas Aikens at the Pennsylvania Academy of Art, as did Mary Cassatt. Prior to Cassatt’s move to France, she and Beaux painted many of the same subjects in Philadelphia. However, Yount claims that Beaux’s work is more often compared to that of Whistler and John Singer Sargeant, as opposed to Cassatt, although Cassatt and Beaux are often compared because of being female artists. The relationship between the two women was antagonistic and competitive, according to Yount. Beaux is said to focus on the more feminine side of American women, showing a softer, more flattering side than Cassatt in her portraits. Beaux liked being called “a figure painter more than a portrait painter.”



The portrait of Helen Bigelow Merriman was painted in 1908. Merriman was chosen as a subject because she was a woman of society, and also an artist herself. Yount mentioned that Merriman was ten years Beaux’s senior and withdrew from the Boston art world after her marriage in 1874 and birth of her child in 1876 and focused on writing. Beaux, on the other hand, could not reconcile her career with marriage and motherhood, and therefore chose to remain single. Yount reminded us that the need to choose between career or marriage was a frequent hurdle for women artists in the 1870’s.

According to Yount, at the turn of the 21st century, Cecilia Beaux has “been given a permanent place in the annals of history as a woman artist.” Worcester Art Museum’s acquisition of the Merriman portrait, the first work by Beaux in its collection, is an indication of this.

Following Yount’s talk, WWHP hosted a reception in Salisbury Hall, where we had the chance to admire the portrait of Helen Bigelow Merriman and celebrate its homecoming to Worcester. The Worcester Women’s History Project was pleased to be a part of this important celebration of both of the women involved in this portrait: the artist and the subject.

Answer to question “Who was...?” is Karen Board Moran.

Women of WWHP: Kara Wilson

Kara Wilson grew up in Southborough, Massachusetts, and has had a lifelong interest in history, particularly local history and women’s history. She attended Women 2000. After spending a few years in Vermont and Arizona, she became involved in WWHP’s Marketing Committee in 2005. Kara served on the Steering Committee from 2006-2009. She was a wonderful addition to the Executive Committee in her role as Treasurer and then Vice President. She contributed greatly to our newsletter and created our flyers for events. A champion for all causes WWHP, her enthusiastic attitude and charming personality will be missed around the Steering Committee table. We are pleased she continues to work on our newsletter and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

☞ *Are you thinking about learning more about WWHP? Think about volunteering.*

“As Abby I stand here...” By Lynne McKenney Lydick

*As Abby I stand here
To provide a quick peek
To the venues and places “she’s” visited
To perform or to speak*

*As MC or tour guide
She has made her rounds
At symposiums and meetings
Her visits abound*

*From classrooms galore
And nursing homes too
From councils on aging
Abby IS GIVEN her due*

*From girls’ groups and women’s
Quaker Meetinghouses, too.
In cemeteries and cafeterias
Her message comes through*

*In seminars and conferences
Museums and such
Abby’s words have been heard
And have taught the folks much*

*By the altars in churches
And senior centers, too
In libraries and outside
Where some wild winds blew
To Maine and Vermont
Outside in a tent
On lake fronts and lawns
Many hours being spent*

*As a lyceum participant
To Seneca Falls for an event
At Arts Council meetings
Private schools of the affluent*

*New Hampshire and Conn
I have taken her there
And spoken to teachers
Who truly do care.*

*Historical societies
And Diversity Training around
In workshops and at colleges
Abby is found*

*In corridors and gyms
In cavernous halls as well
Audiences of 500
Or 6, if I must tell*

*From kindergarteners who draw her
With wild hair on her head
And in skin of all colors
Yet they heard what “she” said*

*A fourth grader asked
How could it be?
That Abby got into trouble
When we can speak free*

*To tough questions from High Schoolers
About race relations today
And how they might differ
From back in Abby’s day*

*Does one stand up to a person
Who just spoke a slur?
Or try to ignore it
Pretend it didn’t occur*

*I say She would confront them
Saying if you stay silent
You give your approval
Thereby being compliant*

*At tea parties and Mansions
Lock-up facilities too
Her words have meaning
Persevere and stay true*

*Perhaps holding a banner
Marching in a parade
Or speaking for a club
Abby’s presence is made*

*Her words have rung out
In all of these places
Equality and justice for all
Regardless of the faces*

*But no matter how far
“She” has traveled around
I couldn’t possibly cover
All of “her” ground*

*So if you know places
That Abby should go
Please call them
Then tell me
So that I will know*

*For my purpose is true
And my longing’s to do
Great justice to Abby
And the Worcester Women’s History Project too.*



WORCESTER
WOMEN'S HISTORY
PROJECT

30 Elm Street
Worcester, MA 01609



William Lloyd Garrison

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thurs., Dec. 10, 4pm, Hagan Center, Assumption College—
"Reagan, Bush and Clinton: An Oral History Perspective" by
Stephen Knott, PhD and oral history student presentations. See
p.6.

Wed., Feb. 10, 5:30pm, Saxe Room, Worcester Public Library—
"Women Through Their Letters and Poems" Snow date Feb. 24.
See p.7.

March 2010 "The Abolitionist Family of Worcester: Abby Kelley
Foster, Stephen Foster and Alla Foster: a dramatic presentation of
family letters" Day & Venue TBD

Our Dearest Abby

By Karen Folkes

WWHP is thrilled to have the "Yours for Humanity—Abby" play slated for performance at the State House. The performer, Lynne McKenney Lydick, is tremendously passionate about Abby and the play. On stage she seems to channel the very spirit of Abby Kelley Foster. Her dedication through the years to WWHP has been inspiring to all who have worked with her.

Abby Kelley Foster and her unfailing spirit traveled to Boston and beyond many times. In May, 1838, The New England Anti-Slavery Society held its Convention with more than 500 people in attendance. Women had only recently been admitted after **William Lloyd Garrison** had helped pass a resolution. However, the motion had passed because the more conservative abolitionists had yet to arrive. Later these conservatives would attempt to reverse the decision. Abby was named to a working group charged with creating an abolitionist call to churches. Even though Abby was told it would be disreputable for her personally and the document they produced would be 'unscriptural', Abby held her ground and convinced them that she did belong. When the ministers lost the vote to discharge the committee and to reconsider the admission of women, many left the convention in protest. Abby went on to be one of the most successful and enthralling lecturers for the American Anti-Slavery Society, captivating audiences across the nation.

Decades later on December 20, 1873 (the 100th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party), Abby, still fighting and still working for her causes, along with Lucy Stone organized an American Woman Suffrage Association rally. Their suffrage slogan for the day was, "Taxation without Representation is Tyranny." Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass joined the female speakers on the platform. It was a tremendous success, with attendance counted in the thousands.

Abby desperately wanted people to see that women's rights and Negroes rights were one in the same—human rights. She was a tireless worker, organizer, fundraiser, writer and lecturer. As she told William Lloyd Garrison back in her early days, in terms of the 'woman question', the abolition movement would have to take "a decided stand for all truths, under the conviction that the whole are necessary to the permanent establishment of any single one."

Throughout decades of being attacked sometimes in person, sometimes in the press, Abby's bravery and faithfulness never wavered and it is truly inspiring!

We're on the web:
www.wwhp.org